

POV : The Bombshell Diana

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What is Point of View in a story and its significance?

‘*Every story has two sides*’ is a popular saying. Still, in reality, a story has many sides, and every side can be considered a unique story. These sides are differentiated on the basis of the type of narrator in the literature. Often, people get confused between author and narrator. For simplicity, you can say that narrator is also a character (placeholder) in the story, created by the author. When a story is told from 1st person's POV, it preserves the element of suspense and excitement. In contrast, 3rd person's POV detaches you from the consequences of significant events.

Dynamic POVs used in the story and their significance?

The story ‘The Bombshell Diana’ uses 2 dynamic narrators, i.e. changes the type of narrator with time to hold the reader and give all necessary experiences. There are elements of suspense in some situations because the narrator is travelling in time with the character, while in some cases, the narrator's omniscient (unreliable?) role is also seen.

The 3rd Person Omniscient Narrator

Initially, the narrator acted more like a dramatic narrator, showing the setting and situation and telling what an audience can see in the play performed on the stage; but soon, it goes into details like the judge was experienced enough to identify a forged certificate; but in the end, it suddenly questions the reliability of narrator by saying that the certificate was bought; however this statement can also be interpreted that the person who sold certificate symbolizes the person who killed Diana. In the middle, the narrator talks about the situation of Selvam’s wife Meera with a neutral view, just stating the facts, not inferring anything or judging anyone. In the end, it again comes back to the scene after court and shows the situation of Pratheeban.

The 3rd Person Limited (Diana) Narrator

Most of the story goes with this narrator only. In the beginning, when Diana wasn't even conscious enough (90 minutes born), the narrator tells what she saw in the hospital. Then, the story continues with the experiences of Diana getting older and her getting frozen due to any threat, along with her constant efforts to close her mouth to stop her yawning with rigidity in various situations (in the school when she went to pay respect to other girls when she was with Selvam, and in the end when bombs were firing). When she left for Kilinochchi, the suspense and threat of bombing was intended to raise the excitement in the reader. From 'the Taj Mahal he had built for Diana' to 'he covered her mouth...', Selvam's character is also highly influenced by Diana's POV.

What if other POVs had been used?

The 1st person's POV (Diana) would have added an extra element of suspense throughout the story because we might not have known about the consequences of frozen states, but at the same time, it creates an issue of knowledge deficiency for the reader, which results in loss of essential details. However, 1st person's POV (Diana's Mother) would have been interesting, adding an element of personal care and love for Diana, resulting in the reader being more attached to the story; at the same time, most of the small critical details (except the school events) could have been preserved and eventually, the right amount of suspense events, e.g. when Diana went to Selvam's hut without telling anyone.

Conclusion

In this story, the author's choice of different POVs of narrators is pretty good, which allows the reader to taste the excitement, suspense, threat, introspection, and omniscient knowledge, all these elements at the right time. However, there was a sense of detachment from the consequences of all the events and actions.