patron saints of nothing

patron saints of nothing is a thought-provoking topic that explores the intersection of faith, literature, and identity. In this article, we delve deep into the meaning behind the phrase, its literary significance, and its cultural impact—especially in relation to the acclaimed novel "Patron Saints of Nothing" by Randy Ribay. Readers will discover the origins of patron saints, their roles in various cultures, and how the concept is reimagined in contemporary storytelling. We will analyze the themes presented in Ribay's novel, discuss the symbolism of saints who 'patron nothing,' and examine how the narrative addresses complex issues such as family, justice, and self-discovery. This comprehensive guide provides valuable insights for literature enthusiasts, students, and anyone interested in how traditional beliefs are transformed in modern contexts. Continue reading to uncover the multifaceted world of patron saints of nothing, their relevance today, and the powerful messages they convey.

- Understanding Patron Saints
- The Concept of "Patron Saints of Nothing"
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Understanding Patron Saints

Origins and Historical Role

Patron saints have played vital roles in religious traditions around the world for centuries. Traditionally, a patron saint is recognized as a protector or advocate for a particular group, occupation, place, or cause. The concept originated within Christian communities, where individuals who lived exemplary lives and performed miracles were canonized and assigned specific areas of guardianship. These saints are revered not only for their spiritual power but also for their connection to everyday life, serving as intermediaries between the divine and humanity.

Common Patron Saints and Their Domains

The practice of assigning patron saints spans various cultures and denominations. For instance, Saint Christopher is widely known as the patron saint of travelers, while Saint Jude is recognized for lost causes. These associations provide comfort and guidance for followers, reinforcing the belief that

saints can intercede on their behalf. The tradition has evolved over time, adapting to different cultural contexts and needs.

- Saint Anthony Patron of lost items
- Saint Cecilia Patron of musicians
- Saint Francis of Assisi Patron of animals and the environment
- Saint Lucy Patron of the blind

The Concept of "Patron Saints of Nothing"

Deconstructing the Phrase

The phrase "patron saints of nothing" stands in stark contrast to traditional notions of patronage. It challenges the idea that every cause or group must have a guardian or advocate. Instead, it suggests the possibility of saints—or individuals—who do not conform to established roles or expectations. This concept can be interpreted as a metaphor for those who exist outside the boundaries of conventional society, representing the marginalized or overlooked.

Symbolism in Modern Contexts

In literature and popular culture, "patron saints of nothing" has come to symbolize resistance, questioning, and the search for meaning in a complex world. It invites reflection on who gets to be a patron, what causes deserve advocacy, and how individuals can embody saintly qualities without formal recognition. The phrase also resonates in discussions about identity, belonging, and the struggle against injustice.

Literary Exploration: Randy Ribay's Novel

Overview of the Novel

"Patron Saints of Nothing" by Randy Ribay is a critically acclaimed young adult novel that explores themes of family, identity, and social justice. The story follows Jay Reguero, a Filipino-American teenager who travels to the Philippines after the sudden death of his cousin, Jun. Through Jay's journey, the novel addresses issues such as the Philippine drug war, cultural heritage, and the complexities of growing up between two worlds.

Plot and Characters

Jay's quest for answers leads him to confront uncomfortable truths about his family and himself. The characters in the novel are richly developed, each representing different facets of Filipino culture and the immigrant experience. Jun's mysterious death becomes the catalyst for Jay's self-discovery, prompting him to question his own values and beliefs.

- 1. Jay Reguero The protagonist searching for meaning and justice.
- 2. Jun Jay's cousin whose death sparks the narrative.
- 3. Tito Maning Jay's uncle, embodying authority and tradition.
- 4. Grace Jay's cousin, offering insight into family dynamics.

Themes and Symbolism in Patron Saints of Nothing

Identity and Self-Discovery

One of the central themes in "Patron Saints of Nothing" is the quest for identity. Jay's journey reflects the struggles faced by many young adults navigating cultural duality and generational divides. The novel examines the pressure to conform and the courage required to forge one's own path, resonating with readers who grapple with questions of heritage and belonging.

Justice and Social Responsibility

The book critically examines the social and political realities of the Philippines, particularly the impact of the drug war. Through Jay's investigation into Jun's death, readers are exposed to the complexities of justice, morality, and civic duty. The narrative encourages reflection on the importance of standing up for what is right, even when the truth is uncomfortable.

Saints as Metaphors

The title's reference to "patron saints" is used as a metaphor throughout the novel. Jay and Jun, in their search for truth and meaning, become symbolic patron saints for causes that lack representation—those who are marginalized, silenced, or forgotten. This metaphor challenges readers to consider how ordinary individuals can embody extraordinary virtues, even in the absence of formal recognition.

Cultural and Social Impact

Representation and Diversity

"Patron Saints of Nothing" has been praised for its authentic portrayal of Filipino identity and immigrant experiences. The novel addresses the lack of representation in mainstream literature, offering a voice to communities that are often overlooked. By highlighting the nuances of Filipino culture and the complexities of diaspora, the book fosters greater understanding and empathy among readers.

Influence on Young Adult Literature

Ribay's novel has made significant contributions to the young adult genre. It challenges stereotypes, encourages critical thinking, and promotes dialogue about difficult social issues. The story's emphasis on self-discovery and social justice resonates with a diverse audience, inspiring readers to reflect on their own roles in society.

Reflection on Modern Patronage

The concept of "patron saints of nothing" invites a reevaluation of traditional ideas about advocacy and support. It encourages individuals to find purpose and meaning beyond prescribed roles, empowering them to champion causes that matter to them personally. In an increasingly complex world, the phrase serves as a call to action for empathy, understanding, and courage.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the meaning behind "patron saints of nothing"?

The phrase "patron saints of nothing" refers to individuals or saints who do not serve as protectors of any particular cause, group, or domain. In literature, it is often used as a metaphor for those who exist outside traditional roles or advocate for overlooked and marginalized issues.

Who wrote the novel "Patron Saints of Nothing"?

"Patron Saints of Nothing" was written by Randy Ribay. The novel has received widespread critical acclaim for its exploration of identity, family, and social justice within the context of Filipino culture and the Philippine drug war.

What are the main themes of "Patron Saints of Nothing"?

The novel addresses themes such as identity, family, justice, cultural heritage, and self-discovery. It also explores the impact of social and political issues, particularly the Philippine drug war, on personal and communal lives.

How does the book "Patron Saints of Nothing" relate to Filipino culture?

The book provides an authentic portrayal of Filipino culture, traditions, and the immigrant experience. It delves into issues relevant to the Filipino community and diaspora, highlighting the complexities of heritage, belonging, and generational differences.

Why is "Patron Saints of Nothing" important in young adult literature?

The novel is significant for its representation of diverse characters and its willingness to address challenging social topics. It encourages young readers to engage with questions of justice, identity, and responsibility, promoting empathy and awareness.

What does the title "Patron Saints of Nothing" symbolize in the book?

The title symbolizes the idea that ordinary individuals—like Jay and Jun—can become advocates or 'saints' for the causes and people who lack representation. It challenges the notion of formal patronage and highlights the importance of standing up for what matters.

How does Randy Ribay's novel address social justice?

The book tackles issues such as the Philippine drug war, government policies, and the consequences of injustice. Through Jay's journey, the narrative prompts readers to question authority, seek truth, and advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Who are the main characters in "Patron Saints of Nothing"?

The principal characters include Jay Reguero, Jun, Tito Maning, and Grace. Each character represents different aspects of Filipino culture, family dynamics, and personal transformation.

What impact has "Patron Saints of Nothing" had on readers?

The novel has inspired readers to reflect on their own identities, understand complex social issues, and appreciate cultural diversity. Its powerful themes have generated important conversations about justice, empathy, and advocacy.

Can "patron saints of nothing" be applied outside religious contexts?

Yes, the phrase can be used metaphorically to describe individuals who support marginalized causes or who exist outside traditional roles of advocacy. It encourages broader thinking about patronage, representation, and the value of personal agency.

Patron Saints Of Nothing

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Patron Saints of Nothing: Exploring the Concept and Its Significance

Are you intrigued by the paradoxical idea of a "patron saint of nothing"? It sounds like an oxymoron, a playful contradiction. But beneath the surface of this seemingly absurd concept lies a rich vein of philosophical and theological exploration. This blog post delves into the meaning and implications of "patron saints of nothing," examining its origins, interpretations, and cultural relevance. We'll uncover why this concept resonates with so many, offering a fresh perspective on faith, meaning, and the search for identity in a complex world.

What Does "Patron Saint of Nothing" Even Mean?

The phrase "patron saint of nothing" initially evokes a sense of emptiness, of a lack of defined purpose or identity. However, the very act of assigning a patron saint to "nothing" transforms the void. It suggests that even the absence of something concrete holds significance, offering a space for contemplation and self-discovery. This concept can be interpreted in several ways:

A Saint for the Lost and the Uncertain

For those struggling with a sense of meaninglessness or direction in life, a "patron saint of nothing" could be a comforting figure. It suggests that it's okay to feel lost, that navigating uncertainty is a valid part of the human experience. This saint represents the acceptance of the unknown, the courage to embrace the void before finding one's path.

A Saint for the Embrace of Simplicity

In a world saturated with information and material possessions, the concept can be seen as a celebration of minimalism and simplicity. By relinquishing the need to constantly strive for something "more," individuals can find peace and contentment in the present moment. The "nothing" becomes a symbol of detachment from worldly concerns, fostering spiritual growth.

A Saint for the Absurd

From a more postmodern perspective, the "patron saint of nothing" can be viewed as a humorous commentary on the often-absurd nature of life and organized religion. It's a playful subversion of established norms, a recognition of the inherent contradictions and uncertainties within faith and belief systems.

Exploring the Cultural Manifestations

The concept of a "patron saint of nothing" doesn't have a formal liturgical standing within any major religious tradition. Yet, its appeal lies in its adaptability and ability to resonate with diverse perspectives. It's a concept that finds expression in various forms:

Art and Literature

Artists and writers have often explored the theme of nothingness, using it as a canvas for expressing existential anxieties, spiritual journeys, and the search for meaning. The "patron saint of nothing" can be interpreted as a symbolic representation of these artistic explorations.

Popular Culture

The internet and social media have provided a fertile ground for the propagation of this concept. Memes and online discussions playfully explore the idea, often associating it with a sense of ironic detachment or self-deprecating humor.

Personal Reflection and Spirituality

For many individuals, the "patron saint of nothing" represents a personal symbol of acceptance and self-compassion. It's a way to acknowledge the complexities of life without feeling the pressure to conform to rigid expectations or prescribed paths.

Finding Meaning in the Void

The apparent paradox of a "patron saint of nothing" ultimately highlights the importance of embracing uncertainty and finding meaning within the seemingly meaningless. It's not about celebrating emptiness as an end in itself, but rather recognizing it as a potential springboard for personal growth and spiritual awakening. By accepting the unknown and the void, we create space for unexpected discoveries, unexpected opportunities and a more profound understanding of ourselves and our place in the world.

Conclusion

The idea of a "patron saint of nothing" may seem counterintuitive, but its enduring appeal speaks to our collective anxieties and aspirations. It encourages us to embrace the uncertainties of life, find solace in simplicity, and discover meaning beyond the pursuit of tangible achievements. It is a powerful reminder that even in the absence of concrete definition, profound significance can be found.

FAQs

- 1. Is there an officially recognized "Patron Saint of Nothing"? No, there is no officially recognized patron saint of nothing within established religious institutions. The concept is largely informal and exists primarily in cultural discourse.
- 2. How can I use the concept of a "Patron Saint of Nothing" in my own life? You can adopt the concept as a personal symbol of acceptance and self-compassion. Reflect on the uncertainties in your life and allow yourself to embrace the unknown.
- 3. What is the difference between a "Patron Saint of Nothing" and nihilism? A "Patron Saint of Nothing" doesn't necessarily imply nihilism (the belief that life is meaningless). Instead, it suggests finding meaning in the acceptance of life's uncertainties.
- 4. Can a "Patron Saint of Nothing" be a source of comfort? Absolutely. For many, it offers a sense of comfort and permission to embrace the unknown and navigate life's uncertainties without feeling the pressure to have everything figured out.
- 5. Is the concept of a "Patron Saint of Nothing" only relevant to religious people? No, the concept can resonate with people of all faiths and backgrounds. Its appeal lies in its exploration of universal human experiences, like uncertainty and the search for meaning.

patron saints of nothing: Patron Saints of Nothing Randy Ribay, 2019-06-18 A NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST Brilliant, honest, and equal parts heartbreaking and soul-healing. --Laurie

Halse Anderson, author of SHOUT A singular voice in the world of literature. --Jason Reynolds, author of Long Way Down A powerful coming-of-age story about grief, guilt, and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder. Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of Michigan in the fall. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story. Hoping to uncover more about Jun and the events that led to his death, Jay is forced to reckon with the many sides of his cousin before he can face the whole horrible truth -- and the part he played in it. As gripping as it is lyrical, Patron Saints of Nothing is a page-turning portrayal of the struggle to reconcile faith, family, and immigrant identity.

patron saints of nothing: The Field Guide to the North American Teenager Ben Philippe, 2019-01-08 William C. Morris YA Debut Award Winner! A hilarious YA contemporary realistic novel about a witty Black French Canadian teen who moves to Austin, Texas, and experiences the joys, clichés, and awkward humiliations of the American high school experience—including falling in love. Perfect for fans of Nicola Yoon, When Dimple Met Rishi, and John Green. Norris Kaplan is clever, cynical, and guite possibly too smart for his own good. A Black French Canadian, he knows from watching American sitcoms that those three things don't bode well when you are moving to Austin, Texas. Plunked into a new high school and sweating a ridiculous amount from the oppressive Texas heat, Norris finds himself cataloging everyone he meets: the Cheerleaders, the Jocks, the Loners, and even the Manic Pixie Dream Girl. Making a ton of friends has never been a priority for him, and this way he can at least amuse himself until it's time to go back to Canada, where he belongs. Yet against all odds, those labels soon become actual people to Norris...like loner Liam, who makes it his mission to befriend Norris, or Madison the beta cheerleader, who is so nice that it has to be a trap. Not to mention Aarti the Manic Pixie Dream Girl, who might, in fact, be a real love interest in the making. But the night of the prom, Norris screws everything up royally. As he tries to pick up the pieces, he realizes it might be time to stop hiding behind his snarky opinions and start living his life—along with the people who have found their way into his heart.

patron saints of nothing: After the Shot Drops Randy Ribay, 2018 A powerful novel about friendship, basketball, and one teen's mission to create a better life for his family. Written in the tradition of Jason Reynolds, Matt de la Pe a, and Walter Dean Myers, After the Shot Drops now has three starred reviews * Belongs on the shelf alongside contemporary heavy-hitters like Angie Thomas's The Hate U Give, Brendan Kiely and Jason Reynolds's All-American Boys, and Nic Stone's Dear Martin.--School Library Journal, starred review Bunny and Nasir have been best friends forever, but when Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers, Nasir spends more time with his cousin, Wallace, who is being evicted. Nasir can't help but wonder why the neighborhood is falling over itself to help Bunny when Wallace is in trouble. When Wallace makes a bet against Bunny, Nasir is faced with an impossible decision--maybe a dangerous one. Told from alternating perspectives, After the Shot Drops is a heart-pounding story about the responsibilities of great talent and the importance of compassion.

patron saints of nothing: An Infinite Number of Parallel Universes Randy Ribay, 2015-09-04 Four friends from wildly different backgrounds have bonded over Dungeons & Dragons since the sixth grade. Now they're facing senior year and a major shift in their own universes. Math whiz Archie is struggling with his parents' divorce after his dad comes out as gay. Mari is terrified of her adoptive mother's life-altering news. Dante is carrying around a huge secret that is proving impossible to keep hidden. And when Sam gets dumped by the love of his life, everyone is ready to join him on a cross-country quest to win her back. The four quickly discover that the road is not forgiving, and that real life is no game. They must face a test of friendship where the stakes are more than just a roll of the dice--they are life and death.

patron saints of nothing: The Patron Saint of Ugly Marie Manilla, 2014-06-17 Catholic lore, American tales, and Sicilian superstition blend in this "clever, funny, heartbreaking, and

heartwarming" novel (Publishers Weekly). Born with unruly red hair, a sharp tongue, and wine-colored marks all over her body—marks that oddly mimick a map of the world and make her subject to endless ridicule—Garnet Ferrari would hardly consider herself blessed. So when an emissary from the Vatican shows up at her door, convinced that her seeming ability to cure the skin ailments of others qualifies her for sainthood, she's not quite convinced—or pleased. Garnet sets off on a quest to better understand who she is and where she and her unusual gifts came from. Tracing a twisted path that leads from Sicily to West Virginia, poverty to riches, romance to loss, reality to mythology, Garnet uncovers a truth far more powerful than any dermatological miracle: that the things of which we are most ashamed often become our greatest strengths. "A cleareyed, touching fable of a girl learning the hard truths about herself and others." —Kirkus Reviews

patron saints of nothing: The Rabbits' Rebellion Ariel Dorfman, 2020-01-14 The story of a mean and narcissistic king is both uproariously funny and distressingly on point, will be enjoyed by children and their parents. Rabbits don't exist. So decrees the new king, the Wolf of all Wolves, after conquering the rabbits' homeland. He refuses to allow even one small, fluffy tail or long, soft ear into his kingdom. He orders the birds to broadcast this message far and wide. And he summons the old monkey to photograph him in his royal finery, performing his royal deeds. But in his darkroom, the monkey sees something strange developing in the photos. Is that a floppy ear? Whose grinning bunny teeth are those? How could it be? Ariel Dorfman's first children's book, THE RABBITS REBELLION, is a remarkable and mischievous allegory of truth and justice triumphing over political chicanery. Set in a magical animal kingdom and illustrated by the great Chris Riddell, this is a story that will have children roaring with laughter and parents raising an eyebrow with recognition.

patron saints of nothing: This Time Will Be Different Misa Sugiura, 2019-06-04 A Kirkus Reviews Best Book * A 2020 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults Selection For fans of Jenny Han, Morgan Matson, and Sandhya Menon, critically acclaimed author Misa Sugiura delivers a richly crafted contemporary YA novel about family, community, and the importance of writing your own history. The author of the Asian Pacific American Award-winning It's Not Like It's a Secret is back with another smartly drawn coming-of-age novel that weaves riveting family drama, surprising humor, and delightful romance into a story that will draw you in from the very first page. Katsuyamas never quit—but seventeen-year-old CJ doesn't even know where to start. She's never lived up to her mom's type A ambition, and she's perfectly happy just helping her aunt, Hannah, at their family's flower shop. She doesn't buy into Hannah's romantic ideas about flowers and their hidden meanings, but when it comes to arranging the perfect bouquet, CJ discovers a knack she never knew she had. A skill she might even be proud of. Then her mom decides to sell the shop—to the family who swindled CJ's grandparents when thousands of Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps during WWII. Soon a rift threatens to splinter CJ's family, friends, and their entire Northern California community; and for the first time, CJ has found something she wants to fight for.

patron saints of nothing: City of Saints & Thieves Natalie C. Anderson, 2017-01-24 The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo meets Gone Girl in this enthralling murder mystery set in Kenya. In the shadows of Sangui City, there lives a girl who doesn't exist. After fleeing the Congo as refugees, Tina and her mother arrived in Kenya looking for the chance to build a new life and home. Her mother quickly found work as a maid for a prominent family, headed by Roland Greyhill, one of the city's most respected business leaders. But Tina soon learns that the Greyhill fortune was made from a life of corruption and crime. So when her mother is found shot to death in Mr. Greyhill's personal study, she knows exactly who's behind it. With revenge always on her mind, Tina spends the next four years surviving on the streets alone, working as a master thief for the Goondas, Sangui City's local gang. It's a job for the Goondas that finally brings Tina back to the Greyhill estate, giving her the chance for vengeance she's been waiting for. But as soon as she steps inside the lavish home, she's overtaken by the pain of old wounds and the pull of past friendships, setting into motion a dangerous cascade of events that could, at any moment, cost Tina her life. But finally uncovering the incredible truth about who killed her mother—and why—keeps her holding on in this fast-paced nail-biting thriller.

patron saints of nothing: *In a Perfect World* Trish Doller, 2017-05-23 When her mother has the chance to establish an eye clinic for the poor in Cairo, Egypt, seventeen-year-old Caroline reluctantly gives up her plans for a summer spent with her best friend and boyfriend and instead moves to Cairo, where she encounters a culture and city that enchant her and a charming boy who challenges her thoughts on love, faith, and privilege.

patron saints of nothing: Pretend She's Here Luanne Rice, 2019-02-26 Mega-bestselling author Luanne Rice returns with a ripped-from-the-headlines story of a girl who is kidnapped by her friend's family. Emily Lonergan's best friend died last year. And Emily hasn't stopped grieving. Lizzie Porter was lively, loud, and fun -- Emily's better half. Emily can't accept that she's gone. When Lizzie's parents and her sister come back to town to visit, Emily's heartened to see them. The Porters understand her pain. They miss Lizzie desperately, too. Desperately enough to do something crazy. Something unthinkable. Suddenly, Emily's life is hurtling toward a very dark place -- and she's not sure she'll ever be able to return to what she once knew was real. From New York Times bestselling author Luanne Rice comes a breathless, unputdownable story of suspense, secrets -- and the strength that love gives us to survive even the most shocking of circumstances.

patron saints of nothing: The Patron Saint of Plagues Barth Anderson, 2006-03-28 In this biological thriller of the near future, postinsurrection Mexico has undermined the superpower of the United States. But while the rivals battle over borders, a pestilence beyond politics threatens to explode into a worldwide epidemic. . . . Since the rise of the Holy Renaissance, Ascension—once known as Mexico City—has become the most populous city in the world, its citizens linked to a central government net through wetware implanted in their brains. But while their dictator grows fat with success, the masses are captivated by Sister Domenica, an insurgent nun whose weekly pirate broadcasts prophesy a wave of death. All too soon, Domenica's nightmarish prediction proves true, and Ascension's hospitals are overrun with victims of a deadly fever. As the rampant plague kills too quickly to be contained, Mexico smuggles its last hope over the violently contested border. Henry David Stark is a crack virus hunter for the American Center for Disease Control and a veteran of global humanitarian efforts. But this disease is unlike any he's seen before—and there seems to be no way to cure or control it. Racing against time, Stark battles corruption to uncover a horrifying truth: this is no ordinary outbreak but a deliberately unleashed man-made virus . . . and the killer is someone Stark knows.

patron saints of nothing: Color Me in Natasha E. Diaz, 2019 Fifteen-year-old Nevaeh Levitz is torn between two worlds, passing for white while living in Harlem, being called Jewish while attending her mother's Baptist church, and experiencing first love while watching her parents' marriage crumble.

patron saints of nothing: All of Us with Wings Michelle Ruiz Keil, 2019-06-18 This young adult fantasy debut about love, found family, and healing is "a fantastical ode to the Golden City's postpunk era," told through the eyes of a Mexican-American girl (Entertainment Weekly). "Complex and beautiful, blending folklore, San Franciscan history, the music scene, vampires, magic . . . hard to put down." —School Library Journal Seventeen-year-old Xochi is alone in San Francisco, running from her painful past: the mother who abandoned her, the man who betrayed her. Then one day, she meets Pallas, a precocious twelve-year-old who lives with her rockstar family in one of the city's storybook Victorians. Xochi accepts a position as Pallas's live-in governess and quickly finds her place in the girl's tight-knit household, which operates on a free-love philosophy and easy warmth despite the band's growing fame. But on the night of the Vernal Equinox, as a concert afterparty rages in the house below, Xochi and Pallas perform a riot-grrrl ritual in good fun, accidentally summoning a pair of ancient beings bound to avenge the wrongs of Xochi's past. She would do anything to preserve her new life, but with the creatures determined to exact vengeance on those who've hurt her, no one is safe—not the family Xochi's chosen, nor the one she left behind.

patron saints of nothing: The Everything I Have Lost Sylvia Zéleny, 2019-09-03 12-year-old Julia keeps a diary about her life growing up in Juarez, Mexico. Life in Juarez is strange. People say it's the murder capital of the world. Dad's gone a lot. They can't play outside because it isn't safe.

Drug cartels rule the streets. Cars and people disappear, leaving behind pet cats. Then Dad disappears and Julia and her brother go live with her aunt in El Paso. What's happened to her Dad? Julia wonders. Is he going to disappear forever? A coming-of-age story set in today's Juarez. Sylvia Zéleny is a bilingual author from Sonora, México. Sylvia has published several short-story collections and novels in Spanish. She received her MFA in Creative Writing from The University of Texas at El Paso where she is currently a Visiting Writer. In 2016 she created CasaOctavia, a residence for women and LGBTQ writers from Latinamerica.

patron saints of nothing: Night Music Jenn Marie Thorne, 2019-03-19 A dreamy summer rom-com that'll make you believe in love again. --Bustle Full of not only sigh-inducing swoons but the social commentary [Thorne] is talented at writing. -- Paste Music was Ruby's first love, but did it ever love her back? After a nightmare audition at the music school where her famous father teaches, the answer to this question is unavoidable. And so, it seems, is Oscar Bell. Musical genius, YouTube sensation, and her dad's new protégé, Oscar is the last person Ruby needs in her life. Being around him feels dangerously like being with her first love again--except music never kissed her like this. Oscar is falling for Ruby too, but he knows how it'll look to the ultra-privileged, ultra-white world of classical music--a Black guy dating his mentor's white daughter. As the New York City summer heats up, though, so does the spark between them. Can two people still figuring themselves out figure out how to be together? And will Ruby get over her first love in time to save what she has with her second? Delightful...Hits all the right notes. --Mackenzi Lee, author of The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue Seriously swoony...I loved it. --Rachel Hawkins, author of Royals Sweet and intense...[An] engrossing romance with a social conscience. --Kirkus Utterly romantic. --Tanaz Bhathena, author of A Girl Like That Full of heart and humor. It crackles with energy. --Kelly Loy Gilbert, author of Picture Us in the Light Timely and romantic. --Publishers Weekly Beautiful, heartfelt, aware, and raw. --Lauren Gibaldi, author of This Tiny Perfect World Thoughtful, nuanced. --Booklist

patron saints of nothing: The Patron Saint of Used Cars and Second Chances Mark Millhone, 2009-07-07 In the course of one nine-month period, filmmaker Mark Millhone's youngest son nearly died from birth complications, his father was diagnosed with prostate cancer, his mother had a heart attack and passed away, a freak illness claimed the life of one of his friends, and his career imploded. As a result of his membership in what he calls the tragedy-of-the-month club, his marriage also began to fray. Millhone responded to the chaos as many men might: Late one night, he logged on to eBay and bid on a vintage BMW—his fantasy car, but not exactly what the doctor ordered when it came to his family's finances. As if sharing the news that he'd won the auction with his already-peeved wife weren't bad enough, it turned out that he had to travel from New York to Texas to collect the car. His estranged dad joined him, and together they embarked upon a dysfunctional road trip—a comedy of errors that would lend Millhone the perspective he needed to save his marriage and to understand what was really important in his life: his family. Acerbic and hilarious but with heart, this memoir will appeal to readers of Chuck Klosterman, David Sedaris, and Nick Hornby, as well as readers of Millhone's Guy Wisdom column in Men's Health. His male perspective on a troubled marriage, raising children, coping with loss, and rejuvenating a relationship with a parent will appeal equally to both sexes.

patron saints of nothing: Holidate Monica Murphy, 2019-10-09 Candice Gaines loves Christmas. Not only does she bask in the twinkling lights, sing Christmas carols and go crazy with the decorations, she's also in the giving spirit, donating much of her time and wealth to various charities in the local area. Charlie Sullivan despises Christmas. Though it keeps his family afloat, considering they own Sullivan Family Christmas Tree Farm, the main provider for Christmas trees on the Monterey peninsula. He'd much rather work among the trees versus have to deal with people. But Charlie's parents are taking on more philanthropic projects-and as their oldest child, they want him to be their official public representative. He just has to play nice and convince everyone he's not a total holiday hater. When Charlie's mom asks Candice to accompany him to a variety of holiday parties and events, she reluctantly agrees. She thinks Charlie is a big ol' Grinch, but is determined to change his mindset and help him spread Christmas cheer. Charlie finds Candice is too chatty, too

sweet, too much. Do people like her really exist? Why yes, yes they do. The more time they spend together-along with a few kisses under the mistletoe-the more they start to like each other. Hopefully Charlie can convince Candice he doesn't have a heart that's two sizes too small before the ball drops on New Year's Eve.

patron saints of nothing: Saints, Statues, and Stories James S. Griffith, 2019-10-01 . . . we move to the town of Aconchi on the Río Sonora, where the mission church once contained a life-sized crucifix with a black corpus, known both as Nuestro Señor de Esquipulas . . . and El Cristo Negro de Aconchi . . . So describes well-known and beloved folklorist James S. Griffith as he takes us back through the decades to a town in northern Sonora where a statue is saved—and in so doing, a community is saved as well. In Saints, Statues, and Stories Griffith shares stories of nearly sixty years of traveling through Sonora. As we have come to expect through these journeys, "Big Jim"—as he is affectionately known by many—offers nothing less than the living traditions of Catholic communities. Themes of saints as agents of protection or community action are common throughout Sonora: a saint coming out of the church to protect the village, a statue having a say in where it resides and paying social calls to other communities, or a beloved image rescued from destruction and then revered on a private altar. A patron saint saves a village from outside attackers in one story—a story that has at least ten parallels in Sonora's former mission communities. Details may vary, but the general narrative remains the same: when hostile nonbelievers attack the village, the patron saint of the church foils them. Griffith uncovers the meanings behind the devotional uses of religious art from a variety of perspectives—from artist to audience, preservationist to community member. The religious artworks transcend art objects, Griffith believes, and function as ways of communicating between this world and the next. Setting the stage with a brief geography, Griffith introduces us to roadside shrines, artists, fiestas, saints, and miracles. Full-color images add to the pleasure of this delightful journey through the churches and towns of Sonora.

patron saints of nothing: Devoted to Death R. Andrew Chesnut, 2017-09-06 R. Andrew Chesnut offers a fascinating portrayal of Santa Muerte, a skeleton saint whose cult has attracted millions of devotees over the past decade. Although condemned by mainstream churches, this folk saint's supernatural powers appeal to millions of Latin Americans and immigrants in the U.S. Devotees believe the Bony Lady (as she is affectionately called) to be the fastest and most effective miracle worker, and as such, her statuettes and paraphernalia now outsell those of the Virgin of Guadalupe and Saint Jude, two other giants of Mexican religiosity. In particular, Chesnut shows Santa Muerte has become the patron saint of drug traffickers, playing an important role as protector of peddlers of crystal meth and marijuana; DEA agents and Mexican police often find her altars in the safe houses of drug smugglers. Yet Saint Death plays other important roles: she is a supernatural healer, love doctor, money-maker, lawyer, and angel of death. She has become without doubt one of the most popular and powerful saints on both the Mexican and American religious landscapes.

patron saints of nothing: The Encyclopedia of Saints Rosemary Guiley, 2001 The Encyclopedia of Saints offers thorough and fascinating accounts of familiar and little-known holy men and women of the Catholic and Orthodox churches. Drawing from documented accounts and supplemented with additional extensive research

patron saints of nothing: Mother of Learning: ARC 1 nobody103, Domagoj Kurmaic, 2021-12-01 Zorian Kazinski has all the time in the world to get stronger, and he plans on taking full advantage of it. A teenage mage of humble birth and slightly above-average skill, Zorian is attending his third year of education at Cyoria's magical academy. A driven and quiet young man, he is consumed by a desire to ensure his own future and free himself of the influence of his family, resenting the Kazinskis for favoring his brothers over him. Consequently, Zorian has no time for pointless distractions, much less other people's problems. As it happens, though, time is something he is about to get plenty of. On the eve of Cyoria's annual summer festival, Zorian is murdered, then abruptly brought back to the beginning of the month, just before he was about to take the train to school. Finding himself trapped in a time loop with no clear end or exit, he will have to look both

within and without to unravel the mystery set before him. He does have to unravel it, too, because the loop clearly wasn't made for his sake, and in a world of magic even a time traveler isn't safe from those who wish him ill. Fortunately for Zorian, repetition is the mother of learning...

patron saints of nothing: Brother David Chariandy, 2017-09-26 The long-awaited second novel from David Chariandy, whose debut, Soucouyant, was nominated for nearly every major literary prize in Canada and published internationally. An intensely beautiful, searingly powerful, tightly constructed novel, Brother explores questions of masculinity, family, race, and identity as they are played out in a Scarborough housing complex during the sweltering heat and simmering violence of the summer of 1991. With shimmering prose and mesmerizing precision, David Chariandy takes us inside the lives of Michael and Francis. They are the sons of Trinidadian immigrants, their father has disappeared and their mother works double, sometimes triple shifts so her boys might fulfill the elusive promise of their adopted home. Coming of age in The Park, a cluster of town houses and leaning concrete towers in the disparaged outskirts of a sprawling city, Michael and Francis battle against the careless prejudices and low expectations that confront them as young men of black and brown ancestry -- teachers stream them into general classes; shopkeepers see them only as thieves; and strangers quicken their pace when the brothers are behind them. Always Michael and Francis escape into the cool air of the Rouge Valley, a scar of green wilderness that cuts through their neighbourhood, where they are free to imagine better lives for themselves. Propelled by the pulsing beats and styles of hip hop, Francis, the older of the two brothers, dreams of a future in music. Michael's dreams are of Aisha, the smartest girl in their high school whose own eyes are firmly set on a life elsewhere. But the bright hopes of all three are violently, irrevocably thwarted by a tragic shooting, and the police crackdown and suffocating suspicion that follow. With devastating emotional force David Chariandy, a unique and exciting voice in Canadian literature, crafts a heartbreaking and timely story about the profound love that exists between brothers and the senseless loss of lives cut short with the shot of a gun.

patron saints of nothing: Picture Us In The Light Kelly Loy Gilbert, 2018-04-04 Picture me madly in love with this moving, tender, unapologetically honest book. —Becky Albertalli, #1 best-selling author of Simon Vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda Danny Cheng has always known his parents have secrets. But when he discovers a taped-up box in his father's closet filled with old letters and a file on a powerful Bay Area family, he realizes there's much more to his family's past than he ever imagined. Danny has been an artist for as long as he can remember and it seems his path is set, with a scholarship to RISD and his family's blessing to pursue the career he's always dreamed of. Still, contemplating a future without his best friend, Harry Wong, by his side makes Danny feel a panic he can barely put into words. Harry's and Danny's lives are deeply intertwined and as they approach the one-year anniversary of a tragedy that shook their friend group to its core, Danny can't stop asking himself if Harry is truly in love with his girlfriend, Regina Chan. When Danny digs deeper into his parents' past, he uncovers a secret that disturbs the foundations of his family history and the carefully constructed facade his parents have maintained begins to crumble. With everything he loves in danger of being stripped away, Danny must face the ghosts of the past in order to build a future that belongs to him in this complex, lyrical novel.

patron saints of nothing: The Patron Saint of Lost Dogs Dr. Nick Trout, 2013-02-12 Dr. Cyrus Mills returns to his hometown after inheriting his father's failing veterinary practice. Cyrus intends to sell the practice and get out of town as fast as he can, but when his first patient -- a down-on-her-luck golden retriever named Frieda Fuzzypaws -- wags her way through the door, life suddenly gets complicated. With the help of a black Labrador gifted in the art of swallowing underwear, a Persian cat determined to expose her owner's lover as a gold digger, and the allure of a feisty, pretty waitress from the local diner, Cyrus gets caught up in a new community and its endearing residents, both human and animal. Sensing he may have misjudged the past, he begins to realize it's not just his patients that need healing. The Patron Saint of Lost Dogs is a winsome tale of new beginnings, forgiveness, and the joy of finding your way home.

patron saints of nothing: Stay a Little Longer Dawn Lanuza, 2019-05-28 Elan wasn't supposed

to meet Caty. She lived halfway around the world, and he barely left Manila. Yet here he was, giving her a ride to the airport. Convinced that they would never have to see each other again after that day, Elan and Caty started to bond over truths, dares, stolen kisses, and games in hotel rooms and bars. With brief encounters that turned them from acquaintances to friends — tipping to the point of lovers, always — will Elan and Caty keep settling for a day, or will someone finally dare to stay long enough to discover: Is this love?

patron saints of nothing: Black Bottom Saints Alice Randall, 2020-08-18 An enthralling literary tour-de-force that pays tribute to Detroit's legendary neighborhood, a mecca for jazz, sports, and politics, Black Bottom Saints is a powerful blend of fact and imagination reminiscent of E.L. Doctorow's classic novel Ragtime and Marlon James' Man Booker Award-winning masterpiece, A Brief History of Seven Killings. From the Great Depression through the post-World War II years, Joseph "Ziggy" Johnson, has been the pulse of Detroit's famous Black Bottom. A celebrated gossip columnist for the city's African-American newspaper, the Michigan Chronicle, he is also the emcee of one of the hottest night clubs, where he's rubbed elbows with the legendary black artists of the era, including Ethel Waters, Billy Eckstein, and Count Basie. Ziggy is also the founder and dean of the Ziggy Johnson School of Theater. But now the doyen of Black Bottom is ready to hang up his many dapper hats. As he lays dying in the black-owned-and-operated Kirkwood Hospital, Ziggy reflects on his life, the community that was the center of his world, and the remarkable people who helped shape it. Inspired by the Catholic Saints Day Books, Ziggy curates his own list of Black Bottom's venerable 52 Saints. Among them are a vulnerable Dinah Washington, a defiant Joe Louis, and a raucous Bricktop. Randall balances the stories of these larger-than-life Saints with local heroes who became household names, enthralling men and women whose unstoppable ambition, love of style, and faith in community made this black Midwestern neighborhood the rival of New York City's Harlem. Accompanying these "tributes" are thoughtfully paired cocktails—special drinks that capture the essence of each of Ziggy's saints—libations as strong and satisfying as Alice Randall's wholly original view of a place and time unlike any other.

patron saints of nothing: Welcome Home Eric Smith, 2017-09-05 A unique anthology featuring adoption-themed fictional short stories from a diverse range of celebrated Young Adult authors. The all-star roster includes Mindy McGinnis, Adi Alsaid, Lauren Gibaldi, and many more.

patron saints of nothing: The Patron Saint of Lost Comfort Lake Rachel Coyne, 2015 Fiction. A life-long victim of her chronically-drunk father's abuse, Jane struggles to hold her life together. Ghosts from her past return once her mother finds a dead girl in their backyard. Jane must defend herself, her mother, and her daughter from the sins of her family's past as she slips back into the drink and her world crashes down around her.

patron saints of nothing: In the Country Mia Alvar, 2015-06-16 In these nine globe-trotting tales, Mia Alvar gives voice to the women and men of the Philippines and its diaspora. From teachers to housemaids, from mothers to sons, Alvar's stories explore the universal experiences of loss, displacement, and the longing to connect across borders both real and imagined. In the Country speaks to the heart of everyone who has ever searched for a place to call home—and marks the arrival of a formidable new voice in literature.

patron saints of nothing: Where the World Ends Geraldine McCaughrean, 2018-02-01 In the summer of 1727, a group of men and boys from St Kilda are put ashore on a remote sea stac to harvest birds for food. No one returns to collect them. Why? Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they have been abandoned to endure storms, starvation and terror. And how can they survive, imprisoned on every side by the ocean? Inspired by a true event, this is a breathtaking story of nine boys and the courage it takes to survive against the odds, from three-time winner of the Whitbread/Costa Children's Book Award Geraldine McCaughrean.

patron saints of nothing: Saving Zoe Alyson Noël, 2011-02-15 In Alyson Noel's newest teen novel, one sister's secrets save the other's life - in more ways than one.Meet 15-year-old Echo, a typical teen trying to survive high school without being totally traumatised by boy trouble, friend drama, and school issues. As if she didn't have enough on her plate, Echo is also still dealing with

the murder of her sister Zoe. Although it's been over a year, Echo is still reeling from tragedy that changed everything. Beautiful and full of life, Zoe was the glue that held her family together, and although the two sisters were as different as night and day, they still had a bond that Echo can't let go of. When Zoe's old boyfriend Marc shows up one day with Zoe's diary, Echo doesn't think there's anything in there she doesn't already know. But as she gives in to curiosity and starts reading, she learns that her sister led a secret life that no one could have guessed - not even Echo.

patron saints of nothing: Something in Between Melissa de la Cruz, 2016-10-04 The thought-provoking and timely new novel from Melissa de la Cruz, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Alex & Eliza: A Love Story, will have you crying with Jasmine as she finds out she's undocumented - then cheering her on as she fights to stay in the country she loves. She had her whole life planned. She knew who she was and where she was going. Until the truth changed everything. Jasmine de los Santos has always done what's expected of her. She's studied hard, made her Filipino immigrant parents proud and is ready to reap the rewards in the form of a full college scholarship to the school of her dreams. And then everything shatters. Her parents are forced to reveal the truth: their visas expired years ago. Her entire family is illegal. That means no scholarships, maybe no college at all and the very real threat of deportation. As she's trying to make sense of this new reality, her world is turned upside down again by Royce Blakely. He's funny, caring and spontaneous—basically everything she's been looking for at the worst possible time—and now he's something else she may lose. Jasmine will stop at nothing to protect her relationships, family and future, all while fighting the hard truths of being undocumented. **** "A great read!" -Rachel Cohn, New York Times bestselling coauthor of Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist "We're obsessed—and you will be too." —The Editors of Seventeen magazine "Heartbreaking and bursting with hope, this is the book we all need." —Marie Lu, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Young Elites and Legend series "This book will change you. A must-read." —Dhonielle Clayton, coauthor of Tiny Pretty Things and Shiny Broken Pieces, and the forthcoming The Belles "A must-read!" —Ally Condie, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling Matched trilogy "An immigrant herself, de la Cruz succeeds in presenting a complicated and multifaceted topic in a manner that is light enough to keep readers engaged." -Kirkus Reviews "De la Cruz presents a timely and thought-provoking look at the complex reality of being young and undocumented in the United States...Readers will root for Jasmine as she fights for her future and finds the power of her own voice." —Publishers Weekly

patron saints of nothing: What the Bible Is All About KJV Dr. Henrietta C. Mears, 2016-01-15 What the Bible Is All About is the essential handbook for anyone who wants to read and understand God's Word. Inside this revised and updated edition of Henrietta Mears' classic, you'll find an overview of every book in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. In addition, What the Bible Is All About will Provide a complete guide to the Scriptures Explain how Jesus is revealed in the Old and New Testaments Show why the Bible is one book, one history, one story Introduce key people in biblical history Give historical background for every major event Highlight recurring biblical themes Provide helpful reading plans, maps, and charts, and other study helps Discover for yourself why What the Bible Is All About is one of the world's best-selling Bible handbooks, with more than 4 million in print. This user-friendly guide makes it easier than ever to plant the Word in your heart and mind!

patron saints of nothing: The Patron Saint of Lost Souls Menna van Praag, 2018-05-24 Jude is the owner of a unique antiques shop in Cambridge. She makes it her mission to match cusomers with the special something that they are missing, a talisman to bring them what their heart desires. Unfortunately, Jude's life is not overflowing with the love she wishes for. However, when she 'inherits' a niece that she never knew existed, doubling her meagre family overnight, Jude's life is soon set to get a lot less lonely and a lot more interesting. Viola is a single-minded perfectionist whose only heart's desire is the position of Head Chef at one of Cambridge's most prestigious restaurants. But when Viola keeps bumping into a widower, Mathieu, she begins to discover that there's more to life beyond the kitchen.

patron saints of nothing: Everything She Touched Marilyn Chase, 2020-04-07 Everything She Touched recounts the incredible life of the American sculptor Ruth Asawa. This is the story of a woman who wielded imagination and hope in the face of intolerance and who transformed everything she touched into art. In this compelling biography, author Marilyn Chase brings Asawa's story to vivid life. She draws on Asawa's extensive archives and weaves together many voices—family, friends, teachers, and critics—to offer a complex and fascinating portrait of the artist. Born in California in 1926, Ruth Asawa grew from a farmer's daughter to a celebrated sculptor. She survived adolescence in the World War II Japanese-American internment camps and attended the groundbreaking art school at Black Mountain College. Asawa then went on to develop her signature hanging-wire sculptures, create iconic urban installations, revolutionize arts education in her adopted hometown of San Francisco, fight through lupus, and defy convention to nurture a multiracial family. • A richly visual volume with over 60 reproductions of Asawa's art and archival photos of her life (including portraits shot by her friend, the celebrated photographer Imogen Cunningham) • Documents Asawa's transformative touch—most notably by turning wire - the material of the internment camp fences - into sculptures • Author Marilyn Chase mined Asawa's letters, diaries, sketches, and photos and conducted interviews with those who knew her to tell this inspiring story. Ruth Asawa forged an unconventional path in everything she did—whether raising a multiracial family of six children, founding a high school dedicated to the arts, or pursuing her own practice independent of the New York art market. Her beloved fountains are now San Francisco icons, and her signature hanging-wire sculptures grace the MoMA, de Young, Getty, Whitney, and many more museums and galleries across America. • Ruth Asawa's remarkable life story offers inspiration to artists, art lovers, feminists, mothers, teachers, Asian Americans, history buffs, and anyone who loves a good underdog story. • A perfect gift for those interested in Asian American culture and history • Great for those who enjoyed Ninth Street Women: Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler: Five Painters and the Movement That Changed Modern Art by Mary Gabriel, Ruth Asawa: Life's Work by Tamara Schenkenberg, and Notes and Methods by Hilma af Klint

patron saints of nothing: The Mango Bride Marivi Soliven, 2013-04-30 Two women, two cultures, and the fight to find a new life in America, despite the secrets of the past... Banished by her wealthy Filipino family in Manila, Amparo Guerrero travels to Oakland, California, to forge a new life. Although her mother labels her life in exile a diminished one, Amparo believes her struggles are a small price to pay for freedom. Like Amparo, Beverly Obejas—an impoverished Filipina waitress—forsakes Manila and comes to Oakland as a mail-order bride in search of a better life. Yet even in the land of plenty, Beverly fails to find the happiness and prosperity she envisioned. As Amparo works to build the immigrant's dream, she becomes entangled in the chaos of Beverly's immigrant nightmare. Their unexpected collision forces them both to make terrible choices and confront a life-changing secret, but through it all they hold fast to family, in all its enduring and surprising transformations.

patron saints of nothing: Bone Talk Candy Gourlay, 2019-11-05 A powerful, complex, and fascinating coming-of-age novel. -- Costa Book Award PanelA boy and a girl in the Philippine jungle must confront what coming of age will mean to their friendship made even more complicated when Americans invade their country. Samkad lives deep in the Philippine jungle, and has never encountered anyone from outside his own tribe before. He's about to become a man, and while he's desperate to grow up, he's worried that this will take him away from his best friend, Little Luki, who isn't ready for the traditions and ceremonies of being a girl in her tribe. But when a bad omen sends Samkad's life in another direction, he discovers the brother he never knew he had. A brother who tells him of a people called Americans. A people who are bringing war and destruction right to their home... A coming-of-age story set at the end of the 19th century in a remote village in the Philippines, this is a story about growing up, discovering yourself, and the impact of colonialism on native peoples and their lives.

patron saints of nothing: House Without Walls Ching Yeung Russell, 2019-09-24 Most people

imagine home as a safe, warm place with four walls. But for child refugees Lam and Dee Dee escaping Vietnam, home is ever-changing and often doesn't have any walls at all. A moving and thought-provoking picture of a refugee experience filled with both tragedy and hope.--School Library Journal Eleven-year-old Lam escapes from Vietnam with Dee Dee during the Vietnamese Boat People Exodus in 1979, when people from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia fled their homelands for safety. For a refugee, the trip is a long and perilous one, filled with dangerous encounters with pirates and greedy sailors, a lack of food and water, and even the stench of a dead body onboard. When they finally arrive at a refugee camp, Lam befriends Dao, a girl her age who becomes like a sister-a welcome glimmer of happiness after a terrifying journey. Readers will feel as close to Lam as the jade pendant she wears around her neck, sticking by her side throughout her journey as she experiences fear, crushing loss, boredom, and some small moments of joy along the way. Written in verse, this is a heartfelt story that is sure to build empathy and compassion for refugees around the world escaping oppression.

patron saints of nothing: Staircase for the Sisters Pamela Love, 2018 An engaging picture book for children ages 4 to 7 about the miraculous staircase built for the Sisters of Loretto in Santa Fe, New Mexico, through the intercession of Saint Joseph.

patron saints of nothing: The Boys' Club Erica Katz, 2020-08-04 Sweetbitter meets The Firm in this buzzy, page-turning debut novel about sex and power in the halls of corporate America. One of Buzzfeed's Most Anticipated Books of 2020, Cosmopolitan's Best Summer Reads of 2020, and the New York Post's 30 Best Summer Books Alex Vogel has always been a high achiever who lived her life by the book—star student and athlete in high school, prelaw whiz in college, Harvard Law School degree. Accepting a dream offer at the prestigious Manhattan law firm of Klasko & Fitch, she promises her sweet and supportive longtime boyfriend that the job won't change her. Yet Alex is seduced by the firm's money and energy . . . and by her cocksure male colleagues, who quickly take notice of the new girl. She's never felt so confident and powerful—even the innuendo-laced banter with clients feels fun. In the firm's most profitable and competitive division, Mergers and Acquisitions, Alex works around the clock, racking up billable hours and entertaining clients late into the evening. While the job is punishing, it has its perks, like a weekend trip to Miami, a ride in a client's private jet, and more expense-account meals than she can count. But as her clients' expectations and demands on her increase, and Alex finds herself magnetically drawn to a handsome coworker despite her loving relationship at home, she begins to guestion everything—including herself. She knows the corporate world isn't black and white, and that to reach the top means playing by different rules. But who made those rules? And what if the system rigged so that women can't win, anyway? When something happens that reveals the dark reality of the firm, Alex comes to understand the ways women like her are told—explicitly and implicitly—how they need to behave to succeed in the workplace. Now, she can no longer stand by silently—even if doing what's right means putting everything on the line to expose the shocking truth.

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