

KAMALA DAS AS SHORT STORY WRITER

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Abstract: *Short Story is a minor functional genre but difficult one to handle. Although many define it to be short and there is no fixed definition of the short story. In the words of E.M/Forster both story and the novel are interrelated. Story is often said to be the essence of the novel. It could be narrative, or psychological or full of vivid description but with a significant incident in the life of a fictitious character, it is very popular because its wide appeal and limited time to read and appreciate*

Index Terms: hypnotical, identity, quest, tenderness, sinister, rioters, moongphalli, patriarchal, submissive, aggressive, dominance

Kamala Das (1934-2009) was an iconoclast. She asserted her identity on her honest and poetic lines that break through the hypnotical veneer of man-woman relationships in traditional Indian society.

As an Indian English poet, short story writer, novelist, play writer, essayist, non-fictional writer children's writer and autobiographer she has in her her literary qualities from her grand uncle Narayan Menon and Balmari Amma her mother and proudly says "My Grand uncle" Narayan Menon a famous poet and philosopher. "My mother was vague and in different spent her time laying on her belly on a lunge four post bed composing poems in Malayalam..." "I was six and very sentimental. I write sad poems about dolls that lost their heads and hands and had to remain headless for eternity". She born in a conservative Nair Hindu family in Lamabar. her maiden name was Madhavikutty Primarily educated at home by two tutors- An Anglo-Indian and a Malayalam. Both were lady teachers. Then she sought admission at European school in Calcutta, Elementary school at punnayurkulam and roman catholic runs boarding school. Because of illness she discontinues her education. The literary output of Kamala Das, are of three volumes of verses "Summer in Calcutta (1905), "The Decedents (1967) and 'The old play house' and other poems (1973). Other works to her credit are "My Story" (1978), Alphabet of Zust (Novel) (1972), An Anthology of Common Wealth verse, young common wealth poets (1965) The penguin anthology of women poets A Doll for the child prostitute and other stories (1977). Before publishing these two collections of short stories in the form of books they have published his magazines like 'Reader's Opinion', Quest, debonair and Beautiful. Some of the mare published in dailies like Sunday Standard, The Hindu, Deccan Herald, Business Standard, Assam Tribune, Times of India, The Tribune National Herald and World Literature today. Indian paper backs New Delhi came forward to publish *A Doll for a Chill Prostitution*.

A Doll for a Child Prostitute set in Bombay it is the story of Bombay brothel house problems faced by the head of the brothel house. The story of inmates and disturbance of police department are portrayed in the story. I decide to spend her remaining years of Life in Banaras under the aegis of god, Kashiviswanthi, being proud of her words, she legitimately claims that girls are well bread and clean they are not;

Fifty-five rupees' wail" like other
brothel houses headed by Ansuya,
Shindutai, Kausalya in the
Same Street, She feeds
Them every morning with a meal of Paratha
dripping with vanaspati and egg curry.
And tipped by a glasses of milk and occasionally with fish (D.C 3S).

Than they elope but all their love and romance are knocked out of them in the brothel house by the harsh treatment given by the police. As a consequence, Mira not only loses her prestigious position as the favorite one but also loses her private room facilities. She is sifted to a common hall with other ward. Her personal experience is such that it confirms Aye's view of men, is not good, because prostitute should not love men and they should not feel feelings because they have to act like machine, the similar view is also expressed by Kamaladas in her one of The poem according Richard Remedies.

The strong man's technique is always the same he serves his love in lethal doses. For lively narcissus at the water edge hunted by own lovely place.

She had, when very ill, promised god never to sin again repeating several times oh! God! shall give him up and think only of you. The promise had worked but she was going to break her world and with no great qualms either I was worried about you, he said, 'You don't know I was worried about you and you.

And said either, I was worried about you and you. She touched his knee and smiled (DC.62).

'A little kitten' set in a small flat at Dadar in Bombay, is the story of a newly married couple. Soon after the marriage a petulant little woman comes to Bombay to join her husband, because husband an official in Insurance office in Bombay. When lives for office she was along and get bored in the house. In her kale the time she was living with Kittan thinking that Kittan is her husband. Later kitten, has husband has ill fit relationship with his secretary. After a short period of ecstatic love and happiness. They see comfort outside the martial relationship because of their quarrel start with husband and wife, is his relationship with Miss Indira nadkar his secretary and see too finds someone with the morals of a tom – cat. When he rushes forward to embrace her husband she observes above her breast a long red scratch and asks for the relation "When he is unable to reply he says if she finds a kitten. She also looks scar upon his head what are you staring at he asked her" (DC.67) das remarks that in everything there (DC.67) "Don't see anything the and some clouds some smoke".

Das remarks that in northern cities extra marital al relationships are common. The first person narrative technique is used there in the husband's failure to understand how his wife regains the old glow on her cheek and gets the scratch above her breasts the little is symbolic for adulterous woman.

Her poem "Vrindawan" is also heaving similar ideas, the "Darjeeling" set in a hospital. It is the story of Mr. Raghavan. He is the central character in the story. He is working as a clerk in an office he has a wife and four years old son. His salary is meager. "Appa, when will we be going to Darjeeling" asked the child to his father" and though you were a sleep, said the father. He went to the child and lay near him. The child's month smelled of Ghee... we must go to Darjeeling he said "Amma wants to see the snow" (DC.72).

Their porting is taught with new anxieties. It is typical urban life. She fears that he will betray her before the cock crows thrice. If she is careless she gets pregnant"...he will take me to Lonavala and with tenderness kill me" (DC: 76) this demon-lover is significant as he is an urban incarnation of the Aryan 'God of love'. His dark skin reminds her of Lord Krishna he life time in constant lover and the monarch but his darkness is also sinister and ominous;

The title of the story is "Santan Choudhari's wife" is ironical because her name is mentioned as Mrs. Menon several times "the coroner" set in a Rose Manor. It is the story of Sylvester locus Gomes, a Tax Collector He married a lady who later suffers from T.B and dies. He has got us a son called Richies noel septum's alias Rich i.e., it is only son, he passes in third division. He discontinues his education after S.S.L.C and later he becomes a sales man in a Handloom House. Once he goes to sea for swimming along with friends and drowned in Mr.Games tells this tragedy in front of compassionate client. He is proud of recovering Richies body with is masters help. After hearing his tragic story, the clients tells him that his son is person. Mr.Gomes Story is the most pathetic which causes his client to shed her tears. His, relatives rejoices because they want to see it downfall. It is a flashback story verbal irony applied to the effect of the boys death the black dress symbolizes. Mr. Gomes observation of mourning. The title is apt to show the sorrow of the Menon.

“Leukemiya” is the most pathetic story in this collection. It set in a Boarding school realize because it is based in urban milieu. The atmosphere is winter season it verbal irony is effectively illustrated by the conversion between the insensitive son and affectionate daughter.

“Moongphalli” set in a house in Delhi against the historical back ground of Indira Gandhi’s assassination in 1984. This is the tragical story of middle class Sikh family. The character in this story are - Pritham Ahuwalia, a teacher, Jasmit Ahuwalia, his wife, Bittu his daughter and his’ mother-in-law. His ‘mother-in-law, comes from Gurudaspur to celebrate ‘Gurunanak Jayanti.’ And She brings, ‘a tin of ghee and 300 rupees to open an account in the post office on the name of Bitter Pritam Alluwalia is a private tutor taking regularly tuition classes to run his family Gurucharan a Hindu, Moongphalli vendor, comes regularly to give moong phalli’s to Billu. He informs of the rioters’ attack on the master who spreads the news of the murder of Indira Gandhi by her own Sikh body guards. Shouting, blood for blood” the effect of this made others to kill helpless skin men and starts to kill Sikh men, women and children. Enmity cut your hats and run for your life. He saves his lives of masters wife and daughter, protecting them in his house. Soon after their departure the furious mob sets fire to the master is house. Both his mother-in-law and he regularly to give moon phali’s to Billu.

She asks about him and his new job she says;
 “... I want a long walk, thank you, all the same. The dusk
 not only set outside ...
 It set inside too,”

She goes back without purchasing this is indeed a stark reality faced by weak shareholder in an overpopulated economy in the market. However, the story ends with the lady’s departure and dilemma in understanding the psychology of a old lady. Coconut water soothes her and relieves her from the stuffy atmosphere of the summer. The central theme is about sale of equate shares where powerful person wants to become always powerful. The title of the story is significant because it focuses on the uncertain financial life of the rich people. The flash back narration is used effectively.

In her first collection, A Doll for the child position and other stories, the title story, “A Doll for the child prostitute” deals juvenile prostitution in all its horror and ghastliness. The rest of KamalaDas’s stories deal with different interrelated themes. “Iqbal” has homosexuality for its theme; Santam Choudhauri’s wife trackless the problem of a wife’s infidelity; Lenkemia ‘with that of an aristocratic mother who has no time to take care of her own ailing child; A little Kitten” is a veritable prose poem on a married couples transformation into a relationship of mutual perfidy; Darjeeling” expressed; a husband’s thought when his wife is on her death bed” the sign of the Lion is about of frail woman who cannot desert the man she loves even though she knows that he is a philanderer, The Tattered Blanket” is a moving story which compares and contrasts a mothers deep and abiding love with her son’s selfishness and ingratitude

In the second collection, Padmavati, the Harlot and other stories, title story “Padmavati –the Harlot” is The story of a prostitute’s life who lends her body to strangers who hates her and hate themselves. “Moongphalli” deals with insecure life of sikh family after the assassination of Indira Gandhi. “That woman and son” tell the moving story of a young paramour living with a man like husband and wife.” The princess of Avanti” focuses on the story of destitute seduced and killed by some loafers.” The sea lounge” expresses the typical story of Satyavratha who loves and leaves her. “Equality shares tell shares. In “walls” walls stand for barriers between personal relationship within the family. The window in “A Doll for the child prostitute” is used to reveals the sitting place for prostitutes to attract customers. The same image of the window recurs in “young man with a pitted face. The disappointed lady longs to see her lover through the window. The “while walls of hospital imply purity of nursing profession as it suggests the purity of a child prostitutes past in the story.” Padmavati, the Harlot.” “The poetize self of stubbornness, hatred from aggressive male, claim for right woman hood and equality with men in her short stories.” Her long stories have the unity of impression and density of expression. One finds pictorial quality

In her stories that are powerful portrayal of different individuals. They are like miniature paintings. Kamala Das uses both image of Indian woman – submissive and aggressive though her heroines try to break barriers of male dominance and patriarchal system. They do not succeed so they end their lives tragically. In real life Kamala Das herself has asserted that she is a ‘new woman’ but she has rarely reflected her own image her stories

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