



A Review Of Dark Side Of Glamour World In Bollywood In The Views Of Shobha De'S Novel Starry Nights

¹Deepak Sharma, Research Scholar, Department of English, Singhania University

²Dr. Ritu Tomar Rathi, Assistant Professor, Government College of Girls, Gurgaon

Abstract : 'Starry nights' by Shobha De portrays the story of Aasha Rani and Akshay that is based on a real life love story of two pairs of celluloid stars. It was a best seller in India after which Shobha De became the house name for a special class of people. De emphasized her creative excellence by using the cinematic flash back method of

ISSN 2454-308X



technique and thereby makes the narrator to tell the events with the benefit of hindsight. Sometimes she uses interior monologue to help the characters to analyse themselves and brings out the suppressed desires lying in the deep mind of the characters. For an example, Aasha Rani in Starry Night, quite often undertakes her journey between past and present and thereby tries to come back to the time and the society, in which she is part and parcel.

Shobha De also uses controlled method of stream of consciousness techniques, that is necessary to the story for an instance as depicted in Socialite evening. Though there is similar techniques in Anitha Desai or Shashi Deshpande's fiction, De brings her own technique to narrate her story in her novels. The book provides useful insight as how women and their relationships work in the high societies and what options they seek to remain in the relationship, and how to keep alive their physical desires. She portrays the true picture of modern metropolitan life. Her novels deal with men and women of urban elite class their obsessions, disappointments and insecurities. Human relationships in De's novels were important to see the fun, feelings, stress and struggle in their lives. She is esteemed for writing proper trashy romance lit and pseudo-erotica. Her art is easily apprehensible and is upright to show the bare disclosure of urban elite society, but she executed through the medium of art and exquisiteness, feeling and form. Her Art may not like by the readers but it has been fruitful to her to expose the absurd situation of the metropolitan elites. It spreads the message of revolting back for the rights of the woman which has a strong voice of objection and an outburst of suppression and discrimination of women in patriarchal society. She exhibits her characters in numerous types of relationships.



Human Relationships in Shobhaa De's Novels : readers know best. Round characters stand like a pillar and fully support the story and are never bothered by the supporting characters. They look natural and real, on the other hand the flat characters are utilitarian. She brings the liveability in the novels by providing the great effect to the action of the characters while describing the joy and sorrow. She also describes the sex scenes, love scenes, their psyche and relationships with great gusto. Not only this she handles the thoughts of the characters and brings the liveability in the scenes. The characters chosen are amazingly beautiful, ruthlessly ambitious, filthily rich youngsters who love and hate each other in a said relationship.

Her female characters are rich, beautiful, surefooted and assertive who combines the flapper's physical freedom, sexuality and stamina with feminist self-assertiveness and traditional domestic femininity. Males are painted in gloomy colours as they are passive, involuntary, unresponsive and rigid. Shobhaa De though a student of psychology possess feminist cum humanistic approach towards life. She stands behalf of the acquisition of Indian English Literature. The backdrop highlights the evolution of Indian English Literature. A transition of English Literature culminates through many forms such as Indo-Anglian, Indo-English, Indian writing in English and recently Indian English literature which manifests modern thoughts, modern life, despite the utterances of fallacious reasoning, patriotic duty and political prejudices it remains good enough and proves itself. It facilitates to focus the readers mental responsiveness and awareness.

Many women novelists reflected their portrayals very beautifully like Shobhaa De and depicted a common relation between past and present, cognitive content and contemporaneity and it is a strong sense of Indianness which has proved an individual identity in Indian writing in English. Shobhaa De's fiction focuses every variety of heterosexuality, homosexuality, sexual behaviours, psyche of women and her problems.

Starry Nights : Viji, a dark chubby girl from Madras was pushed into blue films by her own mother, Amma. Later she ventured into the film industry by the famous producer Kishanbhai. He advise her to sleep with the appropriate people to secure her role and renamed Viji as 'Aasha Rani'. Eventually, Kishanbhai falls in love with her. The thirst of filmi world and interest she successfully moves in filmi world.



While working in the film industry, she falls in love with Akshay Arora who is a sex symbol in the movies. He beats her many times. Slowly he gets bore with Aasha Rani and Akhsay's wife declare to one of the magazine that earlier she was a porn actress. Later she met a Parliament member, Sheth Amirchand, who support her to flourish her career in return of her body. One day she asks Akshay Arora to get marry to her but he refuses and due to this she attempts suicide. She befriended with a lesbian girl Lida who write juicy column on suicide attempt of Aasha Rani.

The protagonist Aasha Rani and Akshay : The central character in starry nights is Asha rani. She is dark sweet girl from Chennai. She is trying hard to become a film star. Her amma instigated her to be in the film world by hook or by crook. When she was fifteen years she has to sleep with Kishenbhai, one film producer to get the chance in film. He sponsored one film for her and also helped her to get the appropriate persons to get the roles. In the process Kishenbhai falls in love with Ashs Rani but it was too late as she already gets engaged with Akhshay Arora who was a famous bollywood star rather sex symbol. Asha Rani sent her amma back to Chennai when one day she tries to stop Akshay to bit Asha. In later days Akshay gets bored with Asha and as he was married returns back to his wife. The worst part is the actor reveals in one of the leading magazine that Asha is a pornographic actress and he doesn't want to do any role with her. Eventually she gets attached to Sheth Amirchand, a Member of Parliament and starts working under his control. After some days she goes to Chennai to do an art film. But her love for Akshay is still there so she tries to rekindle it. But gets frustrated after knowing that his love for her is only because of her stardom. She attempts suicide but failed to do so. In the process she marries a New Zealander named Jay and has a child with him. Eventually Akshay gets AIDS because of his lifestyle. Asha returned to New Zealand and finally after many incidents decides to come back to India and make Sasha, Asha Rani's daughter a prospering film star.

Aasha rani an Ashay arora leads the story. However there are many characters in the book such as useless journalist, pimp mother, bed distributors, producers and actors of course. Aasha Rani once a porn actress become the starlet of bollywood. The events occurred in her life are hot



possibly, but cheap too. This book is filmy type, and warts - and - all, yet gripping to some degree. The readers finally say that *Starry nights* - a spiced -up, fast - paced novel, *Starry Nights*, the second novel of Shobha De, is said be based on real-time Bollywood affairs. Hence the book is also being referred as ‘Bollywood Nights’. The novel was a good success in early 1990’s. As an upshot, it cemented Shobha De’s position in the Indian literature arena as a bold novelist. She is often referred as a bold novelist because she features female characters in her books and sex is something inseparable. The novel was in the limelight because of its Bollywood-oriented theme. This book, some say, has done considerably damage to the reputation of Bollywood stars, for instance, Amitabh Bachan and Rekha and some more star affairs.

The protagonist of the book is Aasha Rani, a dark, chubby girl from Madras who has striven for seven years to become a famous Bollywood starlet. Her mother, Amma, has pushed her to attain this status by selling herself into the world of blue films before she was twelve years old, and when she was fifteen to Kishenbhai, a once-famous producer who was encouraged by Amma to take her as a lover in exchange for a film role. Kishenbhai, unable to secure a role for her any other way, finances a film with his own money after promoting her as the newest Bollywood starlet and having her sleep with the appropriate people to secure her attention and renaming her from Viji to Aasha Rani. He then proceeds to fall madly in love with her, who abandons him as she strives to get ahead in the filmi world, fully aware that she was just being used by him at first and is thus unable to return the affection of the older man.

She falls in love with Akshay Arora, a famous Bollywood sex symbol who stars in a string of hits with her. Amma, who had been living with her in Mumbai, was sent away to Madras by Aasha for objecting to Akshay beating her one day. Eventually Akshay gets bored with her and after his wife confronts her unsuccessfully about her affair with her husband, he reveals to Showbiz magazine that she was a former pornographic actress, and effectively has her blackballed from making further films. When she accosts him at a society party about this, he beats her. Sheth Amirchand, a Member of Parliament and the gangster that controls most of the Mumbai underworld, then takes an interest in Aasha Rani and she becomes his lover and restarts



her career under his protection. She then has an affair with Linda, a gossip columnist for Showbiz magazine and Abhijit Mehra, the son of an industrialist, who is about to be married. Linda advises her to go to the south and do an art film, which she does, where she tries to seduce the director only to find that he is impotent. Her interest in her work declines as she continues to obsess over Akshay Arora. She confronts him at a traffic light as their cars are next to each other and their affair is rekindled for a short time. She attempts to get Akshay to marry her, but when it becomes apparent that his interest in her is only due to his flagging stardom and not out of affection for her, she attempts suicide.

Conclusion :

Shobha De's novel *Starry Nights* is a novel which portrays different faces of women. The writer thinks that the only way a woman can reach the ladder of success is "SEX". That's what the heroine of the novel has done. Shobha has given an elaborated of sexual scenes between Aasha Rani the heroine and various people whom she knows and with unknown people too which I think is a bit strange.

The heroine never hesitates to have sex with these filmwalas as if it's a regular routine of her life. It's amazing when she claims that her true love is Akshay Kumar the famous film star who meets a tragic end.

There is another face of woman portrayed by Shobha De in the form of Aasha Rani's mother who instigates her daughter to use sex to become a successful heroine. There's a scene where she herself unhooks her daughter's blouse while doing a blue film.

References :

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starry_Nights
2. *Starry Nights - Shobha De Reviews*
3. *Book Review: Starry Nights by Shobha De*
4. *THE EMERGENCE OF NEW WOMEN IN THE NOVELS OF SHOBHA DE* by Gupta, Rashmi
5. *Manifestations of Love: A Critical Analysis Through Shobha De's Novels* by Deepanjali Mishra