

PATRON SAINTS OF NOTHING

by Randy Ribay

Published in 2019

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):



Contemporary



Action/adventure



Science Fiction



Fantasy



Romance



Horror



Mystery



Nonfiction



Historical fiction



Other:

This coming-of-age novel by Randy Ribay encompasses the journey of a young Filipino-American Jay, making a journey back to the Philippines in light of the death of his cousin. Jay struggles with his identity especially regarding his family. Jay arrives in the Philippines on a mission, to find out what really happened to his beloved cousin. Through the many twists and turns, Jay discovers family secrets and starts to realize the complexity of life. I think this is a perfect book for any teen who is looking to explore the reality of the world through a different lens.

While Jay's journey has a little bit more drama than the average teenager, it serves to evoke emotions of newfound independence and discovery as a teen trying to find out what's really going on in the world. Faced with the tragedy of the death of his cousin, whom he had been very close to as a kid, Jay is particularly affected of all his family members. He decides to go to the Philippines on his own, marking the beginning of his coming of age. Upon arriving he is met with a completely different world, a huge juxtaposition from life in the U.S. I feel like this is an interesting viewpoint for any American teen to follow, a big part of discovering oneself is pushing out of the comfort zone and exploring new parts of the world.

Through many tumultuous adventures and confrontations, Jay ultimately finds the cause of his cousins' death, overdose. He finds that he had been messing around in the world of narcotics, and it ultimately lead to his fate. This is particularly surprising to Jay, as he has known his cousin to be very smart and enterprising. But ultimately Jay realizes that his ambition and dark environment, both family and neighborhood, were not a good mix and he ended up going down a dark path. Jay is exposed to different life circumstances, and ultimately grows emotionally because he learns about many harsh realities in life, appreciating his own opportunities even more. Any person that is coming of age would benefit from an expanded viewpoint in life, and hopefully apply it to their own lives.

By Mark H, 10th grade, enjoys reading action/adventure and historical fiction