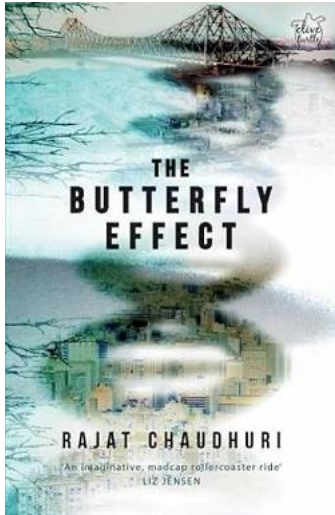




Book Review on Rajat Chaudhuri's The Butterfly Effect by Dr Chetan

As the global temperature has been consistently rising for the last few decades, weather patterns have significantly changed, prompting environmental scientists, meteorologists, climatologists and geologists to intensively study the factors responsible for this change along with an analysis of its impact on humans and biodiversity. For 2026, weather forecasting agencies globally have predicted a prolonged 'Super El Niño' during autumn that, according to Prof Liz Stephens at the University of Reading, could lead to "more people that are

living in poverty, and if you get a reduction in crop yields because of drought or flooding, then that drives prices even higher.” (King: 2026) This news update encouraged me to



write a review of [Rajat Chaudhuri's *The Butterfly Effect*](#) because it explores interconnected global issues such as climate change, food insecurity, political instability, crime, tourism and diseases. Published in 2018, the novel is a detective narrative interweaving several strands such as dystopian conditions in Calcutta, agro-science discoveries in London, tourism, cross-border migration, dictatorship, starvation, famines, diseases and military control. The novel is divided into nine sections with repetitive

titles that weave interconnected subplots to construct a cohesive and comprehensive plot. The first section, titled “Captain Old and the Living Dead of Darkland,” opens the narrative wherein Captain Old tries to reach the railway station. It depicts dystopian future in which the people of Cleanland and Darkland are fighting each other for territorial and political control. Besides, the section highlights progress in biomedicine and technology through genetically advance human bodies. In the end, it is found that Captain Old of the first section and Detective Kar are the one and same person.

The second section, titled “PI Kar’s Korean Adventure,” introduces Detective Kar and his assistant, Chaitanya, who are approached by a couple seeking their assistance in finding their daughter, who has gone missing in South Korea. The travel agency “Lamplighter Travels” guided several Indians on foreign tour, but only a single tourist returns. Under these circumstances, Detective Kar takes assistance of his friend, Abul, who works in the IB to establish a network with India’s

foreign office in South Korea. Detective Kar lands on the soil of South Korea and meets the local police inspector Kim to proceed with the case.

Titled "White Cloud Mountain," the third section opens another subplot in which the itinerary of the missing Indians is presented sequentially from the moment they step onto a Korean airport. The section gives brief information about the tourists and their relationship with the travel agent. Ujaan, one of the tourists, becomes friends with a Korean woman, Jiyou Park, who replaces the original tour guide. She takes the entire squad of Indian tourists to different places. The section four titled "Magic Seed" adds another subplot to the story. It begins with a description of the friction between Tanmoy Sen and Dr Chaturvedi, who work at the Institute of Genetic Engineering and Medicine. Tanmoy travels to London for his research project, where he meets Henry David, who helps psychologically disturbed soldiers through his music. Although Tanmoy seems to keep his project 'SuperRice' secret, he reveals that, "I am too tired to discuss my work but it will do a lot of good for millions, someday soon.....my work would keep millions of undernourished people healthy even during extreme weather conditions. They will get basic nutrition." (Chaudhuri: 2018, 157-159) However, Henry warns Tanmoy about the dangers of his project as it will tinker with nature. By the end of this section, Tanmoy finds that he is followed by a man and a Korean girl, Jia, saves him.

The section five titled "Tony Fang's Lair" is one of the shortest sections and introduces a new character Tony Fang who receives a first batch of paddy recently tested in the laboratory. The new batch of lab-tested paddy has not yet been tried on farms. The section six resumes the story of the section four wherein Tanmoy is injured by a stranger. In this section, Tanmoy is admitted to a hospital by Jia. He decides not to visit the pub again in future. After being discharged from the hospital, Tanmoy reaches his office and finds that the

magic seeds are missing from the vault. He further comes to know that the company investing in his “SuperRice” project wished the seeds should lack generative capacity after a year. As soon as the harvest is completed, the seeds should not be used again. They can germinate but will not give yields, “SuperRice to be engineered in such a way that it would good only for one season. The farmers should not be able save and reuse the seeds because this would mean lost business.” (Chaudhuri: 2018, 225) This subplot introduces a new twist to the story as it explicates the reason behind Jia rescuing Tanmoy at the restaurant. She takes the magic seeds with her to North Korea where her family members are kept hostage by the political regime. The section outlines the autocratic and militarized system in North Korea which faces tough challenges related to food security and defense. Jia serves as an agent of North Korea and steals the seeds to resolve the problems of hunger, malnutrition and drought. The section seven takes forwards the subplot of section three wherein the Indian tourists travel to South Korea. Jiwoo, the South Korean guide, takes them to a place where the North Korean migrants have settled. The Indians are mesmerized with the natural richness of the place, completely cut off from technology. The inhabitants live in close proximity to nature.

The section eight gives a unique twist to the plot as the Korean police arrest Detective Kar and interrogates him for his connections with the Communist Party. After being released, Detective Kar visits cybercafé in Seoul and comes to know that his assistant has been kidnapped. The novel ends with the revelation of how the two North Korean women engaged in the scheme of taking the Indian tourists to the same location where the migrated North Koreans had settled. In the end, it is discovered that the seeds genetically modified by Tanmoy cause disease and illness instead of addressing the concerns of food security and malnutrition.

Rajat Chaudhuri has woven a compelling narrative depicting multiple challenges confronted by humanities in contemporary times with specific focus on how ecological changes resulting from human intervention, lead to hunger, famine, disease and crime. The novel highlights unprecedented growth of agricultural science, particularly genetically modified seeds that demonstrate resilience to extreme drought and flood conditions and ensure food security. Simultaneously, it interrogates the intense connection between global capitalism and scientific innovation. Politically liberal and economically capitalist countries have provided amicable conditions to corporations for investment in agribusinesses, enabling multinational companies to increase their capital by making farmers increasingly reliant on genetically modified seeds for higher yields.

Besides, politically autocratic countries are presented as facing resource scarcity and technological backwardness, leading to the discontentment of people. The suppression of rebels voices and state's inability to meet public requirements compel individuals to undertake secret missions to acquire scientific innovations from technologically advanced countries. Although the author primarily captures the conflict between two politically opposite entities, Chaudhuri exhibits global implication of this struggle. Other countries are also affected due to global interconnectedness and mutual dependence. Hence, the narrative presents ecological destruction, technological backwardness and political rivalry as transnational issues shaping the fate of humanity.

Title: [The Butterfly Effect](#)

Author: Rajat Chaudhuri

Available: [Amazon](#)

Dr. Chetan

Dr. Chetan is an Assistant Professor with the Department of English, Lakshmibai College, University of Delhi.

Get Your Book Reviewed

If you have got any book published and are looking for a book review, contact us. We provide book review writing service for a fee. We (1) write book review (2) publish review in CLRI (3) conduct an interview with the author (4) publish interview in CLRI. [Know more here.](#)

Authors & Books

We publish book releases, Press Release about books and authors, book reviews, blurbs, author interviews, and any news related to authors and books for free. We welcomes authors, publishers, and literary agents to send their press releases. Visit our website [https://page.co/Vw17Q.](https://page.co/Vw17Q)