

# Nana Nati in Wonderland

A.K.M. MUSHFIQUR RAHMAN

So after The Simpsons, Family Guy and South Park comes Rick and Morty, yet another edgy cartoon that captivates you with its offensive yet honest humour.

The story follows the adventures of Rick Sanchez, a genius scientist who can make sophisticated machines and weaponry with the ease of solving nursery level math and travels the universe while vandalising random alien establishments. This show takes your classic sci-fi morning shows straight from Cartoon Network and adds a hilarious touch of realism. Ever since taking his stereotypical middle school shy loser of a grandson Morty on one of his inter-galactic ventures and essentially giving him the journey down the rabbit hole, he has became Rick's trusty little sidekick slash guinea pig.

Following Rick Sanchez's dramatic action of turning himself in to the galactic government for his family, Season 3 kicked off with Rick's troll-ish escape while simultaneously bringing down the Citadel. This season actually introduced some story and character development elements to the otherwise recurring

"Morty tags along in one of Rick's inter-dimensional endeavours" theme. We also get to explore the other prominent characters, as their individuality is brought out a lot more in the episodes. We see Summer, Beth, and Jerry each get a lot more screen time than usual. I also feel that the show itself shifted from being "Rick and Morty's travels" to "Rick and Morty's dysfunctional family". This mostly happened because of an event in Beth and Jerry's lives, so the writers had the luxury of



SEASON REVIEW

spicing up the emotional struggle of the characters with sci-fi alien culture. As a sitcom lover, I personally liked this change since it made the show much more engaging.

At the same time, I missed the old exploring the universe vibe from earlier seasons. Furthermore, there was very little Morty in Season 3. I rarely saw him play a significantly noticeable part in any of the episodes except in "Vindicators 3" and in "Morty's Mindblowers." Speaking of

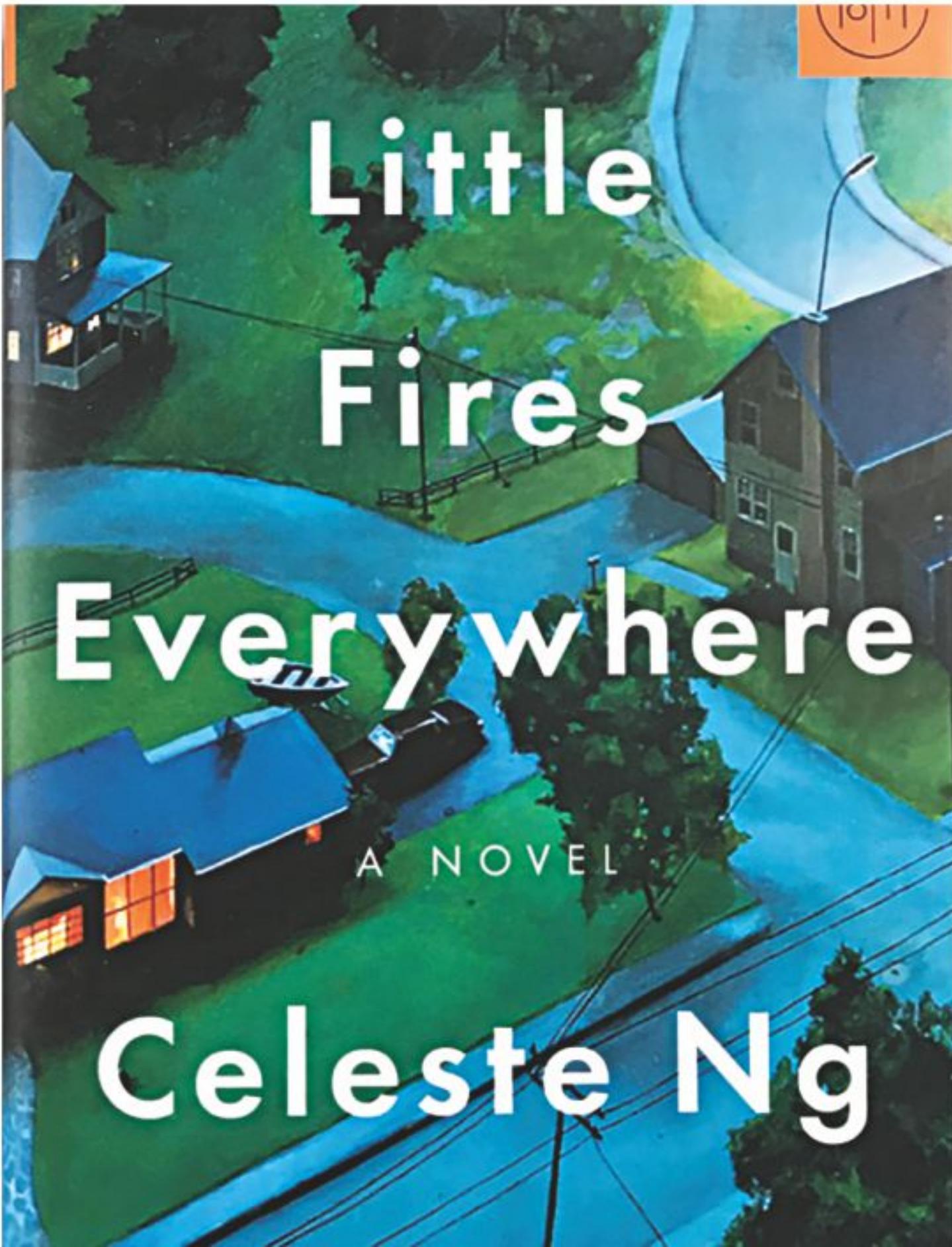
which, the latter was by far my favourite episode of the season. The episode features exactly the kind of brutal ironic comedy that made us fall in love with the show in the first place. If you haven't watched the latest season or better yet, if this article introduces you to the show, binge watch now - go!

All around, Season 3 was another great season of Rick and Morty and it has accomplished what Rick and Morty is all about. An expression of all the random

dark, taboo and downright weird ideas and thoughts people have that usually can't be shown in your typical TV show, with perfect comedic effect. Rick and Morty is a great watch and I highly recommend it to two kinds of people: those who are just looking for something fresh to binge watch as they shy away from their real life problems, and people who know it's unethical to do drugs but wouldn't mind experiencing something close.

# An arson in utopia

BOOK REVIEW



SHAH TAZRIAN ASHRAFI

"Most communities just happen; the best are planned" - is the motto of a perfectionist community, Shaker Heights.

Someone burns the Richardson house to ashes, and the arsonist cannot be found. This incident is a striking one in a careful and safe suburb like Shaker Heights. For all plausible reasons, no one expected such an incident to unravel. The author, Celeste Ng, draws the readers to the story by the mysterious arson, as to who caused it, and why?

In this pragmatic and planned community, everyone is financially stable, smart, and successful; Elena Richardson in this regard is the perfect embodiment. In this growing suburb in Cleveland, everything is pre-planned and in harmony. Take the colour of the houses and the pattern of the roads for instance. Mia Warren is a mysterious nomad artist who moves in the neigh-

bourhood with her daughter, Pearl, as the Richardsons' tenants. With time, the four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter duo.

As Elena's best friend attempts to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle explodes, and it dramatically worsens the relation between Elena and Mia. Having journalism as a profession, she decides to dig Mia's mysterious past, by which she feels threatened. Her obsession to uncover Mia's secrets leads to many disasters that stir the community. It includes the introductory arson mystery scene as well, and the story stems from the scene with many other branches.

Half the novel sheds light on the relationship building between the Richardsons and their tenants while the other half touches the legal issues arising from a custody battle, Mia's haunting past, and consequential teenager mistakes. What I found amazing about the story development was

how the author introduced the aspects of motherhood, family, class, race, adolescence, and identity through the subplots and finally knitted them tightly. I think any reader will be able to connect the dots together from the many-branched progression.

The characterisation also caught my eye - how the author brought every side character into life, equally putting emphasis on their backgrounds, and this is where the hammer of the novel strikes. Though the arsonist's identity was pretty much predictable to everyone from the beginning, the reason behind the arson is what mainly glues the readers to delve deeper.

Packed with the emotional ordeals of parents, ignorant sides of a utopia, and heavy priced mistakes of adolescents, this novel will not bore you.

Shah Tazrian Ashrafi can't pronounce 'choir' without sounding awkward. Send help at [facebook.com/shahatzrianashrafi](http://facebook.com/shahatzrianashrafi)