

MALGUDI

Srinjay Chakravarti

*The imaginary landscape of R.K. Narayan's fiction,
modeled on the town of Mysore in south India*

This town is nowhere—that's because it's found
Whichever way you look. You need no maps
To roam its little world—your heart's, perhaps,
The best of all the guides to show you round.
You meet no strangers: all the streets abound
With men you know so well. Each story wraps
With charm your neighbors' lives: assorted scraps
Which make this whirl of color, light and sound.

Sit down and watch how Daisy goes to paint
The town quite red (and other shades as well);
How Nagraj suffers quietly, sans complaint.
Or foil a plot to ring a tusker's knell.
Observe how forger Raju turns a saint . . .
Is all this true? You simply cannot tell!

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