

[PORTLAND, Ore., January 15, 2022] — Jason Tanamor's debut YA "Love, Dance & Egg Rolls" places Filipino culture and folk dancing front and center in a high school drama about identity during racial tensions in America.

Jamie Santiago loves dancing Tinikling, a Filipino tradition that he doesn't always share with his white friends and classmates. It's hard enough balancing the demands of high school life, and with rising protests in Portland and a racist bully making his life miserable, Jamie can't help but hide his Filipino side altogether. When Jamie finds out that the last ever Asian folk dance festival falls on the same day as Homecoming, he must decide whether his girlfriend and best friends are more important than his love of dancing. Filipino tradition can take a back seat, or can it?

"This is a fake blurb to use as a placeholder. This book is great, everyone should read it, and if you don't, I'll kill you. If you haven't read Love, Dance & Egg Rolls, you're missing out on a story that will absolutely cause you to rethink everything about yourself." — **Luis Ramos**, author of *Some Other Book*

Both pertinent and timely, Jason Tanamor's Own Voices YA gives prominence to perspectives from the Filipino diaspora. This coming-of-age rom-com champions Filipino teen representation, embraces the folk dancing traditions of the Philippines, and tackles race and identity in today's political climate. Reminiscent of "Don't Ask Me Where I'm From" and "Patron Saints of Nothing," this story poses meaningful questions about identity, self-love, and what it means to be American.

Jason Tanamor is the critically acclaimed author of "Vampires of Portlandia," "Anonymous," and "Drama Dolls." His writings have appeared in more than ~~two hundred and fifty~~ 250 publications, including several Filipino journals and magazines. Tanamor's parents immigrated to the U.S. from the Philippines, and he often writes about his experiences as a Filipino-American. Growing up, he did not see many Filipinos in books and wants young readers to be able to "see themselves" when they read, so he has made it his personal mission to write characters that aren't "faceless" or "white."

Ooligan Press is a student-run trade press rooted in the Pacific Northwest dedicated to cultivating the next generation of publishing professionals. It prioritizes literary equity and inclusion. Ooligan strives

It's hard enough balancing the demands of high school, but when the last ever Asian Folk Festival falls on the same day as Homecoming, it feels like Jamie's world comes crashing down. He is forced to make an important decision between honoring his heritage and salvaging what's left of his social life. With a racist bully at school and rising protests in Portland, Jamie sometimes wonders if it would be easier to forget his Filipino side entirely instead of trying to embrace it.

[Play the catchy sitcom music]

[Cue the laugh track to numb the serious stuff]

If only life were so perfect.

Tensions will rise in "Love, Dance & Egg Rolls" as Jamie decides whether it's more important to remain hidden in plain sight or step directly into the spotlight. Jamie will not only come face-to-face with a bully, but also with this thing called cultural identity.

Book Highlights

~~Love, Dance & Egg Rolls~~ "Love, Dance & Egg Rolls" provides a fresh perspective into the life of a Filipino-American teenager struggling with identity and racial discrimination. Jamie, a child of immigrant parents, grapples with assimilation and shame in an era with anxiety-filled political strife.

The novel's depictions of Filipino food and culture are reminiscent of Mia Manansala's "Arsenic and Adobo" and Wai Chim's "The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling." Championing culture and the traditional folk dances of the Philippines, ~~Love, Dance & Egg Rolls~~ "Love, Dance & Egg Rolls" reflects how culture provides safety and comfort during a time of racial tension in America.

While the novel caters to fans of YA rom-coms with its sweet and heartwarming romance, it also exposes privilege and ignorance amongst young interracial couples. Filled with tension and delicate topics, ~~Love, Dance & Egg Rolls~~ "Love, Dance & Egg Rolls" is ultimately about self-love and learning to celebrate your culture with friends and loved ones.