

## Screen Adaptation Pitch

# Not a Virgin



### BOOK DETAILS

#### *Not a Virgin*

AUTHOR	Nuril Basri
ISBN	9781912049462
PUBLISHER	Monsoon Books
PUB DATE	2019
GENRE	Fiction Indonesia
AGE RANGE	general adult
URL	<a href="#">Click for webpage</a>
RIGHTS	World print TBC screen

#### Author Information

A graduate of the Islamic State University in Jakarta, Nuril is the author of over 10 novels. He has been the recipient of several international cultural exchange grants and did a book tour in the UK courtesy of The British Council.

#### Praise

'The book's main characters navigate through toxically masculine environments in a quest to truly understand their sexual identities. Such backgrounds were inspired by Nuril's own upbringing. He was born in the staunchly conservative South Tangerang, Banten, and exposed to a disdainful world that feeds his inspiration to write.' *The Jakarta Post*

'Captures a segment of today's youth culture ... an honest portrayal of young men in Indonesian society. The constant complication of religion, youth culture, gender identity and expression, and sexuality is fascinating.' Dr Dede Oetomo, Airlangga University, Indonesia

TAGLINE	Coming of age in Jakarta
LOGLINE	Ricky Satria, a displaced teenager unsure of his sexuality in the world's largest Muslim country, tries to find an identity and a family to call his own.
GENRE	Tragicomedy
SUBJECT	Coming of age
THEMES	Loss of innocence, sexuality, gender identity, youth culture, religious hypocrisy, finding self-awareness, acceptance of self
TONE	A lighthearted and comic portrayal (interspersed with acts of fanatic religious violence) of how four students in Jakarta look for answers to their questions about sexuality, drugs and religion. The story attempts to normalize the transgender characters who, like everybody else, search for love, acceptance, work and freedom.

#### SYNOPSIS

Jakarta teenager Ricky Satria overhears his parents discussing how they would send him to live in a *pesantren*, an Islamic boarding school, to cure his spoilt nature and free up a bedroom for his elder brother. Ricky is insulted to be called spoilt and decides there and then to enrol himself in a *pesantren*, both to challenge his parents' perception of him and to pre-empt his eviction. In this coming-of-age novel, four Indonesian students seek to discover what their future will bring and look for answers to their questions about sexuality, religion and drugs. With characters ranging from cross-dressing hairdressers, drag queens and rent boys to fanatic Muslims and low-life security personnel, the action of this tragicomedy moves between an Islamic boarding school and a gay bar in Jakarta, and in so doing illuminates the mindset and yearnings of a new generation of Indonesians.

#### CHARACTERS

**Ricky Satria** is a displaced teenager living at an Islamic boarding school who stumbles across another world of the beauty salon community causing him to question his sexuality and religion.

**Paris, Oskar** and **Yusuf** are Ricky's friends whose teenage rites of passage in life we follow. The usual ups and downs of relationships and new experiences culminate in the death of one of the teens.

**Iwenk and the beauty salon community** cross-dressing community who speak their own language, Salonese or gayspeak, as a way to isolate themselves from mainstream society, which only harbours ridicule, ostracisation and violence for them.

**Others** Machete-wielding vigilantes, Islamic religious teachers, transgender hairdressers, rapists, drug dealers, indifferent parents, gay clubs, and drag queens populate this story of religion, youth culture, gender identity and sexuality.

#### ENDING

Ricky gains a more complex understanding of the world around him and his place in it. Following the death of his friend, he leaves the Islamic world of the *pesantren*, is reconciled with his family and starts a small business. The friends follow different paths but Ricky dreams of a world they can all be together in and be accepted.