

Esme Sun absolutely does not care about winning shiny trophies or finally receiving some of the praise her mother bestows so lavishly on her three older, brilliant sisters. But, actually . . . it would be nice to be good at something. So when Esme discovers on the first day of summer that her growth spurt over the winter has made her a really fast swimmer, she wonders if she just might have found that thing.

After Esme has an uncomfortable encounter at the pool with a new girl, Kaya, she worries she may have hurt Kaya's feelings. Then, embarrassed by Esme's awkwardness, her friend Tegan, the cool girl at school who seems to do everything perfectly, makes Esme promise that from now on, she'll be chill, not act so babyish and intense about things—especially not swim team.

But when their swim competitions begin, and Esme starts winning, she finds that she actually cares a lot. In fact, she wants to break the pool's freestyle record. That doesn't mesh so well with her promise to Tegan. And as Esme tries to navigate swimming and her friendships, she searches for a way to apologize and make things right with Kaya.

Esme's mom's focus on winning confuses her, though, and she begins to wonder: Is winning really as important as she thinks, even if it means being unkind to your friends and teammates? Or is there another way to compete—to be a good sport and a good friend?

Wendy Wan-Long Shang, the award-winning author of *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu* and *The Secret Battle of Evan Pao*, dives into the deep end of sportsmanship, prejudice, and the power of friendship in this funny, sweet, and wonderfully moving story.

WENDY WAN-LONG SHANG is the author of *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu*, which was awarded the Asian/Pacific American Library Association Award for Children's Literature; *The Way Home Looks Now*, an Amelia Bloomer Book List selection and a CCBC Choices list selection; *The Secret Battle of Evan Pao*, which received multiple starred reviews; *Bubble Trouble*; Sydney Taylor Honor Book *This Is Just a Test*, which she cowrote with Madelyn Rosenberg; and *Not Your All-American Girl*, a *Tablet* magazine Best Children's Book, also cowritten with Madelyn Rosenberg. She lives with her family in the suburbs of Washington, DC.

DANA WING LAU is a self-identified "Creator, Feeder, Eater." Dana is a first-generation Chinese American raised in small-town Iowa (corn, NOT potatoes) and knows what it's like to feel like an outsider in a place that one calls home. She uses this feeling to bring empathy and compassion to all her work. She has always loved going on an adventure, and having lived in seven different metropolitan areas and counting, it's given her a lot of perspective and knowledge of regional culture in the US.

READ BY DANA WING LAU

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