

BOOK REVIEW**ARTEMIS****A porter's guide to the moon city**

SHAH TAZRIAN ASHRAFI

I haven't read "The Martian" yet, but the reviews steaming with overwhelming appreciation definitely had me hyped for the author's latest title, *Artemis*. Did I enjoy my first Andy Weir book? Keep reading.

The entire book is weaved by the POV of one Jazz Bashara, a resident of Artemis. Despite being a citizen of Saudi Arabia, she grows up in Artemis - a posh tourist city on the Moon founded by some Kenyans. From being a famous tourist spot for many to living quarters for some, Artemis is definitely a money-sucking vortex.

For Jazz, living in Artemis as a porter is tough since it's challenging to pay her rents, let alone enjoy the luxurious amenities it has to offer. Though she smuggles contrabands as her side business, she isn't satisfied with the pay. Hence, stumbling upon a lucrative yet risky offer, she doesn't deem it fine to reject the offer, given she has many loans to pay off and wants to bathe in the luxury that defines Artemis. As she accepts the offer, the events that unravel trap her in the web of conspiracies, right and wrong decisions and compel her to hatch the perfect plan for survival.

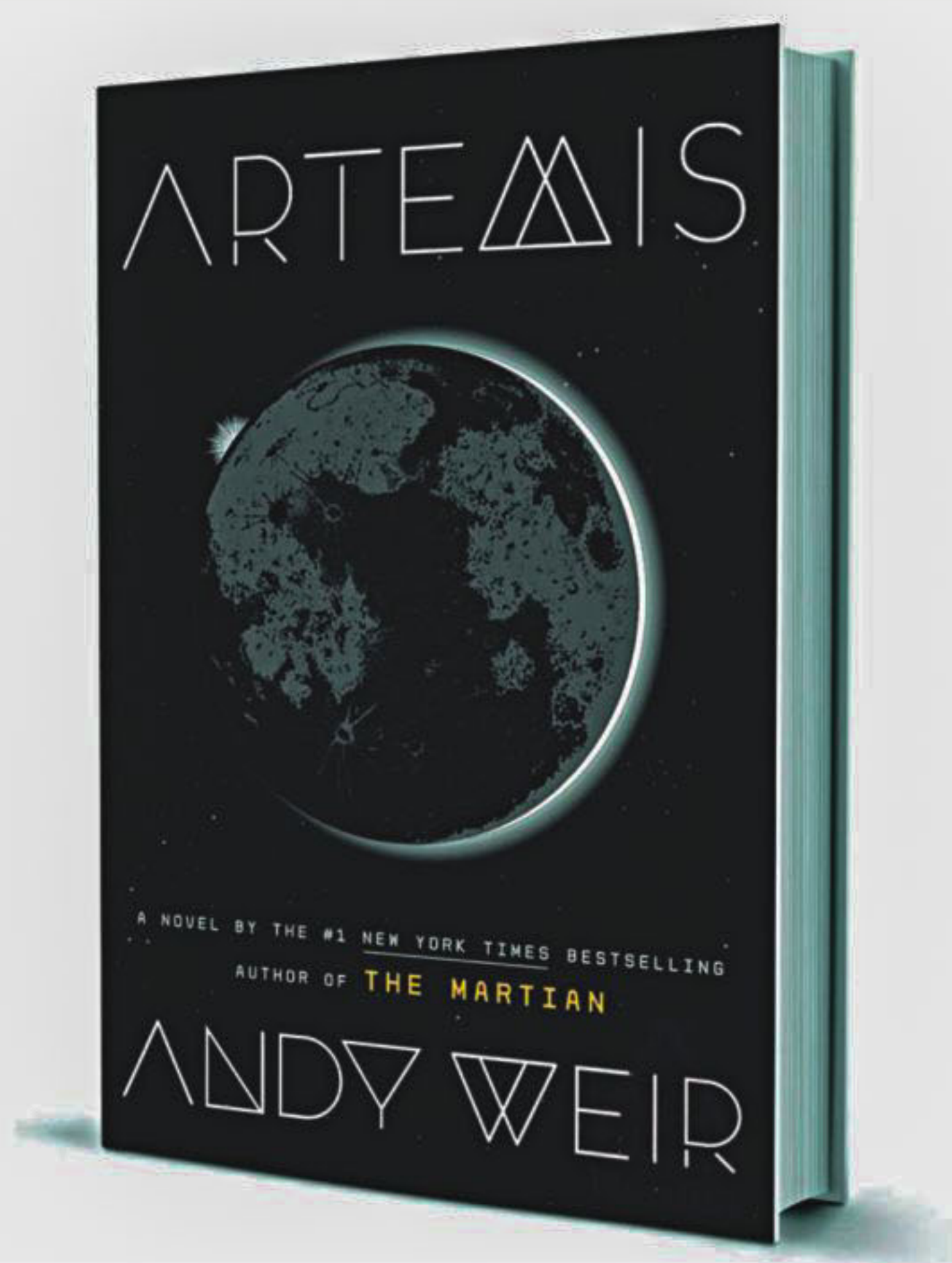
Honestly, the singular perspective throughout the book was a major turn off. But it could've been made better if Weir had worked on Jazz's character development. Hers is a boring character full of forced, unnecessary and lame dialogues in

unfit circumstances. This annoying trait Weir has injected into her successfully disappointed me. Also, Jazz apparently has a Kenyan pen friend, whose conversations with her are partly enjoyable and mostly insignificant fillers.

Moving on, I loved how the story developed from a vivid description of the ways Artemis is designed and the mechanisms pursued by the authority to keep it stable and functional on the Moon. The author has also managed to perfectly fit a diverse cast throughout the storyline. However, the plus points are dampened by the needless amount of conversations about the city, smuggling, sabotages, and of course, welding. There is just too much about welding in this book. Moreover, the annoying character of Jazz, the presence of unexplained characters, and the dull storyline powered by trivial incidents, only add to the woes.

I wasn't expecting such an experience from my first Andy Weir read, and I've never written negative reviews until this one. I really hoped the book would get better through its progression and I wouldn't have to power through it, but it was so convoluted with the welding gibberish and other low-points that I couldn't enjoy the book at all.

Shah Tazrian Ashrafi wants 2018 to be as smooth as stormtroopers missing easy kill shots. Send him prayers at [facebook.com/shahtazrianashrafi](https://www.facebook.com/shahtazrianashrafi)

**Mumble Rap**
Either you love it or hate it

MUSHFIQUR RAHMAN SHANTO

Just recently, a certain young rapper's name and fame had blown up all over the internet, because of a song that uses a certain phrase 53 times. Yes, I'm talking about Lil Pump and his infamous rap song "Gucci Gang". Much of his rapping style and mannerism have attracted a lot of attention and controversy, which piqued my curiosity of the genre of mumble rap all together.

Mumble rappers have both immense popularity and face severe criticism. This is a subgenre that caters to young, party loving people. The music videos and lyrics are all about having fun, partying, money and all the materialistic things people enjoy. So this kind of music shares the age old complaint with other mainstream rap styles - of not having any deep or impactful meaning.

This style of rap also gets a lot of backlash for "mumbling" or to be precise, having barely decipherable lyrics and using the mouth to make random noises instead of actual lyrics. Before Lil Pump came and took the hip-hop community by storm with songs like "D-Rose" and "Gucci Gang", artists such as Desiigner and Lil Yachty had brought mumble rap to the spotlight back in 2016.

The general attitude towards this style of music seems to be divided in

two categories. On one hand, you have people who believe that the mumbling combined with the strong beats is a form of artistry, where lyrics are not important for making good music. On the other hand, you have the critique that challenges the skill required to make such music and believes that using monotonous unclear ramblings as lyrics is an insult to the legacy of rap.

Personally, while I am fan of a lot of mainstream rappers, this particular style of rap is not my cup of tea. I prefer to listen to clearly pronounced words with catchy and clever rhymes that are only complemented by the beats. But I will admit, songs like "Panda" and "D-Rose" have a certain energy about them which absorbs you into their rhythm. So I can certainly understand the huge following and fan base that mumble rap has acquired.

I also think the supposed "lack of skill" that many people complain about this style of music is actually a credit to the rappers. You have to be very smart and talented to have your songs up at the top of Billboard charts while making it look effortless.

At the end of the day, music preference is entirely subjective and we should definitely have respect for all styles of music. Also, did you know that Lil Pump is a 17 year old musician performing and hosting 18+ concerts?

Mushfiqur Rahman Shanto is an undercover wizard who spends his days quietly observing muggles. Send him new magic spells at mushfiqshanto1234@gmail.com