



DID YOU KNOW?

DATRANGA THE TEA INDICATOR PLANT

Datranga (*Melastoma malabathricum*), also known as *lutki*, is a perennial shrub – plants that grow and bloom over the spring and summer, die back every autumn and winter. These plants grow up to two metres in height and are commonly found across tropical and subtropical regions of South and Southeast Asia.

In Bangladesh, *datranga* can be found in Sal forests and the hilly areas of the country. You might come across these beautiful purple flowers if you visit places like Madhupur and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The general consensus is that tea plants have grown or can grow in the areas where you find *datranga*. *Datranga* is also known for its use in the treatment of toothaches as well as diarrhoea and dysentery.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

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CHICKEN NUGGET

A LESSON IN HOW NOT TO TAKE THINGS SERIOUSLY

ADRITA ZAIMA ISLAM, PRATHOM MITRA

What would you do if your crush turned into a chicken nugget? That is the question Baek-joong faces as Min-ah, his boss's daughter and his crush, steps into a machine that mysteriously arrives at their office's doorstep and metamorphs into a chicken nugget. The series follows Baek-joong and his boss, Seon-man, as they are dragged across a crazy adventure that includes mad scientists, purple aliens, a subplot that dates back two hundred years, a bizarre chicken nugget restaurant, and, shockingly enough, a parody of Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* while trying to turn Min-ah human again.

If the premise sounds absurd, we can assure you that the actual show is even more so. Constantly indulging in dad jokes and slapstick comedy, the show's humour is downright horrendous. However, *Chicken Nugget* is refreshingly self-aware about its less-than-funny humour and doesn't shy away from it. It continues playing into those jokes until the audience starts finding the situation ridiculous, thus perfectly executing the so-bad-it's-good trope.

The highlight of the series is the few moments of tenderness sprinkled in. In Baek-joong's backstory of having to push aside his dreams of singing to become an engineer at his father's prodding and in Seon-man's pained frenzy to get his daughter back, we see the poignancy of the story. With their tremendous emotional range and ability to truly immerse themselves in the absurdity of their fictional situations, the actors are undoubtedly incredible in their respective roles.

The only aspect of *Chicken Nugget* that was somewhat irksome was its pacing. At times, the story draws itself



out a bit too long or the comic elements become a tad bit repetitive because of the limited amount of situations the characters are allowed to be present in. However, that is perhaps only a small bone to pick considering the sheer amount of amusement we derived from the show otherwise.

The show is weird, unabashedly so. It takes care to never take itself seriously and does not even try to be artsy. At a

time when every piece of content we consume seems to be emotionally charged or high-strung, it felt very relaxing to watch something so unapologetically nonsensical and weird. Watching *Chicken Nugget* was, honestly, the most fun we have had with a TV show in a pretty long time.

The writers are glad to have been able to spend a weekend watching this wonderful show.