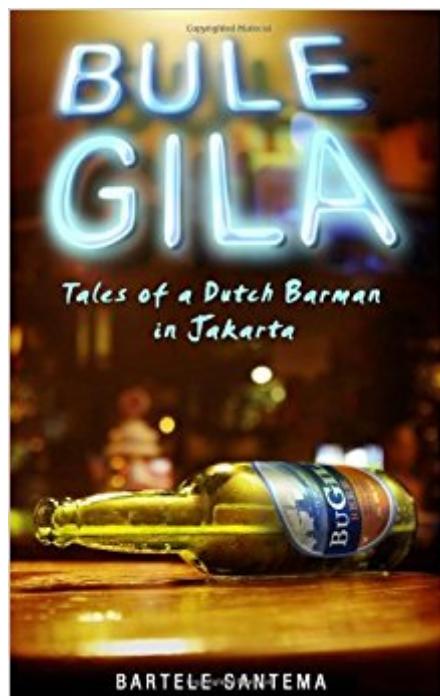


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Bule Gila: Tales Of A Dutch Barman In Jakarta



Synopsis

bule gila (BU-leh GEE-lah) n Indonesian for "crazy foreigner" In a secluded corner of a shopping and entertainment complex in Jakarta lies a bar called BuGils. BuGils, a contraction of bule and gila (in addition to being the Indonesian word for 'naked'), has had the honor of hosting the most colorful collection of locals and foreigners Jakarta has ever seen. The manager of BuGils, Bartele Santema, has spent five years amongst these creatures and with a keen eye and sharp wit observed and documented their curious behavior. The Colonel who upsets everyone. The Brit who buys used socks. The second-hand newspaper seller who is smelled before he is seen. The cook who moonlights as a mystic. The Dutchman who gets new teeth. All of these and many more make up this collection of riotously funny stories of life in Jakarta as seen through the eyes of a foreigner.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bartele Santema, originally from Friesland, has been in Indonesia since 1990 and is currently manager of BuGils, an Amsterdam-style bar he started in 2000. Bart is also the publisher of the popular Expat Newsletter, a bi-weekly email that combines Indonesia-related news and his own skewed opinions on current events. To subscribe, send an email to bartele@bugils.com.

Waiting at the airport, having missed my plane, with much thanks to the taxi driver that decided to take me the scenic way, I had not much to do but look around the many shops. Luckily a little book wrapped in clear plastic caught my attention. "Bule Gila" a term that had been referred to myself only

days prior is a light hearted but but oh so true interpretation of the day to day dealings in Indonesian culture. Being 36 years old, I have not had the patience to read a book since my teen years at school. With a somewhat short attention span and overactive mind, reading a book was the last thing on my mind for my return trip to Australia. In eight hours, on and off, I finished the book and was disappointed to get to the end. The stewardesses must surely have been wondering what my bursts of laughter were about between the hours of midnight and six am. Looking forward to a "bule Gila 2". Great work Bartelle and I will surely visit Bugils the next time that I am in town. O.E.

I really enjoyed reading this book, I got quite a few laughs. Each chapter is short (approx 2 pages or so), has different themes and context and always tells a good story. You are hooked from the start of each chapter as you find yourself compelled to finish reading the story to find out what happened in the outcome of Bartele's experience. I highly recommend this book as a read on your daily journeys to/from work on the bus/train/ferry or if you are alone having a quiet beer in bar.

A very entertaining look at expat life in Jakarta. An enjoyable and easy read. It rings true to life. Having managed a bar in Indonesia in the 70s I particularly related to it. I look forward to visiting BuGils.

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