



Book Review

'Little Fires Everywhere' by Celeste Ng

As the residents of the idyllic neighbourhood of Shaker Heights, the Richardson family live a picture-perfect life; the epitome of 'white picket fence' living. The residents of Shaker Heights believe that abiding by the neighbourhood rules is the only way to protect themselves against the uncertainty and corrupting influence of the outside world.

Enter Mia Warren, and her daughter Pearl. Mia is a free spirited bohemian, a talented artist and a devoted mother. Mia and Pearl's lives are guided by Mia's artistic intuition, and they regularly move between towns in a perpetual search for inspiration. While taking Mia through her rental property in Shaker Heights, Elena Richardson finds herself feeling more than a little uneasy. Subconsciously, Elena is threatened by Mia's lifestyle; and wonders why a mother would choose to live such an unstructured lifestyle. Deep down, Elena feels that this eclectic new family is the match that threatens to set fire to the pristine life that she knows and loves. Embarking on a search to unearth what skeletons may lie in Mia's past, Elena is unaware of the devastating cost of what lies ahead.

This novel explores the power of motherhood and the importance of learning to accommodate difference. It is brilliantly written, and a story that will leave you questioning your own values and innate biases. I would highly recommend this novel, which has also been made into a TV series.

Nikita Rodrigues

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