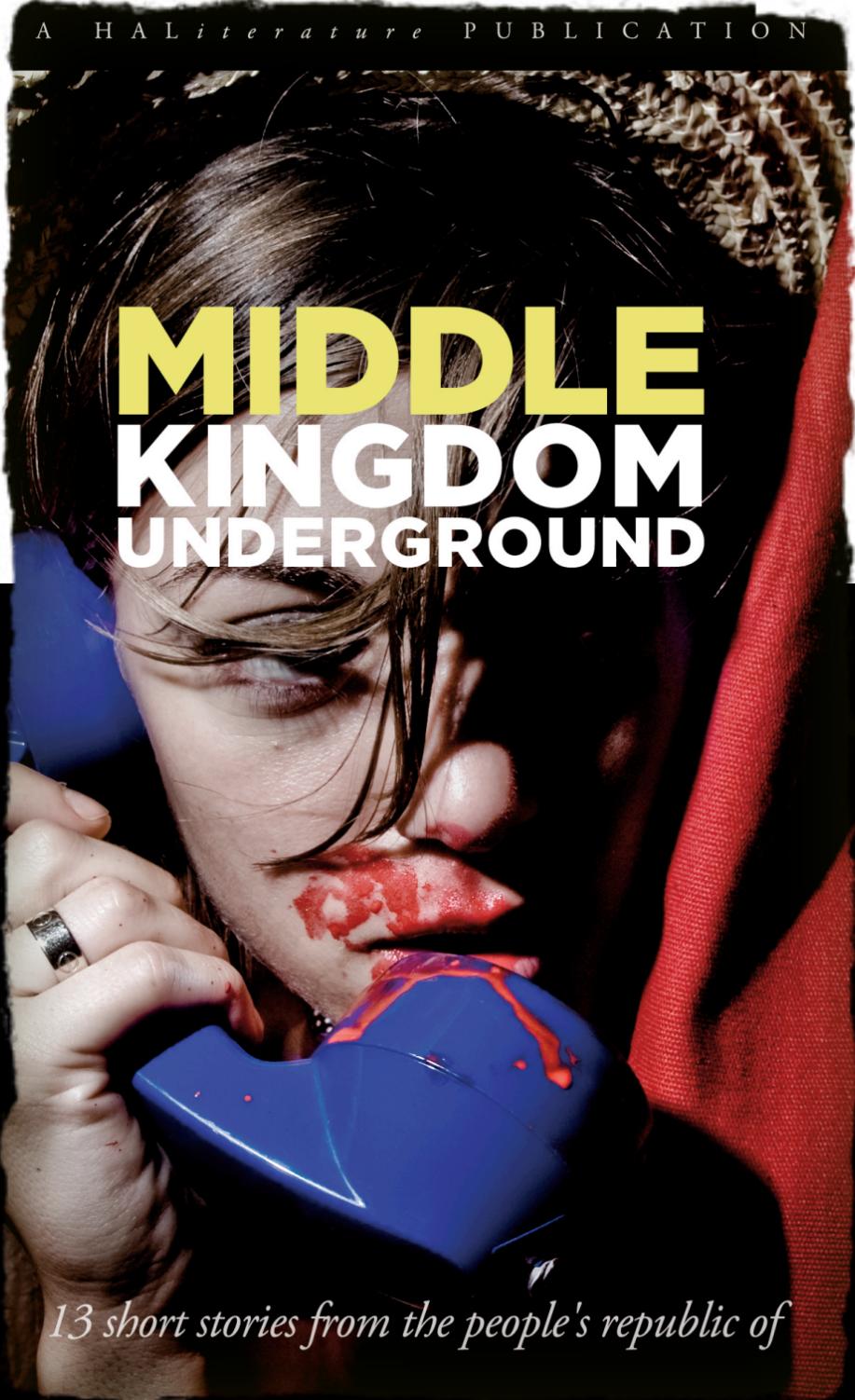


*A H.A.L. Publishing Press Release*

H.A.L. Publishing  
*p r e s e n t s*

A H A L i t e r a t u r e P U B L I C A T I O N

A close-up photograph of a woman's face, partially obscured by a blue telephone receiver held to her ear. Her eyes are closed, and there is a significant amount of red, resembling blood, smeared across her mouth and chin. She is wearing a silver ring on her finger. The background is dark and textured, with a red fabric visible on the right side.

**MIDDLE  
KINGDOM  
UNDERGROUND**

*13 short stories from the people's republic of*



# Shanghai-based guerrilla literature collective: *H.A.L. Publishing* releases new book

*Shanghai 2011-10-07*  
**For Immediate Release**

Shanghai-based indie publishing house *H.A.L. Publishing* release their second volume of stories on December 3rd 2011. According to the editor, the book's themes are "Vice and filth from China's underbelly." and is suitably entitled **MIDDLE KINGDOM UNDERGROUND** -13 short stories from the people's republic of. The launch will be in conjunction with the *H.A.L.* crown jewel of events: the **SLAMHAI!** series of hard-hitting poetry slams, and will be held as part of the **River South Art Festival**, **December 1st - 4th, 2011.**

*H.A.L. Publishing*

Founded in Shanghai in 2009, underground literary collective *H.A.L.* made a name for itself last year with its debut title **Party Like it's 1984**, along with Shanghai's first ever large-scale poetry slam in December 2010. *H.A.L.* runs numerous workshops in Shanghai, and has been involved in many literary projects (including the **JUE Festival** and the **Bookworm Literary Festival**), and has run stage events with various groups such as **Shanghai Repertory Theatre**, **Urbanatomy**, **Split-Works**, **Garden Books** and more. *H.A.L. Publishing* also has a presence in Portland, OR, through **Powells Books**, and is represented by author and editor **Dena Rash Guzman**, founder of *H.A.L.*'s sister site [unshodquills.com](http://unshodquills.com).

Middle Kingdom Underground

**From the backside text:**

“China. The center of the world. A Goliath and new world power rising. What lies beneath is a sweltering, seething pot — boiling over with the rotted guts of a ‘Harmonious Society’.

Like a bad dose straight to the heart — *H.A.L.* plunders the hidden depths of Life in China to bring you thirteen authors telling it like their not allowed to.”

The line-up includes several well-known names from the literary scene, such as **Vivian Yang** and **Miodrag Kojadinovic**, but in true *H.A.L.* style the editors promise to serve some stunning stories by lesser known talents, scouted via the *H.A.L.* workshop network, "We see some amazing talent at the **Groupthink** sessions," says founder **Björn Wahlström**, "Although we are very happy to include established authors in this years line-up, we also like to promote hitherto less known writers such as **Brian Keane**, **Renee Reynolds** and **Andrea Fassolas**. Such new voices on China are only printable through indie profiled channels such as *H.A.L.*."

*A H.A.L. Publishing Press Release*



## The Launch

Last year's launch of **Party like it's 1984** at River South played host to four hundred people and made Shanghai history with one of the most dazzling events of the year. **H.A.L. Publishing** returns on **December 3rd, 2011** to River South to celebrate the launch of their sophomore book: **MIDDLE KINGDOM UNDERGROUND** - 13 short stories from the people's republic of. The launch will center round the work of some of H.A.L.'s best writers side-by-side with the latest installment of H.A.L.'s ground breaking poetry series **SLAMHAI! 3**.

As in past years, **SLAMHAI!** will pit Shanghai's greatest poets against each other using traditional Slam methods mashed together with H.A.L.'s own unique style. This years launch and slam event will stay firmly rooted in the quality and standard that has become synonymous with the **H.A.L.** name. But in true **H.A.L.** style the organizers of this event will turn everything you thought you knew about literary events on its ear. This year will see teams of poets battling it out in a fast paced and pitched word war unlike anything that Shanghai has ever seen before. But let's remember that this is a **H.A.L.** event and as such there is always something unexpected waiting around the corner.

For this evening only, **H.A.L.** is bringing **Dena Rash Guzman** from Portland to Shanghai to stage a visual group-reading of her story "A Brief History of Dan Orange of Shanghai."

Of course that's not all, there will be secret projects designed to thrill and delight the evening's guests, **H.A.L.** refuses to comment on what those projects might be and insist that some things are best kept under wraps. Just in case all that wasn't enough **DJ Ben Thriller** returns to break out the beats that will keep the party going all night!

Björn Wahlström  
Editor-in-chief





BOOK LAUNCH  
SLAMHAI 3



RIVER SOUTH  
ART CENTER

DECEMBER 03  
2011

*haliterature.com*

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