

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

Author

Wright-Ruiz, Kiera

Illustrator

Illustrated by Claudia Lam

Reviewer

Barrington, Susannah

Pages

Unpaged

Price

\$19.99

ISBN

978-0-593-52987-4

Publisher & Date

Kokila, 2023

Classification

Fiction

Grade Level

1-3

Book Review: I WANT TO BE SPAGHETTI!

In *I WANT TO BE SPAGHETTI!*, debut author Kiera Wright-Ruiz leaps into the imaginative world of pasta through the perspective of a packet of Ramen that wishes it were Spaghetti. Claudia Lam's vibrant illustrations give personalities to all the different pasta packages in the supermarket and flavor the story with emotion. Ramen starts out wanting to be Spaghetti because it appears that Spaghetti is the most popular, most talked about, favorite pasta around. But, after Ramen meets the other ingredients of a wonderful bowl of ramen soup, like Chashu, Narutomaki, and Nori, Ramen realizes that "...ramen is perfect just the way it is."

An entertaining read even on the surface, this book also provides an opportunity to discuss themes of poor self-image, appreciating one's own uniqueness and identity, and accepting oneself. While a little longer than most picture books at almost 50 pages, most pages contain only a single line of text. The illustrations really carry this book with an abundance of colorful, detailed images to entertain readers of all ages. This book is recommended for school and public libraries.

