

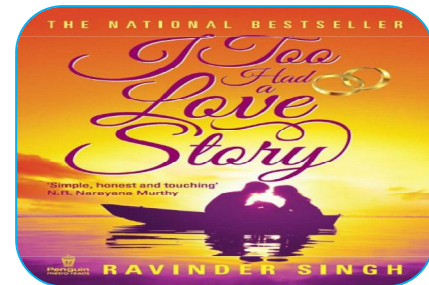


RAVINDER SINGH'S *I TOO HAD A LOVE STORY*: EXPLORING THE CONCEPT OF ETERNAL LOVE IN VIRTUAL AGE

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ABSTRACT:

Love is Divine. Love is Pious. Love is Immortal when given in the safer hands. Love is long-lasting. As we are living amidst the 5G virtual world, we conceive love with different notions of love. Love could be very superficial to many with its temporariness. Yet, Love for few appears to be unending that never dies for so it has known no geographical, physical boundaries. It knows no limitations of physical attraction or sensual pleasure. Eternal love knows no boundaries of anything. It unites merely two souls forever, tying them spiritually forever.



Ravinder Singh's *I Too Had A Love Story* outstandingly revolves around the loving tale of love birds; Khushi and Ravinder those meet its tragic destiny ultimately. Yet, they are spiritually united as merely physical death of the heroine; Khushi fails to separate them in this materialistic world. Ravinder Singh after the death of his beloved Khushi finds an inspiration for life and devices his outstanding career as a libertarian.

The present research paper intends to explore the true meaning of love, as in the context of Khushi and Ravinder is. Simultaneously, it would reveal the interplay of tragic destiny to testify the undefeated spirit of true lovers at large.

KEYWORDS: *Love, Dream, Marriage, Accident, Death, Tragedy, Inspiration, Immortal Love, etc.*

INTRODUCTION:

Though the world is rest on materialistic things but our life does not rest on these things. There is still value to emotions and feelings. Life is beautiful and sensible only to those who love it to its fullest possible extent. *(Youth, 02)*

The true meaning of love callas eternal, immortal and divine love keeps changing as per the context and term of references applied to the same. Ravinder Singh's *I Too Had A Love Story* unfolds the promising tale of the true love birds Ravinder and Khushi in an outstanding ways. It is extremely sensible, sentimental and romantic as it full of pleasant, tragic, awesome and cherishing memories of the relationship between the two. It offers the tale of author's first love – Khushi. Rather, the story puts forth an account of his autobiographical element in te confluence of narration. The story opens with the re-union party of the three friends; Ravin, Happy, Amardeep and Manpreet who represent the high-minded, intellectually elite generation. They plan to meet after several years of their education. During the gradual discussion in reunion party, Ravinder decides to get registered on the matrimonial website. This is where the first seed of love finds its initial bloom. However, Ravinder happens to meet with

Khushi on the matrimonial website www.shadi.com only. Their gradual discussion about their likes, dislikes soon turns into love that blossom with further series of discussion. As both belong to Punjabi Sikh religion there is nothing to detain their love from blossoming. They plan to marry each other. They begin to peruse their career as IT professionals. Their love blooms as days pass on, through the series of romantic scenes and episodes bringing them closer to each other.

Soon Rvinder and Khushibegin to dreams for each other and get consent from their parents as well. Rather, their family members become happy when they discover their budding relationship. However, they plan their engagement on th 14th February, Valentine's Day so to make their love memorable and distinguished from rest of others. Both the families are seen planning their wedding. Yet, Ravinder Singh introduces a sudden flux in the romantic story by introducing tragic accident of Khushi taking her to death bead. The news of Khushi's accident turns everything tragic bringing a shock to Ravinder. Further, the love of Khushi and Ravinder is examined against the fire of tragic death and separation forever.

Ravinder Singh signets how the relationship with would be better half of life can affect the true lover. When he comes in contact with Khushi, he begins to change his attitude, habits and many things including boozing as well. This brings them closer, as the entire series of several telephone calls make them feel intensity of love, care and concern. Raving begins to feel the divinity of love through magical eyes of Khushi, he prolongs and waits through nights and days, remembering his discussions and chats with Khushi. Trust, commitment and dedication in relationship begin to govern their relationship. Once Khushi expresses her expectation about marriage from Ravinder as

See, every person has some likes & dislikes. When we talk about marriage, it's about respecting each other's feelings: it's about trust, a few compromises & much more. And if you are going to be my life partner, I sincerely urge you to choose a life without alcohol. *(I Too had Love Story, 28)*

The very condition, "*If you are going to be my life partner*" keeps resounding in Ravin's mind randomly, amusing him majestically. The word Marriage, for Khushi and Ravinder had a distinct meaning for both of them. They define marriage not as merely a contract or a commodity to be in the company of each other or lifelong contract to take care of one another. They find meaning of marriage and love on the larger canvas of eternityattaining divinity and fulfillment through spiritual unification of two souls. The divine words of Khushi keeps overriding to the consciousness of Ravinder through days and nights as he remembers her words

It's a gentleman's promise. If you are going to be my life partner, I will not booze unless you are comfortable about it. And I mean it. The reason I can do this is because alcohol is not something I am addicted to. [...] I have never crossed my limits and got drunk completely. Still if this becomes a problem between me and my life partner, I will gladly abstain. [...] And the promises are meant to be kept. *(I Too had Love Story, 28)*

When they say they love someone; they mean it to be. Love is dedication, love is commitment, love is compassion, and love is something worthy to sacrifice everything for someone. Both of them are seen changing their passwords on the name of each other, cherishing every moment, experience sharing to one another through witty, humorous, naughty, moments in life. Their intense love blooms when Khushi says, "*I feel like pulling you into my bed right now and kissing you madly.*" *(I Too Had A Love Story, 35)*. Love is blend of emotions, madness and craziness for them. It delights, makes them cry, laugh, tease, chill, amaze and excite them through sleepless moment in the nights. Love fills every moment of their life with passion, love, frenzy and feels the divinity. It is throbbing sensation, excitement and thrill that overwhelms them on their first meeting as Ravin expresses his mesmerizing experience through

Her beautiful face, eyes mesmerized me. And if that green off-shoulder top and jeans, her body appeared so perfect, so young, so poised. She was charismatic. I wasn't able to take my eyes off her. Rather, I wanted to stare at her from top to bottom very slowly - which I actually did. *(I Too had Love Story, 64)*

It is enchanting beauty, throbbing curiosity and godly grace makes them fall madly in love with one another. Yet, the destiny or fate had another plans for them. Khushi and Ravin plan to marry on 14th

February on Valentine's Day just to prove meaning of their relationship. However, Khushi meets an accident taking her to the grief of dejection, being departed on the account of her death. This makes them bleed tears, restless suffocation and destruction of every hope, dream in life. The tragic episode destructs everything blissful in their lives, ultimately testing their strength, commitment, dedication and devotion in relationship. It is after her death, Ravin begins to feel her presence around him, keeping her promise to marry him with a ring in hands. These majestic moments impart mesmerizing experience to Ravinder and bring a sense of fulfillment to their love eventually. Ravinder attains fulfillment to their love not in accompaniment but unifying their souls in dreamy appearance in a frenzy making them love madly to one another with commitment for life long companionship sacrificing everything that comes on their ways. Ravin's intense love could be sensed through the lines

She died. I survived. Because I survived, I died everyday. I was bound by my starts to live a lonely life, without her, I felt so alone. Though the fact is that it is just she who is gone and everything else is the same. But this „everything else is nothing to me..... I miss her in my days. I miss her in my nights. I miss her every moment of my life. And I will tell you what this loneliness feels like, what it feels like to live a life without the person you loved more than anything or anyone else in the world. . (*I Too Had A Love Story*, 192)

Ravinder Singh decors the conception of true love proving its immense value, significance giving it high esteem not in its fulfillment of physical union but aligning the same with spiritual union at large. Love, has nothing to do with physical attraction or union rather it has everything to do with unification of two souls. All love stories are not meant to meet its fulfillment, some are meant to remain incomplete and yet gain worldwide recognition, esteem and high prestige in the eyes of beholders. Jagjit Singh very astutely comments on the distinctive conception of love delineated by Ravinder Singh's *I Too Had A Love Story* as in the lines

Not all love stories are meant to have a perfect ending. Some stay incomplete. Yet they are beautiful in their own way. It's better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. Ravinder Singh proves the maxim true and believes that love seldom dies. He beautifully depicts the beauty and power of true love through his own heart touching love story. *I Too Had a Love Story* by him, is a memoir of a courtship that doesn't reach its ultimate destination – marriage. It is a true love story of the protagonist, written in a diary-writing form that is innocent, touching, honest and heart-rending. (*Glimpses of True Love in.. 02*)

The novel celebrates the sentimental relationship of two love birds having departed by physical death, imparting immortality to their unending bond of love. It offers the authentic portrayal with touch of sentiments, full of emotions fallen madly in love with each other, moved deeply, dedicated forever for the cause of committed relationship only. It is vibrant, thrilling and honest confession of what happens when someone falls in love with that too deeply attaining highest levels and degree of devotion and sacrifice. Further, it is suggestive of the fact how someone can desperately, passionately and dedicatedly fall in love with another. Ravinder Singh embodies partly factual and partly fictional elements into a fine fabric of popular fiction in his outstanding novel. His imaginative flair is coupled with intense feelings, sentiments and emotions of love, sorrow, dejection, passion and playful imagination. This fusion and acute awareness of love itself makes his narrative stand outstanding in the vein. Scott. M. appreciates his fusion of possible and factual world as in the lines

Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand. This is what Fiction offers us. (Scott. M. *Warlock*, web).

I Too Had A Love Story is intensely passionate, implicit with innocence that is rarely found to communicate original feelings of love with respect and sincerity taking each reader towards committed relationship. Love is not superficial or temporary for Ravinder Singh. He does not label it or find its fulfillment in physical companionship or accompaniment. Rather, love has something to do with unification of souls, eternally tied to each other. It is unbreakable; its bond is as permanent as beauty in flowers, which are bound to spread fragrance. It is something like beauty of the ocean or the nature

which is bound to fascinate the eyes of the beholder. It is divine grace and godly nature. Singh communicates the readers how passionately a man can love and respect the woman, devote his entire life and existence. Love cannot be replaced by anything else in the physical absence of the lover, rather it blossoms more, as it faces the absence and imparts strength to the true lover to remain devoted, committed towards by bringing them close spiritually with divine presence of the beloved.

Ravinder Singh revolves around the true meaning of love set with different goals and dreams to raise an ideal in front of the love birds in this virtual age. He does not directly comment on the critical aspect of the virtual age by criticizing the misdeeds and misconceptions of love limiting the same to physical unification only. Rather, his silence and suggestive remedy on proving the true meaning of love is eye opening for everyone. Khushi and Ravinder's committed relationship blooms in spite of their unfavourable destiny, taking them to ultimate test of life. Khushi's love encourages him to start writing career, offers him the accompaniment of splendid memories of life, taking birth through his pen and creating the beautiful world of memories around as

Tere jaanekaasar kuchaisa huamujh par, Tujhe dhoondhted hoondhte, maine khudko paaliya... ..other wise, I wouldn't have come across an author in me.

(I *Too Had a Love Story*, 'Dedicated to')

Ravinder Singh sets his thematic backdrop of true and eternal love against the virtual or digital age where every individual is oriented materialistically. The projection of love like Khushi and Ravinder is rare to be found that fails to attain physical union but is successfully devoted for the cause of sacrifice. We are all living in 5G virtual world, where the digital wave of technology has transformed our outlook and ways of living. We are closer to social media like Facebook, Whatsapp and many more technological gadgets. Yet, experiencing a committed relationship with sacrifice is rarely found. It is surprising to see true love budding out of matrimonial website taking two individuals so closer preaching us a moral lesson through emotional attachment, honesty, acceptance and understanding of others at large. Additionally, Ravinder Singh adds an interplay of heavy wit, humor, sentiments and emotions to make us live every moment experienced by love birds setting a different notion of true love with his moral vision and philosophy of own. To be a true lover of someone is quite difficult in the digital age, yet, Ravinder Singh sets his different notion of unconditional love. Such sense of profound love emerges through Khushi-Ravinder's committed relationship.

Ideal love is a blissful state where nothing ever goes wrong or causes disagreement and tension. It involves two people coming together and being at one with each other, enjoying fun, relaxation, empathy and a good time. It is the single relationship where the problems occurring in other relationships are not repeated, so that it remains unspoiled and good. It contrasts with the indifference and dullness of daily life. (The Meanings of Love, 14).

Unconditional love keeps no hopes or expectations from the partner, but comes forward to accept the collective reality that passes through hopelessness and seemingly difficult reality of life without expecting anything in reality from the partner. It is an amazing feeling that someone loves you so deeply accepting you as you are only. It offers you great strength and power to fight back with the worst time of your life. The same embodies limitless compassion, care and concern for the sufferers with dedication and lifelong commitment promising years of togetherness forever.

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