

Review: Rise of the Red Hand by Olivia Chadha

Set in South Asia and 25 years afterward that almost destroyed the world, *Rise of the Red Hand* illustrates the effects climate change can have. The province is divided between the uplanders, who live in luxury and a climate-controlled dome, and the poor and forgotten that are barely getting by. Tensions are high, people are starving, sickness is spreading, the ocean is rising, and now children have started to go missing. It has all my favorite things a dystopian society, futuristic tech, imminent revolution, and of course, a protagonist whose only goal isn't to get the guy but to keep her sister safe and while taking down the government.

It was a refreshing read after so many dystopian to revolution books I've read. Not being of South Asian heritage myself, I really like that the main character is front and center on the cover and not whitewashed or a silhouette, which is what caught my attention in the first place. Ashiva isn't perfect or morally better than anyone, she's strong, persevering, quick-witted, and just trying to survive in a world that is quite literally trying to kill her. She also has a cyborg arm that gives me Cinder by Marissa Meyer vibes, it's super cool and very useful. Riz-Ali is our main male character, the son of a high-ranking official, his sarcastic, clever, intelligent, funny, and ready to take down the system that killed his Uncle.

It's written with different perspectives, which I personally really enjoy because it feels more complete and gives an inside into what the other characters are thinking and what drives them.

But if you're not used to it or don't like it, it can be a bit confusing and repetitive. This is only the first book in a series called *The Mechanists*, I can't wait for it to continue and see how it ends!