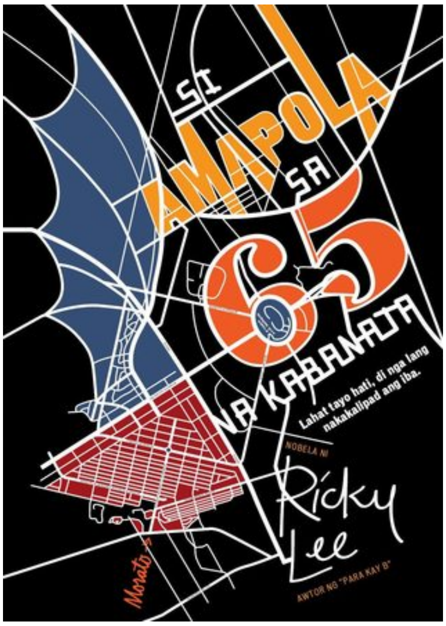


# Si Amapola sa 65 na Kabanata

*Ricky Lee*

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# Si Amapola sa 65 na Kabanata

*Ricky Lee*

**Si Amapola sa 65 na Kabanata** Ricky Lee
**ASWANG KA BA?**
**NARINIG MO NA BA ANG ALAMAT NG BAKLA?**
**MAY PAG-ASA PA BA ANG PILIPINAS?**

Eleksyon, 2010. Isang baklang impersonator, si Amapola, ang naging manananggal at nakatanggap ng propesiya na siya ang itinakdang magliligtas sa Pilipinas. Ang naghatid ng balita: si Emil, isang pulis na Noranian. Ang pasimuno ng balita: si Sepa, ang lola sa tuhod ni Amapola, na nanggaling pa sa panahon ng Kastila at may unrequited love noon kay Andres Bonifacio.

Ang ikalawang nobela ni Ricky Lee ay isang hati-hating tingin sa buhay at pag-ibig ni Amapola at ng kanyang mga mahal sa buhay, at sa buhay at pag-ibig na rin ng mga taong gusto nating pakialaman, dito sa bansang tinatawag nating Pilipinas, sa isang panahonng halos humihingi tayo ng mga kababalaghan. At donuts.

**Napaka-imaginative ng Pilipino at di nauubusan ng mga bagong paraan ng pagdurusa.**

## Si Amapola sa 65 na Kabanata Details

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|---|---|---|
| Date | : | Published 2011 by Philippine Writers Studio Foundation, Inc. |
| ISBN | : | |
| Author | : | Ricky Lee |
| Format | : | Paperback 364 pages |
| Genre | : | Humor |


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# From Reader Review Si Amapola sa 65 na Kabanata for online ebook

## Christine says

Sabihin na lang nating 3.5 ang tunay na rating.

(May kaunting spoilers)

Sa totoo lang, wala pa akong napapanood na pelikula sa panulat ni Maestro Ricky Lee. (Whaaaatttt????) Dahil siguro dito ay mas obhetibo ang aking pagbasa at paghusga sa kaniyang mga pampanitikang akda. (Naks!)

Una kong nabasa ang Para Kay B (O kung paano dinevastate ng love ang 4 out of 5 sa atin). Marami akong nagustuhan sa nobelang iyon bagamat mas nagbabasa ako ng mga akdang nakasulat sa Ingles. Mabigat, malaman, kumplikado, madamdamin, pulitikal. Iyan ay ilan lamang sa mga salitang maaaring gamitin para ilarawan ang Para Kay B. Hindi ko na nga naaalala ang bawat tagpo, ang bawat kwento, ngunit naaalala ko ang aking nararamdaman sa bawat pahina.

Ang Si Amapola sa 65 na Kabanata ay naiibang nobela dahil sa masasabing mas "normal" ang porma ng nobela (hindi ko alam ang terms sa Filipino ng mga kritikal na rebyu ng panitikan). May tuwirang paglalahad, pagbabalik-tanaw, pagpapalit ng punto-de-bista. Mas madaling basahin kumbaga, at dahil diyan, mas madaling i-enjoy.

Natatangi ang pangunahing tauhan na si Amapola bilang siya ay isang baklang impersonator na may multiple personality disorder o iba-ibang katauhan. Sa detalyeng ito pa lang ay marami nang pwedeng gawing pagpapakahulugan. Kung ikaw ba ay nag-iimpersonate, hindi mo ba maituturing na isa sa mga katauhan mo ang mga iniimpersonate mo? Ano ang implikasyon ng pagiging hati sa kasarian?

Speaking of hati, si Amapola din ay isang aswang. Hati siya literally. Bakit aswang na baklang impersonator na may multiple personalities? Grabe ang pagkakahati-hati ni Amapola! At yan ang kabuuan ng hati-hating bida na sa maraming lebel ay nangangailangan ng pagtanggap sa lipunan.

Iba-iba ang mararamdaman habang binabasa ang nobela. Suspense para sa mga adbentyur ni Amapola. Pagkainis sa mga pangyayari. Pagkabigla sa mala-telenobelang pasabog. Pagkalungkot para sa mga ibang tauhan, sa kanilang kanya-kanyang kwento. Katatawanan sa mga makukulit at LOL na mga pangyayari. Marami.

Isa sa mga pangunahing Aaaww moments ay ang pagkukwento sa Alamat ng Bakla. Hindi ko na idedetalye dito. Basta sa dulo ay mapapa-Aawww ka. Kung hindi ka homophobic.

May mga pasintabi rin sa mga pulitikal na personalidad, na bagamat di pinangalanan ay makikilala pa rin ng mambabasa. Kakatuwa rin ang timing ng pag-launch ng nobela sa pagdiriwang ng kapanganakan ni Andres Bonifacio dahil masasariwa ng mambabasa ang kwento ng ating kasaysayan, lalo ng kay Bonifacio... sa naiibang punto de bista at paraan.

Gayunpaman, ramdam ko rin ang kahabaan ng nobela. Madaming kaganapan, rebelasyon at pagbabago. madaming idinetalye at binigyang puwang na diskurso. Bawat tauhan ay may sariling back story, nabigyan

ng mukha, ng pagkakataon na makahingi ng simpatiya. Kaya enjoy pa rin naman.

Isipin mo man na isang alegorya ang nobela o isang mas mahabang Zsa Zsa Zaturnah, bahala ka na. Para sa akin, isa pa rin itong tagumpay para kay Ricky Lee.

Sige na nga, 4 stars talaga!

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### AennA says

**NOTE:** WIth unintentional spoilers.

This is one of those few books that I like so much, but when you ask me why, I can't exactly explain the reason. I finished and put down the book with so much joy in my head, thinking *"I've read another masterpiece."* But then, masterpiece in what way?

Amapola, sa 65 na Kabanata is about a homosexual who happened to be a "mananangal" in a monstrous-literal way, and was tasked to save the country from any possible proverbial destruction. Amapola as the lead character, when he's not a monster, is a modern gay character, with all the gay lingo and characteristics you can think of.

Ricky Lee's Para Kay B is one of the books that I really LOVE *(imagine a wide-eyed grin with it)* and I can explain profoundly why I adore the book, but with Amapola? Uhmnnn...well, the only that puts doubt in my "liking" the book was the fact that after finishing the book, I was asking myself, "what did it try to teach me?" and all I did was answer my own question with, *"I'll ponder on it, give me more time."* I tried to come up with a blanket answer, but I really had to go through each pointers to see and further understand my own choice.

Amapola sent me laughing on my desk as I read it on our break time. I even missed my destination while on a jeepney as I read Amapola's insane adventures. The book was endearing. The characters were marvelous. I love how I was able to shift my emotions in every shift of each characters perspective. I love the way I felt sad for Zaldy, for Amapola, for Giselle and for every characters told in the story. Well, it's Ricky Lee who wrote it, and I was not dissappointed with how meaty and colorful each characters are.

The lead character, being a gay one, depicts how the gays are at this day and age. The way they talk, the way they act, the way they are typecast, and treated in still stereotype manner. Amapola tells us the story of his life, in a vibrant manner, despite of the bitter truth in every words and actions in the story. For a day or two I felt like I'm one of the homosexuals, singing, performing in those comedy bars in Tomas Morato. I saw myself in their story, though I am a real woman.

I felt Amapola's struggle with his other personalities, and I felt each personalities dilemma. I found myself in Giselle's situation, trying to find acceptance and eventually realizing that people uses people, and in the end, you can only rely on yourself.

The political dilemma is understandable, I know how dirty each politicians can be, with all of those masks they wear when in front of the voting public. How each politician had to pay back all their supporters, eventually forgetting about their political will. Politics nowadays are one of the dirtiest scheme one could think of.

Amapola showed us how we can be destructive with our own but different personality through Montero's existence. It showed us how we can try to live a clean slate, and still find ourselves being engulfed with the dark side of ourselves, that in order to get rid of that dark side, we had to fight for it. We have to focus and understand where each dark side is coming from. Amapola and Montero mirrored Dr. Jekyl and Mr. Hyde's story, but in a different approach.

I guess, I like the book because I found myself in it, in its every character, and it's one of the things that really made me like a book - when I don't feel detached from the storyline and each characters. Somehow, Lola Sepa's existence blurred my vision for the book, and I cannot take a full a grasp on her character's purpose. I can tell that she's bound to teach us something greater than Amapola's but I found myself lost in tracking her message. In missing that piece of story made me question why I like the book.

Also, I had this feeling that it tried to force all the nagging issues of the society right into my throat, that I somehow found myself confused on what issue I should dwell into. I was busy thinking about the so-called tragedies of being judged by the society as homosexual, then after turning a page I am now struggling to move forward from the sinking sand of politics. It was good that I can relate on each character with how Ricky Lee worked and written it, but at the same time it somehow gets confusing and overwhelming.

I intend to read the book again, I know I missed something there. I missed something right in front of my eyes. The book is entertaining and engaging, I know rereading it would not be hard for me.

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### Isabelle Tee says

The only reason I gave it a star is because the last chapter got me turning pages and Isaac's story was the only one that kept me interested—but other than that, it was a major clutter fest! 3/4 of the time I didn't know what the book was about.

When I read a book, I try and look for the reality in it even if it's in the sci-fi/fantasy genre, there's always that element. But with this one, I couldn't find it! There was too much fantasy and the only element that kept it grounded and believable was Isaac's story—and he got rid of his character so quickly—what a shame!

Character development was an epic failure too, considering that the book is almost 400 pages long.

I tried to appreciate the novel but the more I read it, the more I hated it!

It seemed like Lee had all this ideas and decided to put it in one novel and entitle it Amapola. Ricky Lee should just stick to writing screen plays.

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### Junie Anne says

This is my 1st time writing a review. Haha! Forgive me! :))
I don't really like reading Tagalog novels kasi wala lang. Ayoko lang talaga.
Pero nagbago lahat yun ever since nabasa ko ang unang novel ni Ricky Lee na 'Para Kay B'

You see, whenever you're going to read Ricky's work kailangan malawak ang pag-unawa mo dahil behind all

those stories ay laging may pinapahayag na mas malalim na bagay si Ricky Lee. Hah! Feeling ko ang tanda and ang mature ko na mag-isip whenever I'm reading his works where in fact 17 y/o pa lang ako at sabi ng iba ay wala pa masyadong alam sa mundo.

I asked my 21y/o classmate to read this and her reaction? Well, di niya lang naman naintindihan Kung about saan ang kuwento. Hahaha! :))
For me, this novel tackles about the system of Government here in the Philippines. Si Amapola, iba pang MANANANGGAL at mga Noranians ay nagsisimbolo bilang ibang mga Tao na patuloy na lumalaban para sa ATING bansa hanggang ngayon. Yung bagong prediction ni Lola Sepa tungkol sa bagong magliligtas sa Pilipinas na anak nila Homer at ng iba pa?? Yun ay walang iba kundi ang mga kabataan sa ating panahon!! Yung pagkamatay ng napakaraming tagapagligtas?? Hindi nga ba yun naman talaga ang nangyayari sa panahon natin ngayon? Kung sino ang may magandang hangarin ay sila tong napagkakamalan na masama dahil marami sa atin ang nabubulag pagdating sa konsepto ng kapangyarihan na yan! At huli sa lahat, yung pananatiling buhay ng ibang Noranians at MANANANGGAL, ibig sabihin nun ay may mga Tao pa ding nabubuhay na handang ipaglaban ang bansa ang kailangan lang gawin ng mga kabataan ay lapitan sila at magtulungan.

Feeling ko ang tanda ko na. Ano ba yaaaan! Hahaha :)))) yun lang. Nagustuhan ko talaga tong nobela na to. Sana ay mas marami pang kabataan kagaya ko ang makabasa nito at lubusang maintindihan Kung ano nga ba ang tunay na kuwento sa kuwento na Ito. :)))))

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## Maria Ella says

Maybe I am not the intended audience for this book. I was looking for more, but all I have read - especially on the latter part - was NOISE. Nakakalalake kasi sa ingay ng baklang ito. Hindi ko kinaya.

More thoughts soon.

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## K.D. Absolutely says

**To my foreigner friends:**

The author of this book is Ricky Lee, a popular screenwriter of local Tagalog movies here in the Philippines. I read a couple of his previous works and found one to be great while the other to be just okay. What I mean is that I never disliked any of his previous works. His stories made for silver screen were all nice or quite unforgettable at least those that I can still recall even if I saw the movie when I was a younger man. I also read his scriptwriting manual *Trip to Quiapo* and his first novel *Para Kay B.* I liked the first but found the second one wanting but still okay. Although most of his stories for films had gay characters, those characters were in supporting or even bit roles. There were also references to gays in those two books but they were secondary and not their main selling point.

In this book, however, **Amapola** is the MAIN and the <u>only</u> selling point of the story. Everything revolves around her and her two other personas. She is a gay stage performer and she has other human personalities and both of them are straights. Aside from that anomaly, she is also a *manananggal.* A *manananggal* is a Filipino horror mythic folklore creature that is similar to a vampire but more gruesome, hideous and weird. It

is normally a woman who has to split her body into two: upper and lower. When the creature wants to kill and eat the heart or sip the blood of a human being (preferably a pregnant woman), she has to fly only with her upper torso leaving her lower part (waist down) on the ground while hunting for her prey. During this exercise, she has to change from her normal human being look to as ugly and scary as possible.

While reading, I had that feeling that Lee made use of his brain to come up with an entertaining and believable, despite the story of *mananggal* being just a myth in the first place, storyline. He also made use of his heart as some of the back stories are poignant and sad like the story of Amapola and her sister when they were young orphans. He also made use of his artistic flair, honed by almost a lifelong career of writing for screen and TV drama series, in coming up with funny situations and colorful characters that celebrate the gay pride that is already acceptable in the Philippine society particularly in its local show business industry.

The only thing that failed me to like this is that I, a straight man, don't find humor in being gay. I understand that female readers can find this book extremely funny because here, gay man Amapola makes a fool of himself. Amapola is beautiful and Lee even describes him at the start of the novel as someone more beautiful than Britney Spears. You see, I just formed this theory: because some gays are more beautiful (in and out) compared to real women, when they make fool of themselves, the real women celebrate. Reason: they lose some of their competitors. No wonder, more and more women like this book. And most readers are women or *feel* like women.

**To my Filipino friends**

Ipagpaumanhin na. Hindi ko na naman nagustuhan ito. Pinilit kong magustuhan dahil talaga namang fan ako ni Ricky Lee mula sa kanyang mga obra like *Himala, Kapit sa Patalim, Salome, Moral, Relasyon, Brutal, City After Dark, Alias Baby China, Fuschia, Nasaan Ka Man, Aishite Imasu, Tatarin, Minsan Minahal Kita, Jose Rizal, Curacha, Calvento Files, Ipaglaban Mo, Lahar, Madrasta, The Flor Contemplacion Story, Separada, atbp.* hanggang sa *Sa 'Yo Lamang.* I mean having written 140 stories that were used for movies and TV drama or drama series, sino pa sa atin ang di nakakapanood ng likha ni Ricky Lee? Unless talaga na nasa vacuum ka at di ka sumisilip ng TV drama kahit mga lumang mga pelikula sa Cinema One, at some point in your life, siguradong nakapanood ka na ng likha ni Ricky Lee. O di mo lang alam na ang pinapanood mo ay either sinulat ni Ricky Lee o si Ricky Lee ay isang creative consultant ng pelikula, istorya or teleseryeng nagustuhan mo.

Alam ko na na ang hangarin ng librong ito ay magpatawa. Loosen up, ika nga nila. Kaso, siguro kababasa ko lang ng *Lumayo Ka Nga sa Akin* ni Bob Ong noong basahin ko ito. Actually, back-to-back sila. Kaya di ko maiwasan na mag-kumpara. Kung tawa ako ng tawa kay Bob Ong, inip na inip ako rito kay Ricky Lee. Natapos ko ng isang araw ang Bob Ong. Ito, inabot ng isang linggo. Eh ano kung may tatlong persona si Amapola? Eh ano kung nakakapag-split sya ng triple? Eh ano kung may Lola Sepa sya na nag-train sa kanya kung paano maging mabuting manananggal? Una-una di naman ako naniniwala sa manananggal at pangalawa ang mga bakla ay di pinagtatawanan dahil sila ay kagaya rin ng kahit sino sa atin na normal. Mahal lang nga nila ang kapwa nila lalaki pero bukod doon ay wala nang ibang dapat pang i-highlight na kaibahan nila.

Bilang ladlad na bakla, hinahanggaan ko naman si Ricky Lee. Masaya nga para sa akin ang tao na nakukuhang magpatawa at his own expense. Di na kailangan pang gumamit ng iba upang makapagtawa ng mga kaibigan nya. Di rin kailangang magkunwari. In fact, sa paglalahad ng buhay ng isang bakla, lalo na sa paraan ng pagpapatawa, mukhang ipinararating ni Lee na ang mga bakla ay mga interesanteng tao rin na masarap makasalamuha o maging kaibigan. Ang di ko lang makuha ay kung bakit pa kailangang gawing

manananggal si Amapola ganoong ang bakla na mismo ay isa ng makabuluhang paksa. Dahil ba uso ang *Twilight?* Kung makikiuso rin lang, bakit di na lang isang magandang bakla na nambibiktima ng mga guwapong bagets na mai-inlab sa kanya? Sa paglalagay ng supernatural or mythological gruesome creature sa istorya, para tuloy nagiging paurong ang imahen na kailangang kailangan ng mga bakla upang sila ay seryosohin ng lipunan.

Overall, maganda naman ang pagkakakuwento. Pero di ko lang talaga nagustuhan ang mismong kuwento.

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## Alvin says

May mga pagkakataong nakakatulugan ko ang pagbabasa sa librong ito. May mga pagkakataong hindi ako makahabol sa kwento. May mga pagkakataong may mga eksenang para sa akin ay pwede namang wala. Ganyan ko natapos ang pagbabasa sa librong ito.

Masyadong marami ang tauhan para sa akin. Ako kasi yung tipo ng mambabasa na nagugulumihanan pag marami na ang sangkot sa kwento idadagdag mo pa ang pahirap sa pagbibigkas ng mga pangalan at salita. Marami ring eksena sa kwento ang parang pilit na lang pinagdudugtong dugtong.

Natapos ko ang libro na may pag-aalinlangan sa kung tama ba ang pagkakaintindi ko. May mga puntong hindi ko maintindihan ang ibig ipahiwatig ng mga salita sa bawat isa. Isa pa, hanggang ngayon hindi ko maintindihan ang ibig sabihin kung bakit mananananggal ang bida, kung meron man iyong kahulugan.

Ang ilan lamang sa mga nagamay ko sa kwento ay yung mga parteng may pasaring sa kasalukuyang lipunan. Mga pinagdadaan at paghihirap ng bansa sa mga lider nito, na para akin, na silang manananggal. Pero salungat sa kwento, ang manananggal dito ay isang tagapagligtas.

Siguro ang punto de vista, totoo walang propesiya. Walang itinakda. Walang manananggal na magliligtas sa sambayanan. Tayo mismo, sa sarili natin, ang magliligtas sa bansa.

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## Nana Lee says

I was thinking, should I just accept the story as it is, or should I interpret this story as something that reflects the society? I felt that there were a lot of unimportant scenes and It really took me some time to finish this.

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## Mirvan Ereon says

This is very surreal and fun! Very interesting to read and it exceeded my expectations. Great job. Characters you will never forget for sure and the plot and story is simply amazing!

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### Beberton Saint Laurent says

Dahil walang pagibig, mga punyeta kayong pelikula at TV at mga nagbebenta ng ang mamahal na bulaklak kapag Valentine's Day! Sino ba yang si St. Valentine? At anong kuwenta ng bracelet? Hindi totoong laging nananalo ang pagibig! Ang pagibig ay para lang sa mga walang self esteem at ang tingin sa sarili ay hindi kumpleto kung wala ang minamahal!

Nangyari na ba sa inyo ang gano'n? 'Yong moment sa pelikula at sa TV na ang bidang lalaki at ang bidang babae ay coincidence na pinagtagpo uli ng tadhana, ang mga tao sa palibot ay pigil ang paghinga at maski ang langit ay diabetic sa tamis ang pagkakangiti, tumutugtog ang mga biyulin at sabay sa pagtingin ang bidang lalaki sa bidang babae, na suot-suot pa rin ang bracelet na regalo niya dito ay mari-realize niya na ikaw, ikaw ang nagiwan ng twenty kiyaw sa sala! Saka slow motion na nagsisising tatakbo siya papunta sa babae para mag-sorry?
Well, hindi iyon ang nangyari! Na-imagine ko lang.

winner ilang beses ko siang binasa til now tawa pa din ako ng tawa!

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### Chom says

Ang gusto lang sabihin nung libro eh kung hindi magtitino ang mga Pilipino, eh kahit pa isang daang Itinakda ang dumating eh sureballs na walang pag-asa ang Pilipinas. Sinisimbolize lang nun ang mga Pilipinong may hati-hating pagkatao na minsan eh nagiging Amerikano, Hapon o Intsik tulad ni Amapola. Pero tulad nga ng ginawang pagpatay kina Isaac at Zaldy, kahit masakit at ayaw nating pakawalan ang pagiging "Americanized" natin eh kailangan kasi sila ang pumipigil satin para maging epektibong mamamayan. Sinisimbolo ni Amapola ang mga Pilipinong hati ang pagkatao, si Emil na isang Noranian naman ay sumisimbolo sa mga Pilipinong gustong gumawa ng pagbabago pero walang magawa para sabayan kaya't umaasa na lang sa iba. Hindi ko alam kung may kabuluhan ang analysis ko sa librong ito pero ang alam kong totoo ay ipinaparating sa atin nito na kailangang sa sarili natin mag-simula ang pag-babago. Kailangan tangalin natin ang pagiging hati.

Mas maganda parin para sa akin ang Para Kay B (Sorry sa pagccompre) pero mulia kong napa-ibig ni Ricky Lee sa kanyang mga likha.

PS

Kahit na nakakatawa at kwela ang librong to, bilang isang satire, pakiramdam ko ay hindi nito purpose ang magpatawa kundi magpaalam.

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### Lance says

I EMBARKED on Ricky Lee's second novel, *Si Amapola Sa 65 Na Kabanata*, about a year ago, when I was bent on patronizing Philippine literature—contemporary or otherwise. Caught up with too much work, I set the book aside and was only able to finish it last Saturday, thanks to the cold and the rain and the awesome Rehab weekend.

The protagonist is a transvestite named Amapola who works as an impersonator in Timog and Tomas Morato. Clearly it's next to impossible to put down a novel that begins this way:

> Sa labas, habang ang mga kababayan ko ay hindi pa nakaka-recover sa sunod-sunod na bagyong pinasimulan ng Ondoy, ako, sa loob ng High Notes sa kanto ng Timog at Morato, ay naka-split sa stage, ini-impersonate si Beyoncé, kinakanta ang *If I Were A Boy*, theme song ng mga tomboy.

Amapola, we later learn, is an *aswang* of the *manananggal* variety. At night her body is cut in half. Wings grow out of her back, and she flies up in the air, searching for food: human flesh and blood. We discover that there are two kinds of *manananggal*—the good kind only feeds on animals, the bad ones (*tunggab*) are hell-bent on devouring human beings, particularly unborn children inside their mothers' uteri. Amapola, the protagonist, belongs to the former.

The richness of Amapola's character doesn't end there: he has a multiple character disorder. Amapola is often found talking all by himself, when he is merely conversing with the other two persons inside her head: the shy, English-speaking Zaldy; and the testosterone-overloaded Isaac. Imagine what happens when one character takes over all the others.

Amapola is destined to save the Philippines from apocalyptic destruction brought about by the onslaught of the *tunggab* and the impending reign of the newly elected president Trono. This messianic calling comes to him through Lola Sepa who emerges from—where else?—the toilet bowl. The old lady is Amapola's great-great-grandmother, once a manananggal, too, who fought the Spanish alongside the Katipuneros.

He, too, has an object of love: Homer, a widower, who has a son named Truman whom Amapola is particularly fond of. How will Homer react when he discovers that Amapola (or "Ate Amy", as Truman would call him) is an *aswang*? Ricky Lee never pushes this too far, and we get the impression that this is a love that can never be.

Ricky Lee employs a humor that's distinctly Filipino: Noranians who will do anything to bring Nora Aunor back to the country and see her perform one last time; bar club impersonators with the names *Bev Without An S* and *Churvah Alilih;* a manananggal named *Stuterrer* who always stutters; and the familiar, inspiring mother who will accept her children for whoever and whatever he may be.

Being accepted for who a person is forms the core theme of the book, but Ricky Lee also highlights the importance of nationalism, love for country and others, sacrifice, friendship, and the value of a good laughter.

His writing is excellent, debunking the age-old notion that to write in Filipino, one must write as if one were filling out a formal theme notebook (I remember that the notebook I owned was a cheap Aspen, with spiral binding, the one with Manilyn Reynes as the cover. I didn't have a choice. It was the only item available at the canteen).

If you want a good laugh, do yourself a favor and get a copy of this novel.

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## George Manapat says

The novel by Ricky Lee is a political satire about the Philippine government system at present. It is set in Tomas Morato in QC and covers a vast scope in our history, especially the Spanish Era.

The story is open ended and will make the reader think deeper. The story does not explicitly nor implicitly state which among the 3 remaining choices for being the “Chosen One” is the real chosen one. It led me to the conclusion that the author wants the reader to conclude as Amapola concluded: There’s no Chosen One. All of us are chosen to stand and quench the thirst for progress of our nation.

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## DC says

Mabilisang pag-tingin: Maraming konsepto rito ang nangangailangan ng medyo malalimang pag-iisip (gaya na lamang ng mitolohiyang Pinoy, pulitika, multiple personality disorder, kasaysayan ng Pilipinas, Pinoy mentality, etc.), at mas magandang medyo pamilyar ka sa ang lugar ng Morato para talagang manamnam mo ang kwento. Hindi 'ata ito librong pwedeng basahin nang pahapyaw lamang, sapagkat maraming tema rito ang, bagaman sa unang tingin ay parang simple lamang, totoong malalim ang pinag-ugatan.

[Dahil sa aspetong ito, tuwang-tuwa ako sa pagbabasa ng librong ito. Akalain mo yun, may elemento ng komedya, drama, aksyon, kababalaghan (talagang parang nanonood ka ng sine!), marami ka pang matututunan, at marami kang maaaring mapagtanto.]

Siya nga pala, habang binabasa ko ito, naiisip ko agad ang Ang Kagilagilalas na Pakikipagsapalaran ni Zsazsa Zaturnnah at Kapitan Sino.

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Mga ibang punto:
- Winner! talaga si Amapola. Bentang-benta sa'kin ang kanyang pagiging persona! Paano ba naman kasi, hindi niya kinahihiya ang kanyang pagiging gay; binabalandra pa nga niya ito, hindi lamang sa damit, kung hindi pati sa pananalita.
- Nag-iiba ang perspektiba habang umusad ang kwento; i.e. nag-sisimula man ito kay Amapola, lumilipat din ito sa ibang gumagalaw sa kwentong ito.
- May parteng nag-hahalo ang katotohanan / kasaysayan at kathang-isip / "kasalukuyan".
- Naramdaman ko rito na, kahit mukhang napakasaklam ng ibang tauhan dito, lahat sila'y tao lamang, at may kanya-kanyang kadahilanan para sa ginagawa nila - kahit alam nila na kapag ginawa nila ang ganitong bagay, sila na ang ituturing na pinakamasamang tao sa mundo.

[Ipapagpatuloy.]

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## Bryan says

Maliligtas ba ng manananggal ang isang bansang tila wala ng pag-asa? Una sa lahat, may naniniwala pa ba sa mga manananggal sa makabagong panahon? Eh 'di ba kakaunti na lang ang naniniwala sa kanila't binabansagan pa silang nasisiraan ng bait? 'Yan ang paghahalintulad na nabuo ko matapos kong mabasa ang akdang ito ni Ricky Lee. Si Amapola (manananggal) ay sumisimbolo sa pagbabago. Pagbabago na tila imposibleng paniwalaan sa gitna ng isang bansang hirap kumawala sa bulok na sistema. Pero kung maniniwala ka kay Amapola, may mangyayari. May magbabago kahit paunti-unti lang. Bansagan ka man nilang baliw, ang mahalaga'y may pinaniniwalaan ka hindi tulad ng ibang nasasanay at nagpapabihag na lang sa nakakasukang sistema na hadlang sa kaunlaran. Mahirap kalabanin ang bulok na sistema dahil parte tayo nito. Pero anong masama kung maniniwala kang kaya nating baguhin ito? Tara. Hatiin ang katawan. Sabay lipad. Para sa bayan.

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