

The background features a complex network of white nodes and lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines, creating a web-like structure. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The title 'Frankly in Love' is centered in the upper half of the image.

# Frankly in Love

Written by David Yoon

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Published by mckeonandassociates

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# Frankly in Love

By David Yoon

## Frankly In Love David Yoon

High school senior Frank Li is a Limbo—his term for Korean-American kids who find themselves caught between their parents’ traditional expectations and their own Southern California upbringing. His parents have one rule when it comes to romance—“Date Korean”—which proves complicated when Frank falls for Brit Means, who is smart, beautiful—and white. Fellow Limbo Joy Song is in a similar predicament, and so they make a pact: they’ll pretend to date each other in order to gain their freedom. Frank thinks it’s the perfect plan, but in the end, Frank and Joy’s fake-dating maneuver leaves him wondering if he ever really understood love—or himself—at all.

therapy: expensive

adding books with the fake-dating trope to your TBR: free

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Frankly in Love

## Frankly In Love Movie

This book:

â€¢ Was SO relatable (Frank is Korean American and I related to a LOT of his experiences)

â€¢ Has the fake dating trope

â€¢ Has amazing characters

â€¢ Explores complex family relationships

â€¢ Explores race

â€¢ Has an adorable romance

â€¢ Has humour

â€¢ Is simply everything

I highly recommend checking this out if you're into any/all of these things! This was a super anticipated release for me and it did not disappoint. This comes out 12th September!

TW: cancer

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YOU GUYS THIS BOOK!!

It's my life (except the fake-dating)!

I mean, every ethnic house-hold can relate to the whole dating within your race nonsense and juggling your culture alongside the society you actually grew up in.

Our parents, man.

Confused.com!

Frankly in Love

## Frankly In Love Trailer

Goodreads giveaway win!

Reading Rush: Read a debut author

Y'ALL!

T.H.I.S. B.O.O.K.

I loved it!

But first can we just take a minute to discuss the fact that David Yoon & Nicola Yoon are one of my new favorite couples.

WHY AM I STILL SO SINGLE???

Now on to the review.....

Frank Li has two names. Frank Li, his American name. Then there's Sung-Min Li, his Korean name. Frank barely speaks Korean. He was born and raised in Southern California.

Even so, his parents still expect him to end up with a ni Goodreads giveaway win!

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Frankly in Love

Even so, his parents still expect him to end up with a nice Korean girl. Which is a problem since Frank is dating the girl of his dreams Brit Means who is white!

Desperate to be with the girl he loves Frank turns to family friend Joy Song, who is in a similar bind. Together they hatch a plan to make their parents think they are dating each other so they can secretly date who they want to.

And I think we can all guess what happens next....

Frankly In Love is so precious and sweet and hard hitting. David Yoon not only gave us a cute contemporary with my 2nd favorite trope Fake Dating(Enemies to Lovers is #1) but he also deconstructed racism in Korean-American culture and he explores what its like to be the child of immigrants.

As an African American I wasn't shocked at all by the racism expressed by Frank's parents towards African Americans. That is a known thing to most African Americans I know, so much so that I don't shop or eat at Korean owned establishments and neither do most people I know. So I appreciated the way David Yoon wrote about this. I don't think I've read a book not written by an African American author that talks about the tension between the black community and the Korean community. I loved how this book didn't shy away from Frank's parents terrible views towards non-Koreans and it really broken down how difficult it is for the American born children of immigrants to find a place where they belong. Frank and his other Korean American friends refer to themselves as Limbos.

Bonus points for the delicious food descriptions. This book made me so hungry.

I loved this book. I think its gonna be one of my favorite books of the year. I can't wait for this book to come out so you can all enjoy it too!

Recommended to EVERYONE!!! ...more

This book is amazing - one of the best of 2019 for me. Pre-order it now, or ask your library to do it.

Frankly in Love

## Frankly In Love Barnes And Noble

hands down one of my favourite books of the year.

I am FRANKLY IN LOVE WITH THIS COVER

4 Oct, 2018

It's going to be a movie whaaaaat?? The Yoon's are slaying!

1 Oct, 2019

Nicola Yoon's husband? I can't wait to get my hands on this!

## Frankly In Love Release Date

Frankly, Frank Li is a bit of a dick.

We all know this book is going to be a bestseller. The cover is great, the story is promising, the hype is real. But if I had to describe this book in one word? Weird. So so weird.

I'm obviously not Korean so I can't speak for the realistic portrayal of growing up as a second-generation Korean teenager in the US. It felt real enough though. Frank and his Korean-American friends all struggle with the huge gap between the expectations of their parents and the Am Frankly, Frank Li is a bit of a dick.

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I'm obviously not Korean so I can't speak for the realistic portrayal of growing up as a second-generation Korean teenager in the US. It felt real enough though. Frank and his Korean-American friends all struggle with the huge gap between the expectations of their parents and the American reality they live in. Frank personally doesn't understand his parents at all. He hates their narrow-mindedness and their racist attitudes towards other races. He hates that they would never accept a girlfriend that is anything but Korean, and he hates that they disowned his older sister because she dared to date a Black guy. What was wonderfully done though, is that Frank's understanding of his parents, their reasons and their past, begins to grow. He grows closer to them as they open up about their own thoughts and feelings. I even almost shed a tear at the end of the book.

Plotwise, David Yoon didn't do anything wrong. The romance was foreseeable but cute, and just when I started to wonder why this book was so long, the story took a surprising turn and got even better.

So...what's the problem? Well, Frank is. I don't like him. I wanted to give him the benefit of the doubt when at the beginning of the book he and his best friend talk about what their perfect girlfriend would be like and all they have to say is "funny and kind." I mean, nice try, but we all know teenagers (and especially teenage boys) a horny and judgemental and a conversation like this would at least mention a boob or two but still, the author wanted to set an example. He just didn't follow through with it. Because turns out Frank Li is a horny teenager who can't hide his sexism. His best friend Q has a twin sister called Evon. Frank describes her as "Q's smoking hot twin sister Evon". Not just one. Not twice. No, Evon is "Q's smoking hot twin sister" throughout the entire novel and I wanted to throw the book across the room every single time I had to read that. What I don't understand about this book is how the side characters feel so real and likeable while Frank is such a weird and unrelatable guy. He has so many quirky and weird mannerisms that I couldn't get over and I think it has mostly to do with the author trying to write a teenager that is both super nerdy but super cool and funny and smart at the same time. David Yoon tried to channel the typical awkward nerd boy that we know from John Green and any other male YA contemporary writer. And he failed. Mostly because Frank Li says stupid things

Frankly in Love

like "You scared the poop out of my buttohole." There's also the moment where instead of shaking each other's hands, Frank and a new acquaintance "vigorously masturbate the gap" between them. WHY. Then there are the painful incidents of people laughing: "Hahahahahehehehahaha", "Puhahahahaha" and "Geehahahakekekekek". Again: WHY. It gets even better though because Frank is so cool and nerdy that he says "fartphones" instead of smartphones. Do with that what you will.

Another aspect that bothered me - and although a person's sexuality shouldn't be turned into a plot twist but hey, writers seem to like that kind of thing so here's a "spoiler alert - was the totally failed attempt to give Frank's best friend a backstory. He just waited for over 400 pages to follow through with it and even then didn't give it a lot of attention. It honestly felt like an afterthought to get at least some sexual diversity into a YA novel that features not a single queer character apart from the closeted gay kid stereotype.

I'm sure this novel will prompt a cute little film adaption and I'm honestly looking forward to seeing it. Still, it could easily become one of those "the film is better than the book" cases. Let's wait and see.

Find more of my books on Instagram [...more](#)

Penguin is promoting Frankly in Love very heavily. It appears they are banking on David Yoon becoming the next John Green. Maybe he will, we'll see. If you are a big John Green fan, and like his nerdy humor, precocious pretentiousness, fascination with girls as otherworldly creatures, you should give this book a go. A cute romance Frankly in Love is definitely not. Frank's love life is the weakest part of this novel, IMO. But more on that later.

Frankly in Love is more of a coming-of-age story, Penguin is promoting Frankly in Love very heavily. It appears they are banking on David Yoon becoming the next John Green. Maybe he will, we'll see. If you are a big John Green fan, and like his nerdy humor, precocious pretentiousness, fascination with girls as otherworldly creatures, you should give this book a go. A cute romance Frankly in Love is definitely not. Frank's love life is the weakest part of this novel, IMO. But more on that later.

Frankly in Love is more of a coming-of-age story, of a teen boy growing up and coming to terms with his family and his own identity. David Yoon adds his Korean-American experience to this pretty typical scenario. He writes about Frank's challenges with not being able to identify fully with either Korean or American culture.

If you've read some think pieces about the newest Netflix romcom Always Be My Maybe, you probably know that that film is lauded for its breaking of Asian American stereotypes. Frankly in Love doesn't take that route. Yoon's story shows Asian community with overbearing, demanding, hard-working parents who speak broken English and only want to circulate in their own Korean diaspora, with all their kids high-achieving and set for Ivy League futures. These kids are also obedient, well at least in front of their parents. Which brings me to the romance.

## Frankly in Love

David Yoon wanted to address the racism in Korean community. And not just racism that Korean Americans experienced themselves, but racism they inflict on people of other ethnicities and backgrounds. This is clearly a very important and painful topic that Yoon wanted to get on pages of his debut. The romance story centers on Frank's parents' disapproval of his kids' dating anyone but Koreans. Frank's older sister is disowned for dating a black man. When Frank falls for a white girl, he is so scared to bring it up with his parents, that he hatches a plan with one of his Korean girl friends (who is also dating a non-Korean boy), to pretend to date her in front of their parents while seeing his white real girlfriend in secret. None of it is cute, to be honest. First of all, to me, after reading books by Maurene Goo or Helen Hoang, this seems like a problem of the past, and this need to hide dating someone of a different ethnicity, entirely overwrought for our time. (I was apparently wrong about that and corrected in the comments). Secondly, David Yoon doesn't do either of the girls in Frank's life any justice. There are cute dates, but there is no real knowing of the girls he falls for. Signature John Green there, if you ask me. Frank's relationships with Brit and Joy are sudden and lacking convincing backstories, making him seem like the kind of guy who will fall for anyone if only opportunity arises. The fake-dating trope is an unnecessary distraction in this novel.

I liked the exploration of the Korean community much more, especially when Frank talks about his family and friends with no unjust judgment. His journey to accept the duality of his identity and his parents' flaws is compelling. Although I found the major conflicts resolved very quickly and easily.

Read this novel to learn about Korean American experience in John Green-like coming of age package. Lovers of romcom might find the advertised fake-dating scenario underwhelming.

Morris committee will probably like it, as well as actual real teens. Maybe. ...more

## Frankly In Love Trailer Song

I received an ARC of this book for free from the publisher. Since I received an ARC, my quotes from the book are tentative.

I give this book 4.5 stars which rounds up to 5.

This book was so good! It's a romance but it goes so much deeper than just that. At the core, it's a story about first love, racism, identity, and family.

I absolutely loved that this book did not shy away from talking about racism, especially the racism of Koreans towards African Americans and other Asian communities. I haven't I received an ARC of this book for free from the publisher. Since I received an ARC, my quotes from the book are tentative.

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I absolutely loved that this book did not shy away from talking about racism, especially the racism of Koreans towards African Americans and other Asian communities. I haven't really seen that in a book before.

I liked that this book explored the struggles of being Korean-American and having immigrant parents. Frank is often conflicted over his identity. At one point he states, "I call myself Korean-American, always leading first with Korean or Asian, then the silent hyphen, then ending with American. Never just American" (pg. 133).

I also loved the end of the book. It was a bit sad but still realistic.

My one critique is that the romances seemed a bit instalove-y, especially Frank's romance with Brit. Frank fell in love with Brit so fast. It kind of came out of nowhere.

Lastly, as a Filipino American I'm always looking for representation and this book has a tiny bit of Filipino rep. One of Frank's friends, Paul, is Filipino. His character doesn't do much, but the book does incorporate Isang Bagsak. Isang Bagsak is a Filipino unity clap, which I never even heard of prior to reading this book.

Overall, I really enjoyed this #OwnVoices exploration of love and identity. ...more

Frankly in Love

I'm between 4 and 4.5 stars.

Frankly in Love is a fascinating look at love, friendship, cultural identity, parent-child relationships, and prejudice. I had been waiting for this book to come out for a while, and David Yoon certainly didn't disappoint me!

Frank Li is smart and funny, a first-generation American who tries hard to be a good son and a good friend. His parents want him to study hard and especially meet a nice Korean girl, so he doesn't get disowned like his older sister.

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Frank Li is smart and funny, a first-generation American who tries hard to be a good son and a good friend. His parents want him to study hard and especially meet a nice Korean girl, so he doesn't get disowned like his older sister.

Of course, life doesn't happen the way we plan, and when Frank falls for his classmate, Brit, he wishes he could just be with her and not have to deal with his parents' prejudice. Instead, he and Joy, the daughter of his parents' friends, who is dating a Chinese student, concoct a scheme to help them both. They pretend to date in order to have the freedom to spend time with their real dates. But of course, they don't clue either their boyfriend or girlfriend into the scheme, or why it's even necessary.

When his life takes an unexpected turn, Frank must decide what's most important in life—doing what's right or doing what makes him happy—and if he can reconcile the two. He also must come to terms with his parents' view of the world, and how it shapes his own identity. This is really thought-provoking, as it examines how everyone has some level of prejudice, and how it often comes from fear of losing one's own cultural identity.

Yoon is a terrific writer. This book is funny and emotional, and even difficult to read at times, because you just wish Frank could say what he needs to to those who need to hear it, instead of causing problems by avoiding difficult subjects. Like many YA books, the characters are far more witty and erudite than real teenagers—but these are the smart students, so maybe this is the way these kids talk nowadays? (He asks as he tells those rotten kids to get off his lawn.)

David Yoon and his wife, Nicola Yoon, the amazing author of *The Sun Is Also a Star* and *Everything, Everything*, are quite the YA power couple. You must read both of their books!!

Frankly in Love

See all of my reviews at [itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com](http://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com).

Check out my list of the best books I read in 2018 at

<https://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com/2019/01/the-best-books-i-read-in-2018.html>.

You can follow me on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/the.bookishworld.of.yrralh/>. ...more

## Frankly In Love Pre Order

4.5â~...

My first arc-read-before-the-book-is-published! I'm so excited! Thank you so much Penguin NZ for gifting me this & for being happy for me to share my opinion of the book.

I used to say about my parents, "I just can't talk to Mum & Dad!" But American born Frank really couldn't talk to his parents - their English was bad and his Korean was worse. A lifetime of misunderstanding come to a head in Frank's final semester at high school. Frank is clear on two things - he doesn't want to 4.5â~...

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I used to say about my parents, "I just can't talk to Mum & Dad!" But American born Frank really couldn't talk to his parents - their English was bad and his Korean was worse. A lifetime of misunderstanding come to a head in Frank's final semester at high school. Frank is clear on two things - he doesn't want to live by his parents racist beliefs. But he also doesn't want to hurt them. These two goals look to be on a collision course.

I absolutely loved this book and it was a 5â~... read for around the first 90%.Yoon's words just flowed on the page and I found it very hard to put the book down.

I'm Canadian born. We moved to New Zealand when I was seven and I did spend the first half of my life feeling I didn't really belong in either country, so I identified with some of Frank's confusion.I just feel the last part of the book tried to pack too many events in, and while this may work in the future film, it is just too much on the page.

Still highly recommended!

<https://wordpress.com/view/carolshess...> ...more

this husband-wife duo truly invented YA. this sounds like a fantastic story about Korean-American identity and also fake-dating!

## Frankly In Love Pdf

A huge thank you to PenguinTeen for providing a free copy in exchange for an honest review! I received this book as part of a promotion.

Yâ€™all, how little did I know what I was getting myself into when I read this book. I knew it was going to be good, and I expected a cute, fluffy romance but it was so much more than that. In the best way possible.

All quotes are taken from the ARC and may change in the finished copy.

Content warning: death of a loved one, racism

â€œWe all want to love who we want t A huge thank you to PenguinTeen for providing a free copy in exchange for an honest review! I received this book as part of a promotion.

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â€œWe all want to love who we want to love.â€•

### Plot

As I said before, when I started this book, i didnâ€™t know how much I would like it. The plot is deep and intricate as the main character, Frank, struggles with his feelings for a white girl and knowing his parents only want him to date Korean. I think this book does a job balancing light humor and dark emotions well, and the writing is truly spot on, really pulling you into Frankâ€™s world and how he feels as a Korean-American. I admit, though, I wasnâ€™t quite sure I would find myself in this book, despite the circumstances, but I did and itâ€™s a wonderful feeling. Iâ€™m biracial, and a lot of what Frank goes through, his thoughts, too, really felt familiar to me. I loved coming across parts that were familiar bits from my childhood or even now.

Iâ€™m glad the story doesnâ€™t just end when Frank gets together with Brit. We see both him and Joy struggle with dating non-Koreans. Then we see the story envelope not only these teenagers but also their parents and, even though theyâ€™re Korean, face struggles of their own that have nothing to do with race but class. Itâ€™s also painful, too, to read how Frankâ€™s speak about those who arenâ€™t Koreanâ€“they stereotype people, and in turn, we see how these particular stereotypes affect

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Frankly in Love

Frank's relationship with his friends and his family. I thought it was interesting that this book brought up the question on whether we ought to love our parents because we have to, not because we want to. Trying to find the right words to express my emotions about this book is difficult. I keenly felt the identity crisis, and loved following Frank's painful journey.

Love is more terrifying anything. Love is a mighty blue hand coming straight for you out of the sky. All you can do is surrender yourself and pray you don't fall to your death.

### Characters

I have to be honest, there isn't a character (outside of the parents, lol) that didn't like. Each had their own struggles, and we see some of it reflected through Frank's eyes. Despite what happened with Brit, I liked her and her family, too. Frank's group of friends are the kind you wouldn't mind having as your own. They created a bubble for themselves to live in, to live outside their parents' expectations for them, and it was nice, despite the fact that it's just that "a bubble, fragile and easily popped. Yoon has a way of writing that makes you feel, but in a casual way, like you didn't know you cared for Frank and his friends until suddenly you do! (I'm not sure if that even makes sense, but there you go.) Also, the ending with Q and Frank really gutted me (in the best way).

### Writing Style

This could probably go up there with characters. It was easy to fall into this world, Frank's world of his racist parents, his school and the senior year, trying to get into a good college, while everything else around Frank seems to be going super well one minute and then turned completely upside down the next. You go into this, not knowing what to expect, and then finding so much more, discovering parts of yourself (and your family) you weren't sure about. All a wonderful yet scary experience.

There were a few scenes I thought was done purposefully, and most of them were to help the reader understand, in a sense, what Frank goes through. For the most part, Frank knows a bit of Korean, so what he knows is mostly written in Konglish (Korean words written in English). Yet there were larger scenes written completely in Korean, and because Frank doesn't speak or understand a lot of Korean, I loved how the author chose to write the story like this. So much so that I called my own mom to translate the scene for me. She's not a perfect interpreter by any means, but I was able to get a general understanding. I think it's at this point where Frank finally begins to understand his parents despite everything. Overall, I really loved how it was done.

\*\*\*\*\*

I'm super interested to read this, not only because it features Korean-American main characters, but also because I am half-Korean, and my (Korean) mother said not to date/marry a Korean man. What do you know! I married a half-Korean, and his (Korean) mother said not to date/marry a Korean woman so... HERE WE ARE.

[Blog](#) || [Instagram](#) || [Twitter](#) ...more

Frankly in Love

## Full Review on The Candid Cover

### 2.5 Stars

Frankly in Love by David Yoon is a book I had been highly anticipating as I have seen it hyped up everywhere. Unfortunately, much of the book is stereotypical and underdeveloped, and there is no plot, just drama. I found that the main character is difficult to support, and many events are just tossed into the plot needlessly. Honestly, I am disappointed in this one.

Frank Li is a Korean-American whose parents only allow him to date Korean girls. When Frank falls for Brit, a white girl, he is unsure how to break the news to his parents. But, lucky for him, he doesn't have to. Joy, a family friend, is stuck in a similar situation with her Chinese boyfriend, and thus the two decide to fake date in order to satisfy their parents while they continue to date their actual partners in secret. However, things don't go as smoothly when Frank and Joy start to fall in love for real.

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#### • € FRANK IS RELATABLE, YET STEREOTYPICAL

I'm still not entirely sure how I feel about Frank. I suppose he is relatable as he is struggling with his identity, but I think he's kind of a bad person. He cheats on his girlfriend and acts like he is ashamed of her in order to impress his parents, and he doesn't see an issue with this. Honestly, Frank is a stereotypical teenager, and this seems to be the trend for many other aspects of the book.

#### • € PACING IS SLOW

My main issue with the book is how poorly it is written. For starters, the pacing is a mess. The majority of the book is incredibly slow paced with little to no plot, but at the same time, there is way too much going on, and out of nowhere. Events that seem pretty significant are just thrown in for the sake of attempting to create plot. One instance of this is when Frank's dad gets shot. Without context or reason behind this, I don't care. There is far too much drama and not enough time spent actually calling out the racism that the book suggests it will defy. To me, the book would have been much more impactful had Frank ended up with Bri, the person his parents forbid him from dating, instead of

## Frankly in Love

dumping her for Joy, the Korean girl his parents always wanted for him, as this would have shown more resistance to Frank's parents' racism. On top of this, the author goes for the pretentious, overly metaphorical writing style, but it only makes him come across as though he is trying too hard. Yes, the Frank Li/Frankly bit is clever, but not when it is repeated that many times. This writing style allows for the book to drag on with internal monologue that is meant to sound profound, and I would have preferred actual action.

## • CLICHÉD STORY

Frankly in Love is a clichéd and stereotypical story about fake dating and identity. The main character is difficult to root for, and the writing is subpar. I'm not sure I would recommend this one as it is not only boring, but in my opinion, it also fails to comment and truly oppose Frank's parents' racism which seems to be its main goal. ...more

Frankly in Love

## Frankly In Love Excerpt

the fake dating to real dating trope is probably my favorite romance trope out there &#3 so I'm so hyped for this book already

nicola yoon and i donâ€™t really mesh well together  
so iâ€™m gonna try her husband

....

sry, that sounded extremely weird

edit: GUESS WHOS GOT AN ARC!!!!

review:

i'm crying. i'll write a review when i am more emotionally stable