



Love conquers materialism in Ravinder Singh's novel: Can Love Happen Twice?

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Abstract

In today's world, the fast pace of life has thrown the basic instinct of human existence that is love to the back seat. The mutual understanding, relationships, love are those things which have lost the profound effect that they used to have. In a generation where people prefer to love in live-in-relationship and consider love as a casual factor has somewhere greatly effected the real meaning of love and it is reduce only to physical intimacy and irregular affair. Ravinder Singh pens down his story where he put emphasis on the real meaning of love. The charm, the magic and commitment in relationship are essential for a long lasting relationship. First love is considered as the ultimate fulfilment of life and when it is lost or unfulfilled is it possible love someone that deeply and immensely again? Can you bare your soul and let yourself in front of someone again, knowing that you are risking another terrible heartbreak? But after the loss of Ravin's first love, Kushi, whom fate has willed for him differently and she met untimely and unfortunate death just five days before they have to exchange their wedding rings on 14 February, 2007. But time is the greatest healer and with the passage of time Ravin also came to the main stream and again find solace in the company of new love which will shape his coming life in different way.

Keywords: Human existence, physical intimacy, Ravin's, Kushi, unfortunate death, wedding rings

Introduction

Plot interweaved with the previous work

Love is that factor in life which is the quintessential base of human existence. This human quality is the core of his existence. It appeals not only to the young but touches the people of all generation. After the initial debut success of his first autobiographical novel Ravinder Singh, the young sensational writer, brought the sequel of his first novel 'I Too Had a Love Story'. The regular and consistent readers of Ravinder Singh's novels can attest that 'Can Love Happen Twice?' is sequel to Singh's debut novel. The first work dealt with tragedy of her fiancée, Kushi, the sequel portrays how even true love can happen more than once. As Ravin meets Simar, he finds the pain in his heart lessens and develops an attachment for her. Although both have their unique place in heart of Ravin. That's how complicated and grey-shaded the area of love is. His first love was taken away from him by destiny and the second love leaves him on the same day that he lost Kushi.

The element of suspense and awe

The very beginning of the story is quite attractive as it starts with the city of Chandigarh, which in itself is considered the cradle of love. The three friends, Amarpreet, Manpreet and Happy meet in the chilly season in Chandigarh as they were invited by a famous radio channel to have insights on the publication of the first bestselling book 'I Too Had a Love Story'. The general public were totally unaware of the current crisis in the life of the main protagonist, Ravin, who was also invited but ironically, he was getting treatment

somewhere about 100 Km from Chandigarh in the cold hills of Shimla's Rehabilitation centre, Ward No. 04.

"At the same moment, somewhere in the silence of a barely visible, foggy night in Shimla, someone is sitting on the staircase in front of his room... he has long hair and a beard which he hasn't shaved for months it appears he is not doing well. He sits still and his gaze is fixed on something he is holding in his hands... just above his head there is a dimly lit yellow bulb under which hangs a board: Rehabilitation Centre- Ward no. 04" (pg 08)

The predicament, the crisis in the life of the protagonist, awoke a feeling of suspense in the very beginning of the novel. This dramatic opening creates a curiosity among the readers that what actually happened in the life of Ravin.

The use of popular radio channel

The writer has wittingly made use of popular radio channel, 93.5 RED FM to create a feeling of curiosity amongst the people. They listened with surprise and wanted to know what happened to Ravin. The traffic halted, the people were dumbfounded, they were in state of shock, and the news emerged from super hit radio channel now travelled through various mobile phones. This was something which was not witnessed in the past. The TRP ratings for the show skyrocketed, breaking every record that any radio station set in Chandigarh. The radio RJ Shambhavi displayed her skills and interviewed or asked question to the three friends in such manner that the general public wants to know that what happened to Ravin. There is no doubt she is quite influential at her position and sensing the popularity of the show extended it to an unspecified duration. And in a very dramatic and startling way, Ravin's one of the friends starts reading from the book.

The love at first sight

This popular notion works in the love life of Ravin. The second love of Ravin was sudden and abrupt. This time the second love innings started in Belgium. His infatuation and attachment started all of a sudden when he got attracted by an Indian girl who look modern, standing in the same queue of the minibus from where he went to buy sandwich. He inadvertently got attracted to her looks.

Initially, though Ravin got attracted by the looks of Simar, but he was not ready to start a second innings of love. This he revealed to his friend Sanchit at his birthday party. Even insisted by Sanchit and to think about himself and his family, Ravin was not able to admit and to comply himself to fall in love and above all he thought that it would be injustice for Kushi, his first love.

“For me love was just meant to happen once and it was forever. How do I fill the same heart with love for someone else? Not that I never thought the way, but whenever I thought of it, I couldn’t give myself an honest answer. And in the absence of any legitimate answer, I would tell myself to simply leave it all up to destiny.” (pg63 & 64)

On Cloud Nine

Such is the power and intensity of love that in the beginning nothing is visible than your sweetheart. The same happens in the case of Ravin and his second love, Simar. Initially he was reluctant then he felt pray to his sentimentalism and listened to his heart rather than his mind. This is natural and spontaneous in the case of human beings. Rabindranath Tagore has also philosophised on the very nature of attachment and infatuation of human nature:

“The surest proofs meanwhile are disbelieved. One clings desperately to some vain hope, till a day comes when it has sucked the heart dry and then it breaks through its bonds and departs after that comes the misery of awakening, and then once again the longing to get back into the maze of the same mistakes.”

The love life of Ravin also started moving with such pace as a boat moves swiftly with the current of water where no roars are required. Both Ravin and Simar started spending their time together. The novelist has dedicated and delineated sever episodes of their life in Belgium. Their romantic moments and the time spent with each other is described with such depths were the readers are lost in some reel world way from the reality of life.

The end of euphoria love life when faced with real life

Love in the beginning delights us until we realise the actuality of human life. It is not wrong when we say love is blind. We don’t want to look at the other aspects of life till we are lost in the depths of the love in the beginning. The romantic, mesmerising life of Ravin and Simar lasts up to ten months. Now Ravin has to return to India. This emotional distancing lasts only for eight months only. When Simar after completing her course would return to India. In these times also they remained in constant touch with each other through electronic boon. When Simar returned, Ravin started realising the difference between his Kushi and Simar. He got little distracted when he went to meet her at her Gurgaon residence. The sprawling garden and big bungalow and the atmosphere which he witnessed did not move him much but while talking with her father he started realising that there is something which he is missing about the nature of Simar:

“At times Simar doesn’t know what she actually wants. Its very important for you to ask her on how both of you plan to live your lives together. In my short interaction with her

today I found that she is yet to talk to you about a lit of things. I hope both of you have a a common path. Her dad left me thinking about what his words exactly meant... I struggled with my curiosity and desire to understand what he had meant by this chat.” (pg 162)

His apprehensions come true when Simar comes to meet Ravin at his Chandigarh residence. While moving along the embankment of lake Sukhana, Simar discoursed to Ravin about her future life plans which left Ravin agape.

Shattering of Dreams

Ravin now realised that Simar has her own plans of future life. He realised the world of Simar and his own is different or poles apart. She has plan to live in Belgium while Ravin plans for a new flat for her in Chandigarh:

“I found Simar a little insecure about her future. I had never seen her that way. I thought about comforting her as well... but sweetheart, I continued, you can do all that here in India as well, na? ... my dad is planning to wrap hup his business from India and join my Chaachu in Belgium. But it will take some time.” (pg170)

The truth dawned on Ravin

In spite of his best efforts, he failed make her understand the reality of the situation. Ravin was more practical, thinking about his parents, his life in India. Slowly he realised that Simar’s lifestyle was different, she has different, high dreams of her life. This he ultimately understood when contacted her father who revealed about her true nature:

“I had told you that Simar is a pampered kid. At times she is very demanding and I am sure by now you would have realized it. The other thing is that Simar has always wanted her own space which she relates to her independence. This is something she is very particular about the hard fact is that she wanted to settle down abroad because she wanted to live with just you” (pg 180 & 181)

All well that’s end well

Like many love tragedies, it doesn’t end like that. The destiny of both lovers willed differently. It seems that everything ended between Ravin and Simar. But to astonishment of everybody, this time the love petals bloomed for Ravin. Happy revealed that he emailed link to Simar the previous night. Simar after listening the whole night, the present condition of Ravin, was moved from inside. She must have thought that his condition is due to his true, pious love towards her. Having realised this she returns to Ravin.

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