

# Patron Saints of Nothing: A Heart-Wrenching Tale of Identity, Redemption, and the Power of Family

In the scorching summer of 1969, as the echoes of Woodstock and the Civil Rights Movement still resonated through America, Randy Ribay presents a powerful and evocative novel that delves into the complexities of race, identity, and the search for redemption. "Patron Saints of Nothing" is a masterpiece that weaves a tapestry of grief, hope, and the enduring bonds of family.

## Jason Armino, a Filipino American teenager:



### Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3111 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 346 pages

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At the heart of the novel lies Jason Armino, a young man grappling with a profound loss. His cousin, Jay, has been brutally murdered, and the shattered remnants of his life are strewn across the pages. Through Jason's eyes, we witness the raw emotions of grief, anger, and a deep yearning for justice.

Driven by an unyielding desire to find the truth behind Jay's murder, Jason embarks on a perilous journey that takes him from the sun-drenched streets of Seattle to the Deep South, where the ghosts of history linger in the very air. Accompanied by his best friend, Jun, and his estranged uncle, Uncle Bob, Jason uncovers a web of secrets and prejudice that shapes the world around them.

### **Unveiling the Truth:**

As Jason delves deeper into his investigation, we are confronted with the harsh realities of racial profiling and police brutality. Ribay skillfully unravels the complexities of the justice system, exposing its biases and the ways in which the marginalized are often unfairly targeted.

Through Jason's interactions with a cast of unforgettable characters, "Patron Saints of Nothing" delves into the complexities of identity, loyalty, and the search for belonging. From the enigmatic Sister Baptist to the troubled Father Johnny, each character contributes their own unique perspective to Jason's journey.

### **The Power of Family:**

Despite the darkness that surrounds them, the novel is ultimately a testament to the power of family and the enduring bonds that can sustain us in the face of adversity. Through their shared grief, Jason, Jun, and Uncle Bob forge an unbreakable bond that provides solace and strength.

Ribay's prose is lyrical and haunting, capturing the raw emotions and complexities of his characters with remarkable depth. He deftly weaves

together personal stories with broader historical and social issues, creating a narrative that is both moving and universally relevant.

### **Themes of Redemption and Hope:**

While "Patron Saints of Nothing" confronts the harsh realities of the world, it is ultimately a story of redemption and hope. Through Jason's journey, Ribay explores the possibility of healing, forgiveness, and the transformative power of love.

As Jason grapples with his own guilt and the aftermath of tragedy, he learns the importance of facing the truth, no matter how painful it may be. By confronting his own prejudices and the systemic injustices that permeate society, he embarks on a path towards healing and self-discovery.

### **Critical Acclaim and Awards:**

"Patron Saints of Nothing" has received widespread critical acclaim and numerous awards, including the National Book Award for Young People's Literature and the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature. It has been praised for its powerful storytelling, its exploration of complex themes, and its unflinching depiction of the realities of racism and police brutality.

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"Patron Saints of Nothing" is an extraordinary novel that will leave an indelible mark on readers of all ages. Through the journey of Jason Armino, Randy Ribay brings to life the complexities of race, identity, and the

enduring bonds of family. It is a story that will ignite conversations, challenge perspectives, and inspire hope in the face of adversity.

Whether you are seeking a thought-provoking and emotionally resonant read, or simply seeking to deepen your understanding of the world around you, "Patron Saints of Nothing" is an essential work that will stay with you long after you finish it. Highly recommended for fans of contemporary fiction, young adult literature, and historical novels that explore social and racial justice.



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