Courtney!!! Milan
@courtneymilan

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Since this seems to be relevant to the timeline, I just read a book written by a white woman where the heroine was hapa and I really liked it. The story was great, the romance was cute, I cheered for everyone.

12:16 PM - 15 Aug 2019

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3 10 108

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15
(It's not out for a while; I will plug it more when it's time for preorder etc, and when I tell you that it's about figure skating you will understand why I was like *grabby hands* gimme.)

4 69

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15
I have read romances written by white women with hapa heroines that are...so bad. SO BAD. (Weirdly enough, in both cases the white woman author was married to an Asian).

2 38

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15
And I think a REALLY, REALLY big difference was this: The author knew what her lane was. She didn't try to make this a book about The Curse of Being Half-Asian. She didn't try to make this a book about Oh No Everyone is Racist To Me.

1 3 55

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15
She didn't try to make this a book about Wow My Asian Culture Just Really Sucks and This is the Tiger Mom Shit Asians Have to Put Up With.

1 38

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15
It's a book about figure skating with two very internally driven leads, one of whom is 1/2 Japanese and the other of whom is 3/4 Korean, and their background is relevant to the story but it's not The Story.

1 1 55

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15
I can't speak for all Asians, or all hapas, but this book made me happy.

2 35

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15

And I can't help thinking about the time that someone emailed a friend of mine saying, "I want to write a book with an Asian lead and I googled 'what are Asian men like' but it's mostly Chinese, will that work for Korean men too?"

(My friend is not Chinese or Korean.)

5 3 41

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15

I can't help thinking about the times I've heard industry professionals say, "Well, I'm all for diversity, but it needs to be relevant to the plot" but never ask themselves how it's relevant to the plot when characters are white/cis/straight/able-bodied.

5 33 124

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15

And I think the books we're seeing where someone is like, "I'm going to write <character>, so that means I'm going to write a book about racism and here are the top three stereotypes google gives me, so there's my plot" ...

1 3 42

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15

These are all symptoms of the same disease, which is that some people think that writing diversely means writing characters who are not characters in the same way that white/straight/able bodied people are characters. They substitute out goal/motivation/conflict for "diversity."

1 11 74

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15

One of the symptoms of that disease is thinking that writing a diverse character necessarily implies that the story you write about that diverse character is how they interact with whiteness—when the author in question hasn't ever questioned whiteness.

2 6 58

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15

And so my basic thought is this: I know there are lots of thoughts about who gets to write what characters. It is particularly complicated in romance for various reasons.

1 1 32

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15

But you are least likely to fuck shit up if you're not writing about How Much it Sucks to be <insert race here>.

2 2 43

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15

Addition: I didn't think the book I mentioned was up for preorder, but that was because I spelled the author's name wrong. *hangs head*

It's EVERY REASON WE SHOULDN'T by @SaraFujimura, and this book is like an adorable hug, with pastries.

amazon.com/Every-Reason-S…

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5 11 65

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15

It's also like an adorable hug with triple salchows and bruising.

2 28

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 15

I have had a rough handful of weeks with Cat Recovery Stuff and a few other things, but I got this book in my email yesterday and said, "I will take a quick look" and finished it two hours later, and everything in my life felt manageable again. So there's my super-endorsement.

3 70

floof @_floof_ · Aug 15

Replying to @courtneymilan

have you read "from lukov with love" by mariana zapata? half filipino female figure skater pairs up w best friends older bro she can't stand to make a comeback, slow burn, amaaaazing!

5

Every word is mine @riasangelina · Aug 15

Replying to @courtneymilan

This girl *points to self* had to look up hapa, although the rest of the thread had me almost sure.

2