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From Discos to Jungles: Circuitous Queer Patronage and Sex Tourism in Jessica Hagedorn's *Dog eaters*

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Abstract

This article interrogates Jessica Hagedorn's *Dog eaters* through an extensive analysis of Joey Sands, one of the major queer characters within the novel, tracking his movement from Manila's urban club culture to the politically infused jungle encampment that ends his narrative arc. This article further queries the marked absence of queer sexuality that Joey exhibits once he makes this final spatial transition, contextualizing this curious trajectory as part of a larger encrypted social context that problematically linked queer sexuality with the corruption of Marcos-era economic policy.



**FROM DISCOS TO JUNGLES:
CIRCUITOUS QUEER PATRONAGE
AND SEX TOURISM IN JESSICA
HAGEDORN'S *DOGEATERS***

Stephen Hong Sohn

Jessica Hagedorn's first novel, *Dog eaters*, has garnered considerable raves and achieved a well-deserved eminence within postcolonial and Asian American literary critical circles. With its intricate postmodern narrative storytelling and complex socio-historical foundation, the novel has continually inspired wide-ranging studies that foreground the continuing necessity of transnational and diasporic analytical methodologies. Hagedorn's kaleidoscopic narrative depicts a cross section of Filipino society from approximately 1955 to 1980. It tracks numerous characters whose lives intersect and collide within a dense Manila cityscape. One overarching plot trajectory follows the political battle that pits the more leftist leanings of Senator Domingo Avila against an incumbent militaristic regime modeled after the rule of Ferdinand Marcos. These tensions interact with the lives of various subjects. Rio Gonzaga, an adolescent coming of age in an upper-class household, struggles to come to terms with her budding sexuality. Joey Sands, a Filipino biracial hustler, turns tricks to support himself. Romeo Rosales and Trinidad Gamboa attempt to fashion their own futures in a global economy that challenges their most idealistic dreams. Daisy Avila, daughter of Domingo Avila, is a disgraced former beauty queen

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