

POSTMODERN IDEAS IN MANJU KAPUR'S NOVEL 'CUSTODY'

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Abstract

ManjuKapur is an eminent writer of 20th century. Custody (2011), her fifth novel is exceptional and about upper-middle-class colonies of Delhi in the mid -90s. It is a story of custody of children and the Indian Judicial system. Kapur encapsulates the lives of opulent, metropolitan middle- class Indians life, relationships, wealth, determination, and tranquility. Kapur evaluates the modern life as the story encircle around Raman and Shagun who are couples along with fascinating Ashok Khanna, Raman's boss and Ishitha, divorcee who suffers with infertility. Custody consists the plot of metropolitan upper middle class lives in modern society. Kapur utilizes the establishment of marriage in the Custod;, explains the story of two wretched families by divorce. A sequence of altercation follows along with disagreements, intense Conversation reveals the wicked side of divorce. It explains how the main protagonist, Shagunlooses healthy family life, husband and children by her extravagance. Inspite of all her trials she gets nothing expect distress. Especially parents give importance to their own freedom.

Key Words: *Divorce, remarriage, possessiveness, custody, distress, disintegration, family.*

Custody is written by ManjuKapur. Kapur brings the theme of independence to women's life. *Custody*, is the fifth novel of Kapur. The novel is set in the year of 1990s. The theme is a of 20th century marriage life. Both the arranged and the couples of love marriage live in the modern society. Many couple get married and very soon apply for a divorce in a family court.. Parents do not care about their own childrens. Parents thinks only their own freedom of will..

Custody is the story of Raman the husband, and his wife Shagun. Both Raman and Shagun belong the middle class families. They are happily living with two children. Their children are Arjun and Roohi. Raman is working as a marketing executive for a global beverage company. His wife Shagun is a very clever girl. Arjun is eight years old boy and another child is roohi, who is two years old. The novel starts with Raman and Shagun who are happily living.

After Shagun meets Ashok, (Raman's Boss), then Raman's life totally changes. Shagun meets Ashok and they fall in love with each other. The battle rises between husband and wife. Shagun asks for divorce from Raman, Raman is quite shocked. Raman wants to know the reason for divorce. Shagun tells that, she wants independence, freedom, relief and enjoyment of her own life. She wants to do something which can keep her in luxury life. Shagun does not accept her the idea of being a dutiful housewife. Shagun has decided what she wants to do, or what she can do. She asks Raman for a divorce. But he turns into a vengeful person.

In another part of Delhi, Ishita, whose marriage Collapses, because she has no issues of her own. She tries to find some satisfaction and a sense of identity in society. But she abandons it when she meets the divorced Raman. She believes she can be happy as a stepmother.

In the second half of the novel, the story focuses on the custody of the children, the bitter legal battle and the price of freedom. At the beginning of the story it is seen that Raman is in his traditional role of father and husband, and the head of the family. Kapur offers an excellent example of a fragmented marriage and its consequences on children who are treated like pawns in a game of chess. Before her marriage Shagun wanted to become a model. Whenever Shagun meets Ashok Khanna the dreams again raises in her mind. After breaking the marriage, the children remain quietly in the background until the novel's second half. It is then that the disastrous effects of the bitter fight for the *Custody* of studals being and the tyranny of blood and their trauma, torn between two mothers, two home and two countries ensue. While the parents are embroiled in a legal battle for custody of the children, they do everything they can make the children feel worse. Their son is a replica of Shagunin being selfish, cruel, and indifferent to anything. The children find their own ways to tackle the crisis, because they are confused and feel divided. Loyalty swarm around them, throwing them into tough, emotionally disturbing situation with their parents being worst of all. The falter realizes that marriage to Shagun whom he had loved blindly had been a big mistake. One who has children too would also pay a heavy prize. The novel asks questions on who will get Custody of the Kids. It becomes the question for Raman and Shagun. The novel, is the hat a true story of modern marriage that exists around us. This is true in today's world. The writer indicate that children is god's gife in every parent's life. The modern world does not think so. The parents seek their own will. The parents have affair with someone or else . But they do not look after the interest of their own children.

Custody is the riveting story of how love can disinteragate into an obsession towards possessing children, body and soul. It a chilling story. Critique of the Indian judicial system. Kapur's narratives, deal with the marriages that collapse, social hypocrisies and battle for children mixed with anguish, , oppression, violence, possessiveness, and disintegration. The

brutal and familial disagreements had bad impression on the innocent mind of the children. Kapur is known for books on women centered themes which take on end of the long term marriage, divorce and the subsequence *Custody* battle. She shows how a modern housewife can think of not wanting to stay in a relationship and looks for liberation and happiness outside her home. Such a stance does not make one want to hate there children . Kapur says that the women want freedom, independence, and do not like to remain as housewives. They wish to live equally in society. That is the main concept of the novel, '*Custody*'

CONCLUSION

Before postmodernism people followed their own tradition and culture. The people belived that a marriage can be only once. that means only one husband and one wife lifelong. But, after the postmodern period normally human beings, are breaking the traditions. When the married life get boring the couples are easily apply for divorce. And after getting the divorce the they are married to another person and are leading happy life. Nowadays both men and women only thinks of their own freedom. Children may be happy in such context.

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