



ROMANCE AND LOVE IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S NOVELS

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ABSTRACT

The postmodern novelist, Chetan Bhagat lays bare the aspirations of youth of metropolitan graphically in his novels. He has presented the aspirations of youth escalating to the skyline, their dreams, their adventurous and romantic pattern of life. The paper specifically explores how the youth of the metro cities continue their struggle for existence amidst romance and love. All the protagonists in his novels: 'Revolution 2020' and 'Five Point Someone' continue their struggle with specific company of opposite sex as a well planned pattern of life. Chetan Bhagat has presented the successful/ unsuccessful ventures of their innovative and original life patterns amidst romantic waves of life.

Key words- Culture, Aptitude, Aspirations, Metropolitan, Conspicuous

INTRODUCTION

There is rise of romantic novels in the postcolonial literature. Veena C's *14th Feb: A love story* is the debut novel and still is one of the best romantic novels based on Indian characters. The story of this novel is based on the fact that even if you are completely shattered, it is love which can bring you up and help you to fight all your internal and external fears that cause you trouble. Durjoy Datta's *You Were My Crush! Till You Said You Love Me!* is again a romantic novel. This story is based on the life of author's real brother Benoy Roy, which makes this story really interesting. Benoy is a lazy and spoiled rich brat who falls into the realms of love. Satyapal Chandra and Nazia Tasneem present a touching story of two innocent and ambitious B. Tech students in *For Your Beautiful Dreams*. In *Actually In Love*,

Nikita Singh has very boldly crafted the issues related to relationships and presented them from the point of view of a girl, actually a grown up girl. Nitin Vinay Khare has presented an adventurous romance in *I Loved a Street Woman*. Sudeep Nagarkar in his debut novel, *Few Things Left Unsaid*, has everything that is needed in a typical love story: Mihir Raj in *Plz. Kiss me or Kill me* presents a unique romance. Chetan Bhagat's *Revolution 2020* and *Five Point Someone* belong to the romantic plots.

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Almost all novels of Chetan Bhagat are stories of romance built around the theme of love which provides the chief motive force for starting, regulating and sustaining the machinery of the novel. In this particular respect these novels strike the note of diametrical variance with other novels of romance and love. If love does come in, it comes in the form of just physical lust giving rise to amorous situation; they possibly have sex which alien to classical romances. The pairs mark the happy ending; all the lead people go into the desired golden gates with all assurance to lead a life of prosperity and family harmony. He has never been tragic in the ending of his novel. The novel, *2 States*, ends with Ananya giving birth to twin boys. He says that the babies belong to a state called 'India'; with a thought to end inequality. *Revolution 2020* also ends on a note of marriage of the two lovers. *Five point Someone* dramatizes the same love story between Hari and Miss Neha Cheria. Chetan Bhagat's novel, *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* presents characters who are young, ambitious and passionate and have the same moral, social and religious dilemmas as many of the young Indians today. At the same time their context and sensibility too is unabashedly Indian and about the vibrating youth.

In *Five Points Someone*, Hari falls in love with the sweet Neha Cheria, daughter of Prof. Cheria. Here love is the means of all human fulfilments. This orientation comes about without a spiritualizing of love's physical basis. The pair woos each other in modern manner and come to taste the fruits of physical love and this happens in the case of Hari and Neha Cheria. Hari woos Neha in the choice of lipsticks in the following manner:

"I asked her for her lipsticks. She had five, which meant our design was below capacity. Anyway I took four- red, copper, brown and pink and placed them inside. Snug fit, snap cover- the design worked perfectly. One surface had a mirror, so the user could apply the coloured wax accurately and not paint their nostrils in the bargain.

'Why lipsticks case?'

'I don't know I like your lips I guess.' I said.

'Very funny, and you made this?' she said.

‘Yes with Ryan. See it is personalized.’ I turned the box to its lower surface. ‘Neha Cherian’, the most beautiful name in the world was written in the most beautiful letters.

‘Wow,’ Neha said softly, and then fondled the lipstick holder from the IIT Delhi machining lab like it was a newborn baby. ‘Wow,’ she said again.

‘No one has done anything like this for me,’ Neha said. (P-105, Five point Someone)

After wooing for a long time, Hari finds occasions to enjoy her company when her parents are not at her home. They always found occasions to have each other’s company and enjoy the romance of kissing each other. In another episode, they declare each other’s choice what need in each other’s company:

“Wow, how romantic! She said, ‘And I thought my loafer was pining for me and dying for me and whatever-----’

‘Oh I was,’ I said and leaned forward to hug her. It was true. I was always pining for her. She looked beautiful. Even with sore ankle, all pink and wrapped in crepe bondage, she managed to look beautiful.

‘Ouch, careful,’ she said pushing me back on the bed, ‘I know what you pine for.’

‘What’

‘My body not me, she said,’ nose up in the air.

What is the difference? I thought. You just cannot understand the girls sometimes.

‘That is not true,’ I said, just guessing that it would be the right response.

‘Come here,’ she called me and kissed me.” (P-165, Five point Someone)

The pair was slowly and slowly moving forward to the final act of sex with each other. The embraces and kisses were taking them toward consummation of carnal desires. And one day when there was no body at home, the pair got the sufficient time to enjoy each other’s company at the home of Neha Cherian. Both were ht and could not go without the final act of consummation, as the novelist writes in the following words:

“I curled up next to her and held her. She turned her face towards me, almost in reflex. We kissed, and then we kissed again. Then she held my hand and did something that she had never done before; she put it on her breast.

My hand slid under her T-shirt and then clumsily under The Bra. Life would be so much better without hooks.

‘Easy Tiger easy,’ she said. I liked it that she called me Tiger.

She sat up to remove her T-shirt. And then the rest. I sat there transfixed, trying hard not to let my tongue hang loose and pant like a dog.

‘Well Tiger, are you going to remove anything or not?’ she asked me.

‘I-- I----’I said as she pulled me close.

Half an hour later, we lay on the bed, spent but completely content. I looked up at the old ceiling fan in Neha’s room, going around in awkward circles and felt dizzy with happiness.” (P-168, Five point Someone) Both Hari and Neha were content with the consummation of sex. The journey of their love had almost touched the climax of the love life.

In *Revolution 2020*, the lovers, Gopal and Aarti also seek the consummation of carnal desires, journeying from the romance upto the final act of sex. Gopal and Aarti start their romance on the Ganga Assi Ghat in the semi darkness of early dawn boating to the far destination. Slowly and slowly Gopal grew conscious of the fact that she may not marry Raghav, an engineering graduate from IT BHU. Gopal makes his career as the Director of the Engineering College, without any degree of engineering. It is mere the miracle of corruption that he rises to the height of Directorship of the college. But he aspires for Aarti somehow to achieve with the power of money and influence that he creates in due course of time. Aarti was working in the Ramada hotel as the receptionist and Gopal wanted to use some occasion to have the consummation of physical love in her company. The young couple is aspirant for the materialization of their desire for lust merely.

In order to fulfill his desires for love and sex, Gopal Mishra gets the room booked in Ramada hotel where Aarti is working as a receptionist in the name senior faculty visiting the place. This is clear from their dialogue:

‘Aarti, this is Mr. Gopal Mishra, director of Ganga Tech. He is in 2105. Please escort him to his room.’

‘Sure sure,’ Aarti said, still in shock. She stood up. We walked toward the elevator. A housekeeping staff member entered the elevator with us. We couldn’t talk. She only spoke in the second floor corridor.

‘Gopal what are you doing here?’ she whispered. She continued to walk two steps ahead of me.

I had my story ready. I couldn’t tell Aarti. I had booked a room just for us.

‘We had a senior faculty coming from London. (P-212, Revolution 2020)

Gopal Mishra was playing the trick to fall Aarti in her trap. He was visualizing her beauty, as it is evident from the following dialogue between the two: “We reached 2105. She opened

the room with the magnetic key card. She looked beautiful in her uniform, a formal sari, with her hair – every strand of it- locked in a bun.

'You are crazy, Gopal,' she said. 'Anyway, I better go.'

I stay on the single- seater sofa in the room. 'Stay,' I said.

'I can't .I am on duty.'

'After six? It's five thirty already,' I said.

'I can't be in a guest's room!'

'You know this guest,' I said.

'You did not plan this? She said.

'Let us hang out hereafter you finish,' I said.

'How?' she said. 'It is not allowed.'

'You only do things you are allowed to.' I said.

'No.' she said, 'but –'

'You don't have the guts,' I said.

That is not the case,' she said and stood up. 'And you know it.'

'Nobody will find out,' I said. 'Finish work and come. We will eat here and leave in an hour or so.'

'If room service sees me?' she said.

'You hide in the toilet when they come,' I said. (P-213-14, Revolution 2020)

This is how the young lovers plan for the fulfillment of their desires in a clever manner. This is the way they plan to seek out pleasure in the company of each other in isolation where

nobody could catch hold of them. The parents of the girl feels secured she is in her duty at the hotel. The young girl is equally ready for the final act of sex, but with a difference of tact. She loves whisky, chicken and sex.

Here is the episode how she joins the lover waiting for her. As she becomes free from her duty and joins him in full freedom as it is evident:

“She kicked off her shoes and sat cross-legged on the bed. I went to pour her more wine.

‘I will get high,’ she said but extended her glass. She sipped and checked the time. The bed-side clock said 08:30 p.m.

‘How long can you stay?’ I asked.

‘Until nine,’ she said. ‘Half an hour more.’

‘Ten?’ I said.

She shook her head. ‘Mom will ask hundred questions. Unless--- I tell her I have to do a double shift,’ she said.

‘Tell her that,’ I said immediately.

‘I have to stay for eight more hours then. Till 2 a.m.’ (P-216, Revolution 2020)

This is how the young couple behaves in order to fulfill its desires. The two lovers were enjoying whisky in the romantic company and watching the love scenes on the TV screens. When they got hot, their passions were on the climax, they sought pleasures. The loneliness, the effect of the liquor, the TV screen, all lead them to fervent kisses as the novelist records in the following words:

“I kissed her again and again, this time more insistently.

I slid my other hand under her shirt. Thank God, men have two hands, nobody could make otherwise-----

I shut her up with another kiss. She wriggled a little, but I kept kissing her. She started to respond. Slow at first, then matching and finally outpacing me.

“Gopal,’ she said and held me close. Passion repressed for year came forth unleashed.’ (P-220-21, Revolution 2020)

This is how the novelist delineates the very act of pacifying the pent up passions of life in the lovers. This clearly speaks of the aspirations of the young people in metro cities so far as the love and romance is concerned. Whenever they get or concoct occasion for the expression of their lustful emotions, they give way to it and relish their sweet love.

The novelist has caught the very nerve breaking moments of love and romance. The youth is aspirant for the internalizing of the feeling of love and romance in his novels. The youth no doubt wishes to get the best education in the premier institutes leading them to the handsome salary packages. They stand on their sound footing, but their aspiration for the union of love pairs is equally strong as depicted in the novels of Chetan Bhagat. Some pairs succeed but some fail to unite in their life time. Both successful and unsuccessful love has been portrayed in the novels with details. Apart from the settlement in life through best educations, the protagonists think of settling their family by choosing life partners from their own environment and enjoy life to the best and this their main aspiration of life.

Notes & References

1. *Bhagat, Chetan, Revolution 2020, New Delhi: Rupa Publications, 2011. P-1.*

Subsequent quotations from this novel are from this edition and page numbers are given in parentheses.

2. *Bhagat, Chetan, Five Point Someone, New Delhi: Rupa Publications, 2004. P-34.*

Subsequent quotations from this novel are from this edition and page numbers are given in parentheses.