



Bharati Mukherjee's Wife - A Catastrophe Of Unmet Hallucination

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Abstract

The novel 'Wife' by Bharati Mukherjee is examined as a tragedy caused by unmet dreams. Dimple, the heroine of 'wife,' looks to be a person who lives in an imagined world, beyond reality, where she fantasizes about a beautiful spouse and a perfect life, but when her fantasies come true, she finds herself in a situation where she must choose between her. Unsatisfied, she murders her husband, believing that, as she witnessed in the movie, no one will ever catch her for murder. In the majority of serials as a result, 'Wife' can be interpreted as a tragedy brought about by unmet dreams of an imbalanced personality.

Keywords: Fancy, Americanization, Destructive Impulse, Identity, Dissociated Personality.

1. Introduction

This is an attempt to evaluate the character Dimple from Bharati Mukherjee's novel "Wife." Bharati Mukherjee is a well-known contemporary novelist. In her novels, she represents the female mind, cross-cultural themes, and the search for identity quite well. Dimple is the heroine of the novel "Wife," and she is the wife of Amit, a young engineer. In her life, the protagonist has to deal with numerous issues. The purpose of this paper is to investigate Dimple as a person with unique psychological needs and her reactions to them are shaped by her past experiences as well as her distinct psychology.

2. A Catastrophe of Unmet Hallucination

Dimple's girlish vision about marriage opens the novel. She dreams of marrying her prince charming, whose ardent advances and glances will bathe her in love and supreme happiness. In Dimple's mind, daily chores, and struggles have no place with day-to-day issues such as water shortages, power outages, and adjusting to in-laws. Her spouse, Amit, a young guy her parents consider suited for her, fails to feed her. fancy. The monotony of marriage is a strain for Dimple. She hadn't planned on living in the dark with her mother-in-law in a filthy apartment. Dimple can't seem to find any happiness in her married life. Calcutta yearns to visit the United States.

Her new problems begin in the United States. Despite his struggles to find work, Amit attempts to make her happy in every way he can. Because he has to work long hours, he cannot spend 100% of his time with his wife. Dimple concludes that he is uninterested in her. She and her friends used to spend hours together watching television. She spends most of her time watching movies and television shows

that contain murder. Unable to cope with her condition, she stabs Amit in the neck with a kitchen knife one night as he returns home from work, and she sits smugly afterward, knowing that murders in television serials are never caught. This is the last step in her Americanization process.

This description reveals that the story is a tragedy resulting from unmet dreams of an unbalanced personality lacking grace and decency and failing to grow out of adolescent fantasies. Several issues, such as acclimating to a new community and finding work, are explored in this novel.

Hunting, frustrations, and hopes shattered. To Indians, America is the land of opportunity. The fleece of Gold However, once there, they face incredible obstacles, shattering their hopes. Since Amit is the breadwinner, he must deal with these obstacles and the struggle to obtain work. According to Amit, Dimple is free of all these anxieties and should consider herself fortunate.

So, what exactly is Dimple's issue? "It is difficult to consider the story as a study of culture shock for even when in Calcutta, Dimple is an escapist and immersed in her inner world of imagination," Jasbir Jain remarks.

Dimple is a portrait of a strange woman. Her character has two distinct characteristics: the apparent helplessness of a dependent person combined with an aggressive personality's desire to revolt and master anybody who comes into contact with her. Anyone can detect whiny undertones in her demeanor.

Dimple is portrayed as a young woman who is in a great hurry to marry her dream boyfriend. She comes across as shallow and unimpressive. She only wants parties, glamour, and love in her life. As a result, her outlook on life is unrealistic.

Dimple's parents were concerned about her marriage, with the mother assisting her in resolving her beauty issues and the father looking for the perfect match for her. But Dimple has constructed a dream world for herself, secluded from the rest of the world.

Dimple's primary goal in life is to marry. "Discreet and virgin, she waited for real life to begin" is what she sets her entire cheval to the time she has to wait while her parents look for a suitable groom seems to elude her. It makes her jittery, nauseated, and worried. Her worries are also related to her deficiencies in terms of shape and complexion, as she urgently wants to fit into the category of a suitable match.

Dimple Dasgupta, like many Bengali girls, had been raised to believe that her love fantasies will be realized through emancipation into the wisdom of an arranged marriage, and thus she waits for a bridegroom to come and court her.

Years of waiting have made her uneasy, making her more susceptible to colds, coughs, and headaches than she should be. Years wasted—she was twenty—lay in her body like a heavyweight, giving her eyes the look of a watchful squirrel and her spine a little bend.

She fantasizes about being the most beautiful woman, so she writes to Mrs. Problemwala for help with her physical issues. But her desire stays unfulfilled because she did not deserve to be the most beautiful due to her mediocre beauty.

She gives an ethereal perspective to something as mundane as marriage. Even when she imagines her marriage, she imagines a man assembled from several advertisements, with diverse attributes borrowed from several advertisements.

She anticipates a magical transformation in her life, similar to Cinderella's, through the fairy's magic wand. Dimple also anticipates a new level of self-expression as a result of marriage: "That was supposed to be the finest part of getting married — being free and expressing yourself."

As a result, she has unrealistic expectations of marriage, only to realize that, rather than delivering her into a life of promises, it makes things much more difficult for her. In place of her dreams of wealth and abundance, she is confronted with the harsh reality of poverty and scarcity.

Dimple desired a different kind of life—a Chowringhee flat, Chinese girls doing her hair, excursions to New Market for nylon saris—so she put her trust in neurosurgeons and architects. When she finally meets Amit, though, all of her fantasies come crashing down to earth. Marriage, rather than releasing her, traps her in a more complicated tie in which she feels trapped and suffocated. All of her desires have been suffocated.

Dimple's increasing disdain for marriage begins when she is repeatedly exposed as a chattel for potential matchmaking. The patronizing comments about her physical characteristics are held in front of her, which is excruciating. Mrs. Basu objected to the name Dimple, which she thought was too frivolous and un-Bengali, and the candidate's sister, Mrs. Ghose, thought Dimple was a little darker than the photograph represented. When Dimple's friend Pixie remarks about Amit: "Your short dark prince charming", she gets a jolt. She had imagined Amit to be a fantastic tall handsome man.

Other later disappointments come in the shape of daily difficulties. For example, she learns that she will have to fill the water from below at her in-laws because the flat is small and the stairs are dark. The pressures of her post-marital role fill her with anxiety, including the need to please everyone.

Dimple had anticipated her role as wife, seeing it as a form of liberation, but she eventually realises how difficult it was for her to keep quiet and smile even as she crumbled like an old toy that had been abused by children who pretended to love her.

She admires ideal wives like Seeta as part of her wifedom, but she resents being a wife in the Basu family and fights against wifedom in numerous ways. One method is for her to cause a miscarriage by skipping out on her pregnancy, which she regards as a Basu property even in the womb. This incident highlights the awful strength she holds beneath her seemingly meek and domestic persona. Through such violent outbursts, she lets out her pent-up frustrations. Dimple and the mouse are linked by the pregnancy motif:

Its body was unusually enlarged. A little creature with a large stomach. The dead mouse appeared pregnant to Dimple. The rat's death is a terrible act that represents her rage, despair, and depression, as well as the life of a pest. Her destructive nature is demonstrated by her murdering "a goldfish in a glass bowl," as well as the rat and her fetus. Dimple pretends to be happy, but her painful post-marital experiences take their toll on her mental health, manifesting in her becoming neurotic.

3. Conclusion

Joyful people did not talk to themselves and did not pretend that they were not talking to themselves. "Dimple Basu is a happy woman," she stated once more.

Dimple is rapidly losing her sense of self. Horney claims that the reaction to the deteriorating process can be harsh. And, given the grave danger of self-destructive behavior, this response is perfectly acceptable as long as one feels helpless before these cruel forces.

Dimple resorts to escape to give her life significance and to preserve herself from self-hatred. Dreaming of America is her favourite pastime. That country would most likely give her life meaning and confirm her identity. Even in the United States, though, she is miserable and prefers to flee.

Dimple does not fit in anywhere because of her strange personality. She begins to lose her sense of safety. Her true self is put to the side. She sought to consider herself as a "different" being once she married and moved to Calcutta. Unlike her in-laws, the Basus, she prefers to maintain her identity as a separate and distinct individual. She attempts to avoid being Americanized in the United States. Instead,

she promotes her Indianness in the hopes of gaining fame. She fantasizes about taking on other identities. As a result, she becomes progressively disconnected. As a result of her unfulfilled goals, she murders Amit and causes disaster..

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