

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Origins.....	1
2. On a broad canvas .....	10
3. The good Japanese officer .....	16
4. "This is Kemy's sense of humour!" .....	19
5. Mink coat and spats .....	26
6. Will the real Emile Zola please stand up?.....	27
7. Page 75, my Lord .....	31
8. Torn into tiny pieces in a crowded court.....	32
9. Pulling up our socks .....	33
10. Maaac.....	34
11. Keeping them quiet.....	35
12. The All Blacks ... or not .....	38
13. Why on earth did you give this fellow leave?.....	40
14. The ambulance man .....	43
15. The arbitration about architects' fees .....	44
16. No constitutional deviation.....	46
17. Hunted by Wolves .....	49
18. The case of the eight loaves.....	52
19. Simpler and more sure .....	55
20. The most dangerous liar.....	57
21. The rules don't apply to Henry.....	58
22. The lady in red.....	59
23. Horse-laugh.....	61
24. Hard going .....	65

25.	A legal beachcomber?.....	67
26.	A master at work.....	71
27.	Albert.....	73
28.	Not quite cricket.....	76
29.	Special.....	78
30.	The witness who never was .....	79
31.	Can this happen in Hong Kong? .....	80
32.	Less complicated then.....	82
33.	The weight of responsibility .....	85
34.	Sizing up the witness.....	87
35.	Written and oral advocacy combined .....	89
36.	The exception that proves the rule .....	91
37.	Either too hot or too cold .....	93
38.	Yes and no .....	94
39.	Coke, Ronnie and me .....	96
40.	A more gracious era .....	98
41.	Bill .....	100
42.	Shades of meaning ... or colour .....	103
43.	Donald Nicholls .....	107
44.	The World of Suzie Wong .....	110
45.	Fire and explosion in Aberdeen Harbour.....	114
46.	In grainy black and white .....	119
47.	Gerry's advice and his example.....	121
48.	Having the last word.....	123
49.	Custom and conscience combined .....	125
50.	Extreme confidentiality .....	127
51.	Spot the intervener .....	129
52.	Since then.....	130

53.	The way it was and we were .....	131
54.	Lest they are puzzled .....	133
55.	Advocacy takes many forms .....	134
56.	Avoiding the albatross .....	135
57.	Local legal publications .....	137
58.	If it moves .....	139
59.	As he knew they would .....	140
60.	Wild horses couldn't, but tame ones do.....	141
61.	Tigress and uniform.....	142
62.	The judges' conscience .....	144
63.	Charging like a wounded buffalo .....	149
64.	Bailing them out .....	151
65.	Rarely to be fought .....	154
66.	Pleading for accurate pleadings .....	157
67.	May I have a moment to take instructions? .....	160
68.	Humble? Obedient? .....	163
69.	The Chief .....	165
70.	Red and gold? .....	168
71.	Rogues and vagabonds .....	170
72.	The cab rank principle.....	171
73.	My brother and sister .....	173
74.	The attitude of the Crown to the law .....	176
75.	Innocence .....	178
76.	What's in a name?.....	179
77.	Courtesy is a good policy .....	181
78.	Teddy.....	183
79.	Public international law but no lunch.....	184

80.	He has never been caught before.....	186
81.	What was there left to say?.....	187
82.	Negotiators great and small .....	188
83.	Pen and paper .....	192
84.	A mother's love .....	194
85.	Each of you has an excellent chance.....	196
86.	Not to end on a sad note .....	197
87.	Blind justice .....	199
88.	X again .....	201
89.	Butterflies .....	204
90.	The Bruce Lee libel action .....	205
91.	The Faber Merlin case .....	206
92.	At long last .....	209
93.	The reeds not at Runnymede .....	210
94.	Understanding money ... and people.....	211
95.	Joking aside .....	215
96.	The Lan Kwai Fong disaster .....	218
97.	The profession and the academy .....	221
98.	John Griffiths .....	222
99.	Is he around?.....	224
100.	Money big and small.....	226
101.	Last days at the Bar.....	227
102.	In the wider world .....	229
103.	Dog law .....	236
104.	If it goes under a thousand.....	239
105.	His generosity.....	240
106.	Affidavit evidence.....	242

107.	An ology .....	243
108.	It's Bob's idea.....	248
109.	What was said?.....	249
110.	Infinitely more .....	252
111.	Popcorn too? .....	254
112.	Judicial justice.....	257
113.	Out of respect for him.....	259
114.	Footwork .....	261
115.	Opera ball.....	262
116.	Never forgotten.....	264
117.	Not letting it go to waste .....	266
118.	I tried to tell them.....	268
119.	What do you agree? .....	271
120.	A prayer constantly to be repeated.....	273
121.	That fount of justice .....	275
122.	Bar to bench .....	278
123.	These maroons .....	281
124.	Pleading profusely .....	284
125.	Hairy crabs .....	286
126.	A crowded place .....	289
127.	The broken latrine .....	291
128.	Fanlingerer .....	293
129.	Want a lift? .....	297
130.	These minnows!.....	298
131.	The Tai Tam Bay mystery .....	299
132.	Critics silenced .....	303
133.	DQC.....	305

134.	All at sea .....	306
135.	I have read your brilliant judgment .....	308
136.	Sounding like the Privy Council .....	310
137.	Because you are one .....	313
138.	Have faith .....	315
139.	Waiting to clobber him .....	316
140.	Accountants a-leaping .....	319
141.	English of it .....	323
142.	Tact .....	324
143.	Forever associated with their names .....	325
144.	Right to the end .....	327
145.	The reins in our hands .....	328
146.	The 1956 riots .....	329
147.	Rituals and ceremonies .....	332
148.	Progress? .....	335
149.	Cooking for one? .....	337
150.	Late for school .....	339
151.	Promoted on the spot .....	341
152.	Advocating political correctness? .....	343
153.	An at least equal overall impression .....	345
154.	Red socks .....	347
155.	In all cases .....	349
156.	Wrong again – so far .....	350
157.	Moots .....	352
158.	Love is a many flavoured thing .....	355
159.	Inquiries .....	357
160.	The 1967 disturbances and SARS in 2003 .....	360

161.	Memories of Middle Temple Hall .....	362
162.	The label on a tin of soup .....	364
163.	What swayed the jury? .....	366
164.	Do you believe in fate? .....	368
165.	Too many moving parts .....	372
166.	A little humanity in the mix .....	374
167.	He remembered .....	376
168.	The Court of Appeal's nose .....	377
169.	There's a new sheriff in town .....	378
170.	Natural justice .....	380
171.	Involving only money .....	382
172.	The hospital orderly .....	384
173.	The bear facts .....	387
174.	Undiminished .....	390
175.	Motive, murder, and indigo dye .....	393
176.	A confession at long last .....	398
177.	Aristocrats or acrobats? .....	400
178.	Having the cross-examiner for breakfast ....	401
179.	Things change .....	402
180.	More about the Hotel Amsterdam .....	405
181.	Gor blimey! What a voice! .....	408
182.	More Ronald Mayne .....	410
183.	Never you mind .....	411
184.	More Archie .....	413
185.	Lesson learned? .....	416
186.	Questions from the Bench .....	419
187.	Sailing to Macau .....	422
188.	Coroner's inquests .....	427

189.	Sometimes the client doesn't help .....	431
190.	Worth the wait .....	434
191.	A very good civil judge .....	436
192.	Behaviour on the Bench .....	438
193.	Impact is better than dead pull.....	441
194.	Keeping pace with the times .....	444
195.	Chairing the Bar .....	447
196.	The jade cicada.....	450
197.	The truth of what Miss Simmonds said ....	453
198.	One word only .....	454
199.	Schooldays and innocent fun .....	456
200.	His duty to the law .....	460
201.	Truly impartial .....	462
202.	A fitting courtesy .....	464
203.	The man and the profession .....	466
204.	The Harbour City case.....	468
205.	What farm?.....	474
206.	Even, or especially, sitting a cell.....	476
207.	They are families.....	479
208.	In the wake of tragedy.....	481
209.	Demonstrating a commitment to freedom .....	483
210.	More interesting than places .....	486
211.	Satisfaction to all not guaranteed.....	489
212.	The academy.....	491
213.	Sign language.....	493
214.	Among the very best.....	495

215.	We must .....	496
216.	Probably not .....	497
217.	What it was really like .....	499
218.	Not with pinpoint accuracy.....	501
219.	Nothing similar and it was a long time ago.....	504
220.	Also a long time ago .....	505
221.	Transformed beyond recognition.....	506
222.	It goes to show .....	508
223.	A man whom I hold in high regard.....	509
224.	Mind your language .....	511
225.	The Blacklist.....	514
226.	Law conferences .....	516
227.	Perfect timing.....	519
228.	Unthinkable.....	521
229.	Undeclared by age or infirmity .....	523
230.	Changed forever.....	525
231.	Where are you reading from now?.....	527
232.	Enough?.....	529
233.	The master touch.....	531
234.	A hole in one.....	533
235.	The ways of juries.....	535
236.	In a hurry to get to the club or ... ..	538
237.	A bit of humour to ease things along .....	539
238.	Let in a bit of Latin.....	541
239.	Kenya .....	543
240.	Switzerland.....	546

241.	Concurring judgments and dissents.....	548
242.	The Congo case .....	578
243.	WikiLeaked.....	582
244.	Conditions infinitely more difficult.....	584
245.	Continue to support the judiciary .....	585
246.	Farewell Sitting.....	588
247.	The Li Court .....	592
248.	Crocky.....	594
249.	Verina.....	599

## I. ORIGINS

I was born in Hong Kong on 25 October 1947. Hong Kong was then a British colony. So it remained until 30 June 1997. Then, by the handover on 1 July 1997, Hong Kong became Chinese again. But it retained its previous system and therefore lifestyle. This happened – and continues – under the “one country, two systems” principle. The principle is declared in the Preamble to Hong Kong’s post-handover constitution the Basic Law. It is secured by the detailed provisions contained in that constitution. And subject to one qualification which I will have to discuss elsewhere, that constitution is safeguarded by an independent judiciary. I realise that this is beginning to sound rather like a judgment or law book. But that is not at all what I intend – certainly not at this stage. At the moment, I am dealing with two journeys.

One was made by my forebears on my mother’s side. It was a sea voyage made by traders. They began in the Middle East, proceeded across the Indian Ocean, settled for a time on the western coast of India, then resumed their voyage; they went through the Strait of Malacca, entered the South China Sea and ended in Hong Kong. Whereupon my maternal great-great-grandfather stepped off the gangplank and set foot