

EXASPERATION, ANIMOSITY AND DETERMINATION IN SHOBHA DE' S SISTERS

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Abstract

Shobha De is one of the most eminent and popular Indian novelists of our time; She is India's best-selling author. She started her career in journalism in 1970 in the course of which she founded and edited three popular magazines Stardust, Society and Celebrity and was consulting Editor to Sunday and Megacity. She earned both name and fame for several leading newspapers and magazines. Being an efficient writer Shobha De brought out the corporate world of business tycoons' real image in her third novel *Sisters*. This paper attempts to analyze the individual's agony, disappointments and become granite from their earlier experience with special reference of Shobha De's *Sisters*. However Shobha De's characters are encountered as many betrayal, failure and discrimination by their own close circle, they can come out with great determination and shine like a bright star.

Introduction

Shobha De as a writer is gifted with extraordinary ability to discuss very sensitive aspects of human life tactfully. The way she narrates each and every aspects of human relationship and their real life situation in particular, is really wonderful. One of the major reasons of Shobha De's popularity as a writer is her intimate understanding of the psyche of woman and her problems. Indian fiction depicts three kinds of women: first the poor women, belonging mostly to the rural class, portrayed by writers like Kamala Markandaya and R.K Narayan; secondly, the middle class women, especially the educated and employed, depicted by writers like Nayantara Sahgal and Shashi Deshpande; and thirdly, the neo-rich aristocrat women depicted by writers like Namita Gokhale and Shobha De. Thematically, Shobha De's novels are highly complex. They offer sufficient stuff to the critics to interpret them in varied ways. De's third novel, *Sisters* deals with various themes like love and romance, male- dominance, feminine one, marriage problems, loneliness, semi-urban culture, sexual relationship and woman's struggle for their identity. De's *Sisters* characters endured through mental stress, so they were in the state of exasperation and animosity, all of which contributed to their determination.

Exasperation

Sisters is novel by Shobha De that unfolds the life story of two sisters- Mikki or Mallika the legitimate daughter of Seth Hiralal and Alisha, the illegitimate daughter of Seth Hiralal and Leelabhen. Both the girls are good looking and wealthy. This novel focuses as much on the seamy side of the business life as on the inner turmoil of protagonist. It is the story of two beautiful, bold and intelligent half-sisters having an industrialist father, Seth Hira Lal. Mallika Hira Lal has to abandon her studies in U.S.A. and return to Bombay to attend the funeral of her parents who have died in air-crash.

Mikki is the main character, who returns to India from the United States after her father's death in an air disaster. Ramanbhai, Hiralal's servant, stood beside Mikki, supporting her. He was the one she could always rely on. He tells her that he can manage the problem and will always remain by her side. Mikki inquired about Alisha after the funeral service was completed. Ramanbhai attempted to divert the conversation away from the subject, but Mikki stood firm and demanded that he divulge the mystery. Mikki questioned why her father's extramarital affair was not disclosed to her when he told