

Jose Rizal, *Noli Me Tangere* (Touch Me Not)

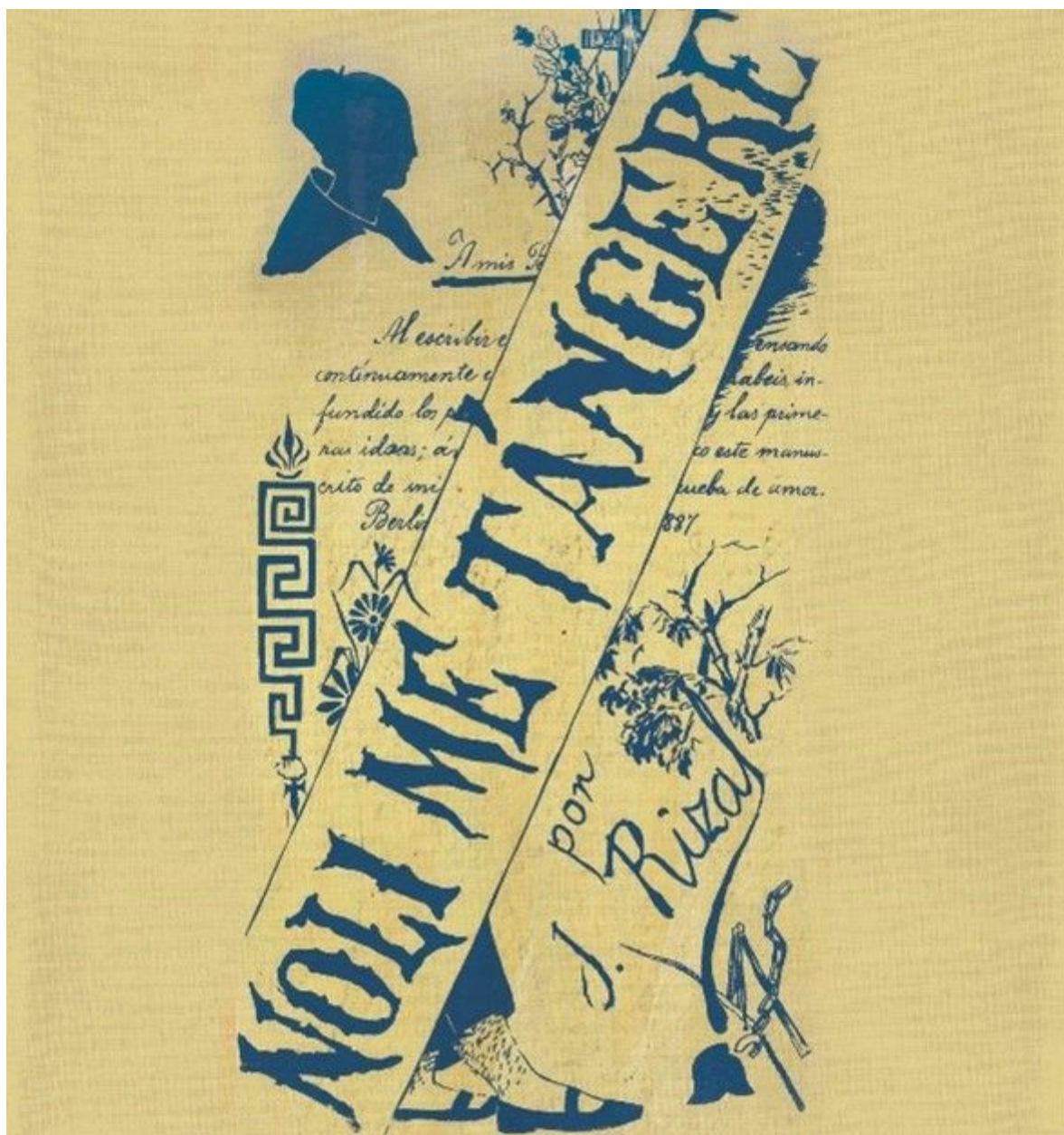
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Noli Me Tangere is a novel written in Spanish by Filipino intellectual Jose Rizal, which was published in Berlin in 1887 while he was studying there. The story takes place in the Philippines during the time of Spanish colonization. A young man seeking modernist social reform must flee when he is falsely accused of subversion against the colonial regime by the Catholic friars who have much control over the colony. The title evokes a type of cancer, and the story vividly exposes the critical sickness inherent in the Philippines during its time of colonization. *Noli Me Tangere* was banned in the Philippines, along with its sequel *El Filibusterismo*, in which the protagonist now aims to subvert the colonized land. Later, Rizal was executed by the Spanish authorities but he remains a national hero of the Philippines to this day, as exemplified by the fact that reading these novels is currently compulsory at schools. Readers of Spanish have diminished in number over the years and so the translated versions are mainly in use now. A literature of a grand scale, this novel illustrates Manila as a global colonial city in the 19th century from a broad perspective, a city under the rule of a declining colonial power at a time when imperialism had reached its height around the world, where the people, amidst a flurry of languages and cultures, are swallowed by the wave of economic liberalism.



Jose Rizal

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b0/Jose_rizal_01.jpg



P E N G U I N  C L A S S I C S

JOSÉ RIZAL

Noli Me Tangere
(Touch Me Not)

English translation cover of Penguin Books using the original cover of the book
<https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/624/62454/noli-me-tangere/9780143039693.html>

Source:

- Jose Rizal, *Noli Me Tangere: Touch Me Not* (Harold Augenbraum (translation), Penguin Classics (paperback), 2006)