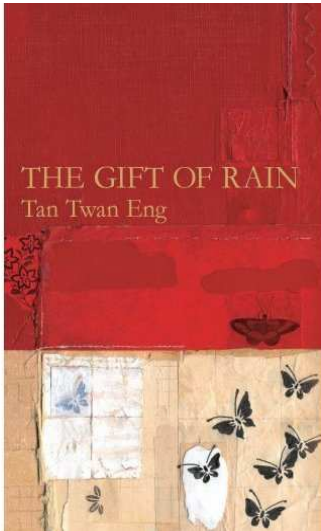


The Gift of Rain by Tan Twan Eng



The novel opens when Philip Hutton, the half-Chinese son of a wealthy British trader in Penang, is an old man, still living in his childhood home surrounded by painful memories, memories brought into sharp focus by a visitor from Japan. This unexpected guest is the ageing former lover of Hayato Endo, a Japanese diplomat and master of Aikido and the man who became the most formative influence on Hutton's life in the late 1930s. Gradually, the visiting old woman teases out the story of Hutton's time with Endo-san.