
Technocrats Vision behind the Conventional Family Structures - An Ironical Insight into the leads of Manju Kapur's *Custody* and Chetan Bhagat's *2 States*.

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ABSTRACT:

*Education has a vital role to play in the modern world. Many of the young talents are emerging to IITs, NITs, IISs and IIMs. Some of these outputs are flying abroad to aggrandize their technical skills. As a token of gratitude some are rendering services in the corporate sectors in their own motherland. Whatever they are and wherever they are, they have certain traditional morals which follow them like a shadow. How are the youngsters able to cope up between the aged traditions and modernity? The present article focuses on the conventional marriages of two IIT and IIM returns. In spite of their supercalifragilisticexpialidocious talents they have their stumbling blocks in their post and pre married lives. The male leads of Manju Kapur's *Custody* Raman and Chetan Bhagat's *Krish in 2 States* clearly depict the modern scenario amidst the chaos in family traditions. The perceptions of a female author and a male author are vividly delineated through their portrayals. One logically puts forward the emotional disturbances created by infidelity and the other directly brings out the traumas of love marriage, where the consent of parents on either side is vital.*

Key Words: Patriarchy, matriarchy, gender discrimination, infidelity, etc...

Indian English Fiction has been fortunate to have a writer like Manju kapur. The first print *Difficult Daughters* won the Commonwealth Award for the Eurasian region. She won her reputation by creating the internal emotional conflicts of her protagonists in assiduous manner. She equally shows the tribulations of men to sustain a healthy family but with their natural domination. Chetan Bhagat is the author of seven novels and many of his creations were turned to movies creating successful wonders to the directors. As he was a student of the elite institutions in India, his characters are mostly focused on young people. Manju Kapur as well as Chetan Bhagat hails from north India. As they are the part of Punjab and Delhi, their novels twin around their hometowns.

People in India have a general belief that once a student enters IIT, his life has hit a home run. May be it can be true because they move heaven and earth to achieve the outcome. But they have their own hurdles in their life. They have to overcome the tribulations for having a fruitful life. Raman, burned the midnight oil to get a seat in IIT and later explored all avenues to get admission in IIM, Ahmedabad. He worked for an Indian company and later was shifted to The Brand. As Raman was a real eager beaver, he was blessed with a good economical status. When it was time for him to marry his mother searched Shagun for him. Shagun, the green-eyed beauty immediately attracted Raman and he decided to marry her. May be he thought the physical beauty is more important than the inner beauty.

He denied his mother who doubted, “How stunningly beautiful she is, realized a frightened Mrs Kaushik, can such a woman really be a homemaker?” (21) But Raman pacified his mother and they got married and he stayed away from his parents. Though his mother wanted his son to be with them, his father could understand the situation and he didn’t want his son to suffer between his wife and mother. So they had an independent life away from the patriarchal and matriarchal dominations. By god’s grace they were blessed with two kids Arjun, who shared his mother’s looks and Roohi, her father’s looks.

Raman’s job made him to travel and Shagun was left alone with her children. She became moody with his continuous tours, but Raman couldn’t make out what was going in her life. He thought he was a good husband and son-in-law as he always cared for his family. Mrs.Sabharwal was happy with Raman “When he took Shagun to see a film he always bought a ticket for her as well, to assure her that she was not losing a daughter, but gaining a son.” (25) On the other hand Shagun had a miserable life, “Later she decided she must have been unhappier than she realized. She had been brought up to marry, to be wife, mother and daughter-in-law. She had never questioned this destiny, it was the one pursued by everyone she knew.” (26). The unhappy situation attached wings to it and made her to choose her husband’s boss as a lover.

Raman couldn’t guess his wife’s indifferent attitude, he thought maybe it was the second child whom she didn’t want. Raman’s true love didn’t expect him to suspect his wife. The first suspicion arose when she rejected him. He hired a detective agency which supplied his wife’s clandestine affair. He couldn’t digest the matter as he never had experienced a failure in his life. He suffered for the first time in his life and the shock intensely made his heart hurt and the company became poorer by spending 5 lakhs on his cardiac problem.

Raman knew in such instances the children would be the sufferers. So he wanted his wife to think over the matter for the sake of children. Though Shagun was ready to accept the boring life with Raman, Ashok Khanna didn’t allow her to return to her husband. She left according to her wish throwing the family’s reputation into streets. She wanted divorce for which Raman disagreed and she kidnapped the children. Raman’s male ego was hurt and the fight began for the custody of children. At last Raman could get his children with visitation rights to the mother with a mutual consent for divorce. But by the time children had come to him, they were disturbed by the changes in their family.

Raman was introduced to Ishita, a divorcee. Ishita, a loving and caring daughter of Rajora’s , the neighbours of Kaushik’s had undergone trauma after enjoying her married life for four years. She was married to Suryakanta, an engineering graduate who could not ultimately accept his infertile wife. Ishita’s self-reliant character didn’t bother them much and the divorce was granted with mutual consent. The ambitious mothers of Ishita and Raman made the couple to get engaged. Raman could get a complete family with Ishita as she cared for the family. Arjun was polluted by his mother’s words and couldn’t accept Ishita as his step mother. May be it was difficult for the boy to accept another woman in his mother’s place. But how could the same boy accept Ashok Khanna as his father and join in DPA academy?

Raman’s years of turmoil had not helped him to succeed in his married life. Though his education and family helped him to be imperturbable he couldn’t satisfy his wife. The equation which he applied in his first part of marriage was totally a flop, but the same equation helped him to be a successful man in his second phase of married life. His brilliance

or his energy levels to lead a company couldn't help him in his marriage with Shagun. They in turn ruined his reputation and family life.

Not every IITian and IIM returned story could be the same. Chetan Bhagat's *2 States* is a different story. It's a struggle between two young people Krish Malhotra and Ananya Swaminathan, who were friends at IIM Ahmedabad. Krish Malhotra, an IIT return met Ananya at their IIM institution and eventually fell in love with one another. Love seems to be so hopeful until the time arrives for them to consider about marriage. There are no barriers for love, but unfortunately marriage has many constraints. The couple who fall in love will never have time to think of their families until the thought of marriage springs up in their mind. As both of them were brought up in traditional families, the consent of their families was important. Along with different traditions, they are from two different states, Krish from a Punjabi family from Delhi and Ananya from a Tamil Brahmin family.

Though Ananya and Krish were highly qualified they gave importance to their families. Krish was a little tensed when he thought of their parents approval but Ananya was sure, "C'mon, mine are a bit conservative. But we are their overachieving children, the ultimate middle-class fantasy kids. Why would they have an issue?" (39). Will it be so easy for parents from two different states to accept their children wish? It was a catch 22 situation the two families wanted the ball to be in their courts. Ananya and Krish got selected in HLL and Citibank. On the convocation day they want their parents to have a nice meeting. They wanted an outing hoping Gandhi Ashram would be the best as it indicates peace and national integration. But Krish's mother started hurting the parents saying, "I am under control. These south Indians don't know how to control their daughters. From Hema Malini to Sridevi, all of them trying to catch Punjabi men." (48) How could Krish's mother forget that love is not a one-sided affair? The pleasant and peaceful tour of Gandhi Ashram turned to an emotional violent battle between the parents. Instead of developing an understanding between them they had a fight fire with fire.

Whatever may be the parent's opinion, Krish opted Chennai for his posting where Ananya was working for her HLL. Now it was the time for Krish to prove himself before Ananya parents. He was stuck between the Citi Bank and Ananya's house. To win the hearts of Ananya parents, Krish became a tutor to teach IIT subjects to her brother. Krish set his foot facing the challenges thrown by their parents. He had to tolerate the man, an IITian who had come to see Ananya. He utilized the chance of helping Ananya's father for making the Bank of Baroda, Egmore district business plan. Both Mr. Swaminathan and Krish had good discernment while Ananya and her mother were away. He stayed at their house at nights to complete the presentation. The sapling started to grow into a small plant aiming to become a big tree. "Excellent presentation, that is what the board told Dad in Delhi. Now they've asked all zonal offices to make similar ones," Ananya said in an excited voice." (150) But still the tree have to grow to give fruits. Ananya's mother was hostile towards both of them. She poured out her agonized feelings to her daughter, "You are my daughter, do you understand? You are spoiling our name in the community, do you understand? I brought you up, educated you, made sacrifices for you, do you understand?" (151). She couldn't accept the close intimacy of her daughter with her boy friend.

The Citibank arranged a music concert for the customers and Krish encouraged Ananya's mother Radha to sing for the occasion. Naturally South Indian women are too diffident; they feel they are not recognized. Suppose a chance walks to their doorsteps they hesitate and try

to hide themselves. Krish knew Ananya's mother was good at singing, so he confidentially made arrangements for her to sing in the great Citibank event. Radha was so reluctant and afraid about her concert in the public. But Krish's encouragement made her to participate in the event and she was recognized by the whole city. She could never forget the comments S.P. Balasubramaniam had made about her, "Good evening, Chennai, and thank you, Citibank. Before I begin, I want to praise Radha for her wonderful singing. The songs were popular, but I can see she has a strong classical base. Do you sing often, Radha?" (179) He could kill two birds. As Ananya says he could butter up the entire family.

It cost an arm and leg for Krish to get the permission from Ananya's parents. He bought gold rings for all the four members and invited them to dinner and put his proposal before them. They were happy and agreed but Ananya's mother had her own apprehensions, "I know he will take care of you. But will Krish's parents treat my daughter with respect?" (184). May be she was baffled by Krish mother's satirical comments. Krish was successful in making Ananya's parents happy. Krish got transferred to Delhi his hometown where Ananya should prove herself.

Krish's father was typical. Whenever Ananya asked Krish about his father, he was just nervous and didn't like to share anything about him. He didn't accept his wife's relatives or was good with his wife or his only son. He wants to free his mother from the clutches of that man. It was so horrible for the son and mother to stay in such a house and now it was Ananya's turn to tackle the matter. Ananya's parents were conventional and quintessential, so it was rather easy for Krish to convince them. But Ananya had to deal with a family where all the three people were traditional as well as activists. She says to Krish, "I thought convincing my parents would be enough. You said your mother is sweet. Sweet? If your mom is sweet, then Hitler is a cuddly toy." (195).

Krish had already missed a girl, an IIT professor's daughter on disciplinary grounds and when he begged his father to talk to her father he made a mess at home instead of talking to her father. Ananya could win the hearts of Krish's relatives in his cousin Minti's wedding. Rajji uncle had planned a lavish wedding for Minti. But Minti's in-law's were not satisfied with the car that Rajji mama gave to Duke, his son-in-law. They were ready to leave the place and go if they were not going to get a big car. When the elders tried to give off their gold to solve the problem, Ananya rightly dealt with the problem by arranging a meeting among youngsters with Duke.

Krish planned a Goa trip where he thought both the elders would have a good time. But his expectations have collapsed as the both ladies played the devil by making the situation worse. When Krish tried to pacify his mother, Ananya and her parents heard the conversation which was a big shock to them. Krish said to her mother, "Fine, make her toe the line" (229). Krish had lost Ananya and became a big loser. His dreams were shattered. Luckily his father was the person who spoke to Ananya's parents and they got engaged.

In both the stories, the IITians and IIM returns had hurdles in their life which they could solve with pains. Manju Kapur and Chetan Bhagat had well portrayed the characters of North Indian culture. Chetan Bhagat had a good experience with the South Indian Tamil families. Whatever may be the culture, caste or traditions, life runs through understanding and love. If it exists the traumas of IITians or IIMs or other graduates can be set aside and they can have a peaceful life after their years of turmoil in their education.

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