

# SECOND 25 CHAPTERS OF KAMALA DAS'S MY STORY: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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**Abstract:** *Autobiography is one of the important non-fictional forms, it means “an account of a person’s life written by that person he gives a vivid description of his childhood in his autobiography synonyms, memoirs, life story account of one’s life personal history, diary, journal, autobiographies considered as a literary genre. The book is a curious mixture of autobiography and fantasy.*

**Index Terms** - arrogance, digression, greed, psycho-analyst, sedation, drowning, discompose,

“The Psycho-Analyst” (p.100), in this chapter she writes about her husband living away in ‘Assam’ she had an incomplete sexual attack by psychoanalyst. And she describes her second pregnancy and delivery of baby boy in Nalapat house on her return to Bombay she wish to escape from her home and walk on to the end of the world. At the end of chapter her husband invited a pyretic to ask her to have some free living in a hill station- Lonavala at that time her husband was with her and took care of food and clothes.

“Sedation” (p.105) during her nerves break down their developed physical intimacy with her husband. He attended her like a male Nurse in changing her dress and giving medicine. According to her tragedy is not death that growth of nearly. She had become a stranger to her grandmother. After recovery they came back to Bombay. And grandmother died after her death she fell in love with an extremely handsome young man, who walked with her from the ‘Kharejy Mkhana’ at the end of this chapter her son attacked by polio and he was hospitalized at ‘Ville Parle’. In the eyes of her children she was a goddess of love and kindness.

“A Greed for Love” (p.110) in this chapter in the beginning there is a description of an old building, called ‘Dhunastra’, she calls that place a ‘Demon’ palace”. She was afraid of that place; it was derelict place used by thieves. One of her friend from Delhi wrote a love letter. She was a vessel overflowing with emotions. Ram Deshmukh his family friend told him of a tree in the university garden, and its flowers were heavily scented. At the end of this chapter she tells about Karlo her pen friend, who came to meet her in person.

“Woodhouse Road” (p.114) begins with a poem of love. In the beginning she mentions that Karlo was the only son of wealthy parents and she was the wife of government employee. He took her for lunches in the big hotels. She writes about the happy women laborers in Bombay. The dhansutra is old building was demolished and rebuilt. The chapter ends with the compliment with by the Carlo that she was pretty girl.

“A Misalliance” (p.118), this chapter is also beginning with a poem. In the beginning she refers to ‘Cuff Parad’ in the streets of Bombay ‘Mathruboomi’ newspaper published her short stories. Her brother Dr. Mohan Rao decided to marry a pretty relative in their family. She went to Cochin by plane and attended the marriage. In the plane she read out her poem showed by a co-passenger in the illustrated weekly of India. Day after her brother’s wedding she return to Bombay and got down from plane and her husband did not come to receive her in the Airport, she felt lost. In the same year her son Monoo fell ill. Monoo recovered again she turned to love, art and literature. Her husband was an intellectual, who was involved in co-operative movement in India, and he always discussing rule economics of which she knew little.

“A Holiday at Panchagani” (p.123) begins with love and lust. This chapter is about their going to Panchagani for a holiday with her little boys. They settled in a hotel situated on the top of a hill. Only on the first day they went out and the second day she did not go out and kept communicating with birds and animals. During this time her menstrual periods are become irregular and painful strongly she met a young man who finger nails she cut on request. In another room there was an old man of (94) ninety-four, who has completely lost his memory. After their holiday at Panchgani. They went back to their home in Malabar for spending the rest of the fifteen days Her father was happy to receive them. At the end of the chapter there is description of the celebration of a festival for the worship of ‘Kamaladeva’ a god of love.

Next chapter “Dr.Mrs. Karunakaran” (p.129) gynecologist at ‘Matunga’ and she consulted for the treatment writing became her only hobby. And she wrote two stories every week and send them to ‘*Matrubhoomi*’ Newspaper for publication.

“My Great Grand Mother” (p.133) begins with a beautiful poem written on their house in Malabar. After the death of her grand uncle and then that of her bear grandmother. The old Nalapet house was locked up and its servants dismissed. Her father worked as a journalist in Calicut and her uncle was a famous politician in the congress MLA. In the middle of the chapter the Royal Glory of her great grandmother, who was the only daughter of a wealthy chieftain Raja of ‘Punnathorekotta’. Her father decided to live for Calcutta to become a full time editor of a newspaper.

“A Transfer to Calcutta” (p.137) this chapter is about their stay in Bombay. A 1962 when there was a conference for bankers. One of them waited their house as her husband’s friend gave her massage. He said that he was a hypnotist, he was a very good dancer. He bought Jasmine flowers for her and decked her hair with them. Her husband did not take notice of these things. There was arrival of Carlo, the dark hair young man who wanted to marry her. She was like a poor girl, who found herself rich all of a sudden. They moved into a flat on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the building ‘New Dhunastra’. There was a strange phone call about love. Her husband was transferred to Calcutta for a term of three years. They left from Bombay to Calcutta living her brother behind.

“The Cocktails Season” (p.141) in this chapter the place is shifted to Calcutta once again. It is about the drinking parties among the officials and their wives. Here she had some better experience with some bad man. Her husband’s relatives spread the rumor that she was in love with a old man, who called her ‘Gayatri’. He brought a garland of Marigold and hung it over herself portrait. Which was in the drawing room. She changed her dress and began wear black shirt white lungi’s, she did not have much money to spend on cloths. At the end her husband warned her to end the affair with the old man.

“Pen friends” (p.146) is about her lover ‘Carlo’, who come to see her Personally Carlo called her ‘Seetha’ and treated her with ‘Awe’. There was also a famous novelist, who came with Carlo all of them had a party in Hotel, Carlo consoled and brought her back home.

“The PEN Poetry Prize”(p.149) is about award of PEN poetry prize to her collection of poems ‘Summer in Calcutta’. There was also a narration of experience with Bad Bengali Uncles’ of all her lovers Carlo was most sought after.

“La Boheme”(p.153) is the French title which means the best consumer of food, drinks and costly clothes. The word describes the luxurious life women in Delhi. They stayed in Reserve Bank visiting officers flat for some time than shifted to a small flat in difference colony which was very close to the slums. During this period her father became sick and recovered her eldest son Munoo also suffered by fever. La Boheme is the name of the Hotel, which the young man took her for a drive and lunch. She was the pregnant for the third time.

“Jaisurya”(p.157) is the next chapter which begins with a poem on the pregnancy and delivery of the baby, in the seventh pregnancy month if she went to Calcutta to be with her parents. Dr.Vimala Naiyar attended examined and took her to hospital by a car. For the third time she delivered a baby body. And than night she missed her bead grandmother. The baby boy was named Jaiasurya.

“The Season of Illness” (p.162), it begins with a poem, after her return to Delhi she found her health declaiming. A friend of her Shirley attended her and took care of her as if she were her mother. She regularly, wrote to the journal. ‘The Century’ run by the Late Mr.V.K.Krishna Menon, who was more known for his arrogances. After her recovery she looked like ‘Moulting Bird’. Her brother – in – law wrapped her in a rug like a phoenix she rose from the ashes. At the end of the chapter she stated that she was happy at Manager’. She was looking for an ideal lover, who went to ‘Mathura’ and forgot to return to her beloved Radha.

“Poet’s Notoriety”(p.166) is about her own experience about love and martial disharmony in her life. She is still in Delhi, her elder son became well grown boy of fifteen years. On a occasion he asks mom permission to go with a beautiful girl. And that girl came was from west Germany her name as ‘Anna’ and she walked into her house. When her husband transferred again to Bombay, the eldest son heart broken. After a couple of months ‘Anna’ return to Germany to continue her education. In Bombay they lived in a flat, owned by reserve bank of India. As she found that place not suitable she asked her husband to change the place in church gate to another building owned by Reserve Bank of India. Because of her outspokenness on the love and lust she was considered to be a notorious writer wherever she went.

“The Bombay Hospital”(p.171) in this chapter she tells about her declaiming age and physical decay of her health she considered it to be a ‘Season winter for yellowing’.

She described her meeting with her last lover, whos name is not mentioned. In the month of October one of her friends force her to drink ‘Gimlet’ on the occasion of his birthday. Nissam Ezia met her during

this period. She felled that she was attacked by 'Leukaemia' for which she was hospitalized. She believed that she was going to die. One Dr. Goyal treated her for deices when she recovered from illness she grew once again more attractive. Her son expressed his love for mother at the end of the chapter she describes herself as mother of Lord Krishna and her son had lord Krishna.

"The Long Summer of Love"(p.176) begins with a poem on love. This chapter is about city dwelling women and her own incident of adultery which she found to be distaste full. Her lover was indeclianing years. There was strong sense of pity in love. He called her a mad girl "Free from that last of human bondage" termed into Krishma" She lost her weight during the sickness. One day she fill in a heap gasping for breath. Once again she was admitted in room No.565 in Bombay hospital. Her sister came and recited her Durgakavacham. She said 'She was praying for protection in death, if death was to be your destiny'.

She met a woman, whose name was 'Durga' and after marriage it changed to Rama she found the doctors to be kind and care taking. The doctor allowed her to be wheeled every morning to the temple of 'Kristm'. For a joke she frightened her son 'Saying that she would became ghost after death'.

"The Fourteen Days War"(p.182) is about her experience about the Bangladesh war. She was afraid of the flying bombers, across the city of Bombay. In those days she worshiped the bronze Idol of 'Ganesh'. This chapter she writes about the charity as typical Indian tradition especially giving food and cloth to the poor during the economic crises. Desires and pain matured her even to her husband she became a mother. At last she turned deeply religious shedding carnal desire. She considered herself she was no longer what she was.

"For Each, an Escape Route"(p. 187), in the very, beginning of this chapter she declares that 'her marriage was flop in the conventional sense. She speakers about her husbands distancing herself and his socialism and intellectualism. Once again she recollects her married life from the beginning. She tells about her unofficial divorce and returned to Nalapet house.

Her friends, relatives and servants were happy. She regretted the years Bombay, delhi and Calcutta.

"The Intensive Cardiac Care Unit"(p.194). This chapter is about her hospitalization for sickness. She continued her writing and her enemies increased day by day. They were attempts of sorcery and murder plan. The young man named Mohan came to meet her as a writer. She had regrets of bearing a outspoken writer. She loved the roses brought by him. She coaxed her doctor to discharge from the hospital.

"A Columnist"(p.199) begins with a poem and she shifted back to Bombay. As her eldest son felt ill he had been a victim of chronic rheumatic fever. He improved with two years of taking 'Penicillin'. Her husband took him to 'Dunne Institute' and admitted him in the fourth standard. Illness and her writing helped her to termed into an Ireland. The first story she published became controversial. She wanted only love and kindness. Only genuine friends arrived to seeker in her house. She typed nearly thousand words of week and wrote about the subjects the editor asked her to write on. This how writing become possible and brought her happiness.

"The Indian Poverty" (p. 203) this chapter begins with a poem during the long weeks of her rest. She was observed with recollection of her childhood days spent in Naipaul house. She describes Indian poverty. At the end of the chapter she became the president of Jyotsna arts and education society and delivered the talk to the public of her dream of starting a residential school based on 'Gurukul system'.

"A Freedom to Discompose" (P.207) is about the decay in life. Decay in nature in this chapter she describes the richness and poverty in Bombay. She became philosophical at the end of the chapter saying that 'Substance Remains the same only the forms change' She realized that she led a poultry existence thinking only of furniture and of loved once. She also realized that her destiny was entirely different from those of others. Again she had the death wish the idea of drowning herself to be rid of her loneliness. "Death a Reality" (p. 211) in this chapter she again described her falling sickness and hospitalization. She elaborately describes the medical examination in the hospital. She was observed with idea of death and expressed a faint hope of her knight's arrival and saving her from death.

Usha V.T., in her articles"One A Woman's Autobiography: Kamala Das' *My Story*" says: "Thus ,the sum total of the personal experience of one individual expressed through her autobiography becomes a part of the reporistiry of the universalized experience of woman hood."<sup>3</sup>

This it may be concluded that the work *My Story* is one of the best autobiographies of women in our country with its own minor digressions and major strengths. It is the most significant work by a major Indian English woman poet-novelist-short story writer.



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