

THE TOUCH

About the author

The story 'The Touch' is written by Sushmitha Rath. She is an Odia writer. 'The Touch' is written in Oriya, and the story is translated by Ashok K. Mohanty.

Introduction

'The Touch' is a beautiful short story written by Sushmitha Rath. This story deals with the complex and diverse relationship between a mother and a daughter. It also deals with the changes that occur in the daughter's life after her marriage. The story also tells us about the ups and downs of a family relationship. From mother's perspective, children don't listen to them, make poor choices and have no time for them and they feel like their world is slipping away from her hands. The protagonist's mother's words helped her to overcome her pain and challenge the miseries coming towards her small world.

Summary

In the story "The Touch" Sushmitha Rath portrays the different phases in the life of a woman which changes with the changing circumstances. Sunanda, the protagonist of the story was described as a stupid girl who loves rain. She was married to Vivek, a high ranking officer, and has two children, Prapti and Prasad. She was settled in her little world. But now as the years rolled by she seems to become lonely. Even silly things made her into deep weeps. Prapti got a job and Prasad was in college. They were too busy with themselves in the fast changing world. These all transforms her.

Vivek was the man who had transformed her from the stupid girl to a woman. He helped her a lot at the early stages of their marriage. He taught her to cook and to be independent. He even took care of the babies when they are young. But now he had changed by the changing time.

Now, when Vivek and Prasad returned home they don't even have little time to spend with Sunanda. Her daughter had not called her for 6 days. She feels like her little world was slipping away from her hands.

She writes all her heart feelings to her mother and says that she wishes to see her. Her mother writes her back. In each and every words of her mother she finds herself out. She consolidated her by letting her know the facts of life. She says that this phase comes to every woman's life. It had happened to her also. When the children grew up they will find their own world. But when there is any trouble in their life they will come to you. This loneliness that you are facing now was faced by me also. We are like a river. The river will keep on flowing generation after generation. The water carries all the pains and sufferings of the world. That river will over flow the banks if we let go and start crying. Everything will be washed away in that. So be brave. May God give you the strength.

Her letter had consolidated her. It really touched her heart. This touch made her stronger before the collapse of the bridge. The bridge, the family, is not going to collapse anymore.

Critical Analysis

The story 'The Touch' touches the heart of the readers. It reveals the emotional feelings of a woman and the story travels through the despairs and the pain experienced by Sunanda which is the main character of this story.

The main themes discussed in this story are feeling of being alienated, being separated, maternity, different phases of a woman's life and her experiences. For a mother her child is always a small kid who needs her love and affection even if they are grown up to be independent.

The author has depicted the story in such a way that it makes the readers think about the characters in depth and makes the readers to feel the character's emotion. At the beginning of the story we could see that the protagonist is enjoying the rain. The combination of rain and Shehnai is taking the protagonist to her childhood memories. We could see that the author is connecting the story to the nature. The letter from the mother touches the heart of the readers. Through the letter the author reveals the truth behind each woman. Every woman is compared to a river. This river will keep on flowing generation after generation. The most important role of the mother is just to make sure that the riverbed does not get buried. This story shows the strong bond between a mother and a daughter no matter where they are.