



BOOK RESUME: FRANKLY IN LOVE

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Two friends. One fake dating scheme. What could possibly go wrong?

Frank Li has two names. There's Frank Li, his American name. Then there's Sung-Min Li, his Korean name. No one uses his Korean name, not even his parents. Frank barely speaks any Korean. He was born and raised in Southern California.

Even so, his parents still expect him to end up with a nice Korean girl--which is a problem, since Frank is finally dating the girl of his dreams: Brit Means. Brit, who is funny and nerdy just like him. Brit, who makes him laugh like no one else. Brit . . . who is white.

As Frank falls in love for the very first time, he's forced to confront the fact that while his parents sacrificed everything to raise him in the land of opportunity, their traditional expectations don't leave a lot of room for him to be a regular American teen. Desperate to be with Brit without his parents finding out, Frank turns to family friend Joy Song, who is in a similar bind. Together, they come up with a plan to help each other and keep their parents off their backs. Frank thinks he's found the solution to all his problems, but when life throws him a curveball, he's left wondering whether he ever really knew anything about love—or himself—at all.

In this moving debut novel—featuring striking blue stained edges and beautiful original endpaper art by the author—David Yoon takes on the question of who am I? with a result that is humorous, heartfelt, and ultimately unforgettable.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Completely unique. Frank is a wonderfully self-aware protagonist with a compelling voice.... [A] beautifully written exploration of family, identity, and self-discovery." —*Booklist*, starred review

★ "With its smart, self-analyzing characters, sigh-inducing love story, and witty dialogue, this debut effort should happily occupy the shelf beside books by John Green, Rainbow Rowell, and Jenny Han. . . Readers will frankly fall in love with this hype-worthy, engaging addition to own-voices narratives that simultaneously stimulates both heart and head." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, starred review

★ "Spectacular debut. . . Yoon's light hand with dialogue and deft use of illustrative anecdotes produce a story that illuminates weighty issues by putting a compassionate human face on struggles both universal and particular to certain identities. . . A deeply moving account of love in its many forms."

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

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Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

★ “[A] sparkling debut. . . This is an outstanding novel where the emotions are deeply felt but honestly earned. The characters are complex and nuanced, and all are on their own authentic journeys. The highlight of the book is Frank’s voice—he is a sharp observer who is funny, insecure, and deeply conflicted. . . Full of keen observations about love, family, and race with a winning narrator.”

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Yoon never settles for stereotypes, instead giving his well-defined characters a diversity of experience, identity, sexuality, and ambition. Told in youthful-sounding prose, Frank’s journey reaches beyond Korean-American identity and touches on the common experiences of many children of immigrants, including negotiating language barriers, tradition, and other aspects of what it means to be a ‘hyphenated’ American."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“High school senior Frank Li is first generation Korean American. He’s grown up solidly middle class thanks to his parents’ drive. They work almost constantly as owner/operators of a store in a poor urban neighborhood an hour away. Frank’s older sister, Hanna, has become persona non grata at home (but not to Frank) since dating and marrying a Black man. Frank’s best friend, Q, is Black, and he wishes he was courageous enough to challenge his parents’ racism like Hanna always did. He wishes it even more when he starts dating Brittany Means, who is white, knowing his parents won’t approve of a girlfriend who isn’t Korean. Instead, he deceives them, working out a plan with Joy, daughter of another Korean immigrant family, to fake date. Joy has been keeping her Chinese American boyfriend a secret from her parents, and the lie keeps all the parents happy while freeing Frank and Joy to spend time with their significant others. What could go wrong? Frank’s first-person voice is funny and tender in an exceptional, emotionally charged debut novel that plays out in ways both expected and unexpected, offering an insightful, nuanced examination of immigrant families, parents and children, race and racism, love and romance, and the sustaining gift of friendship.”—*CCBC*

“Extraordinary . . . a beautifully layered novel about first love, tribalism and that brief, magical period when kids have one foot in high school, one foot out the door. . . Yoon explores themes of racism, forgiveness and acceptance without getting earnest or preachy or letting anyone off the hook. And there’s a universality to the story that cuts across cultures.”—*New York Times*

“With echoes of John Green and *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before*, it’s poised to be the biggest YA debut of the year.”—*Entertainment Weekly*

“Yoon’s fresh and nuanced approach to Frank’s struggle to navigate cultural tensions amplifies both the vulnerabilities and the strengths that can come with being a child of immigrants. . . Yoon underscores the value of honoring both who you are and where you come from.”—*TIME*

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"Yoon's stellar debut expertly and authentically tackles racism, privilege, and characters who are trying to navigate their Korean-American identity."

—*BuzzFeed*

"David Yoon packs all manner of ethnic, class, and family dynamics into the funny, profane and poignant pages of *Frankly in Love*." —*Wall Street Journal*

"Touching on issues of race, identity, and first love, *Frankly in Love* is the charming, funny, romantic young adult crossover novel that both adults and teens will enjoy in equal measure." —*PopSugar*

"Yoon examines love in the context of cultural identity, expertly tackling sensitive issues with nuance and a bit of humor." —*Shelf Awareness*

"A hard-hitting and intersectional look at all the joys and heartbreaks of coming of age." —*Character Media*

"Yoon makes insightful points in a frank and engaging way that will compel readers to at least think about the complicated issues surrounding race in America." —*International Examiner*

"An outstanding coming-of-age novel about identity, familial obligations, and the power of empathy." —*VOYA*

"Pure romantic comedy . . . Yoon writes in a lightly funny, self-deprecating, accessible voice; one that sounds like a contemporary teen and reveals a deep understanding of bicultural complexities. As the novel faces issues of race and racism, culture, friendship, relationships, and family, Yoon encourages readers to delve into issues of what it means to belong—and who in the end we would like to belong to, and with." —*The Horn Book Magazine*

"This #OwnVoices novel tackles familial issues, being the child of immigrant parents, and what it means to make a name for yourself despite having an ocean of expectations weighing down on your shoulders." —*BookRiot*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- An Instant New York Times Bestseller and #1 Indie Bestseller!
- One of TIME Magazine's 100 Best YA Books of All Time
- A William C. Morris YA Debut Award Finalist
- An Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association Honor Book
- A Kirkus Reviews Best Young Adult Book of the Year
- A Junior Library Guild Selection
- A Cosmopolitan 100 Best YA Books Everyone Should Read, Regardless Of Their Age

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- An Indies Introduce Title
- A CCBC Choices Selection
- A Read for Empathy Collections Selection
- A YALSA Teens' Top Ten Finalist
- A The Children's Book Council Young Adult Favorites Award
- A SLJ Best Books of the Year Selection
- Pacific Northwest Library Association Young Reader's Choice Award, Senior Division, for Grades 10-12
- CDE Recommended List (CA)
- CDE Recommended List, Grades 9-12 (CA)
- California Young Reader Medal, Young Adult Division, Grades 9-12 (CA)
- Delaware Diamonds Award, Grades 6-12 (DE)
- Delaware Diamonds Award, Secondary (DE)
- Capitol Choices, Ages 14+ (DC)
- Abraham Lincoln High School Award, for Grades 9-12 (IL)
- Iowa High School Battle of the Books, Grades 9-12 (IA)
- Iowa High School Book Award, Grades 9-12 (IA)
- Black-Eyed Susan Book Award, High School (MD)
- MISelf in Books, 2020, High School (MI)
- Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award, Young Adult (PA)
- Rhode Island Teen Book Award, for Grades 7-12 (RI)
- Tayshas Reading List, for Grades 9-12 (TX)
- Beehive Award, Young Adult, Grades 7-12 (UT)
- Virginia Readers' Choice, High School, Grades 9-12 (VA)
- Battle of the Books-- Senior Division for Grades 8-12 (WI)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)
- [Penguin Classroom Teacher's Guide](#)
- [First Draft Podcast Interview with Author](#)
- [Yallwest Panel Discussion with Author](#)
- [KidLit TV Interview with Author](#)
- [The International Examiner Interview with Author](#)
- [Entertainment Weekly Interview with Author](#)
- [WNYC New York Public Radio Interview with Author](#)
- [NPR Interview with Author](#)
- [Patrick Sucks at Drawing Interview with Author](#)
- [Yallwest Juvenalia Discussion with Author](#)
- [She Writes Interview with David Yoon](#)

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