



YOUR DREAMS ARE MINE NOW WITH THE BACKDROP OF NIRBHAYA'S
TRAGIC DEMISE – A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

It is an obvious fact that literature mirrors life of different dimensions. However, from time to time, it has been receiving different connotations and denotations. The modern writers of Indian English fiction have taken a sharp turn in presenting the happenings of social disorders in their own point of view. The present paper that is set for discussion regarding such order is really nerve shattering and heart breaking. Ravinder Singh's novel, Your Dreams Are Mine Now, reflects exuberant romance on one hand and exposes the obnoxious inhuman emotions which are instrumental in perpetrating atrocities on innocent women on the other hand. Furthermore, the paper elucidates the writer's commitment towards social concern which dominates and forms the core aspect of the novel, as well, it depicts the innocent love of the protagonist, Rupali in an alluring way.

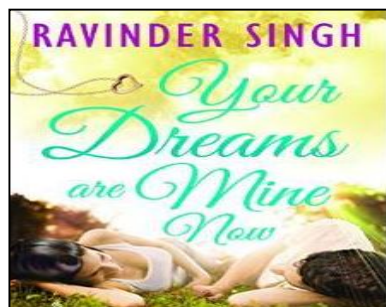
KEYWORDS : Literature, different dimensions, social order, discussion, nerve shattering, romance, inhuman emotions, atrocities, social concern, innocent love.

Ravinder Singh is popularly known as a writer of romance of college students. Hence, he has become the heartthrob of the youth in and around India. It is surprising to note that a management student-turned creative writer has carved a niche for himself in the modern literary domain. Though he appears an embryonic writer, he has joined the galaxy of contemporary sensational literary luminaries like Chetan Bhagat, Durjoy, Novoneel and Rohit Gore.

INTRODUCTION

Love means primarily joining of two hearts. Howsoever, in the modern fiction, there is a kind of transformation in creative writings as it is a focal point, but divergently made it as a part of story narration besides presenting a dominating theme of social concern. Ravin, after proliferating the love trio namely, *I Too Had a Love Story*, *Can Love Happen Twice?* and *Like It Happened Yesterday*, wrote another praiseworthy romantic fiction, *Your Dreams Are Mine Now*.

As a bird's eye view, the first novel, *I Too Had A Love Story*, is absolutely, Ravin's personal love story with Khushi. It has transpired after his love's death suddenly. It has really shattered and emotionally disturbed the author in his maiden courtship with his beloved. Sequel to this, the writer has ventured his second love story, "*Can Love Happen Twice?*" It portrays how even true love can happen more than once, as Ravin meets Simar, he finds the pain in his heart decrease and develops a liking for her. He has had a ghastly experience with Simar as she leaves on the same day of Kushi's death. Whereas, the third novel of the love trio, *Like It Happen Yesterday*, is supposed to be the futile attempt of the author in its plot construction. The story encapsulates the life of the author from his birth to the time



when he steps into college. He recalls the reminiscences of his childhood experiences and memories. It focuses on the pranks of adolescence and peer pressure experiences of the youth. The present paper discusses how the story of the novel, *Your Dreams Are Mine Now*, is woven around the horrendous tragic episode of Nirbhaya that took place in Delhi in 2012 which rocked the humanity to feel ashamed of the diabolical human nature in inflicting extreme pain and causing irreparable damage to the so called modern civilized society. Reacting to the despicable incident, Ravin brings about a social concern relating to the insecurity of womanhood through the character of Rupali, the protagonist of the novel.

DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL CONCERN

It is a common phenomenon in all universities that the stake holders who pursue academic higher education involve in different activities irrespective of their nature to prove themselves something unique. In, *Your Dreams Are Mine Now*, Ravin exposes the current scenario on the Delhi University campus in a dramatic vein. As for the plot is concerned, Rupali comes from a small town in Bihar to Delhi with the sole aim of prosecuting her academic pursuits. By nature, she is a brave girl endowed with social consciousness and enormous capabilities to protest against injustice and exploitation. There, she happens to meet Arjun, a Delhite, who is obsessed with campus politics with a view to accomplishing his long cherished dream of becoming triumphant in elections. In fact, they are poles apart in their department and attitudes. Afiza Tarannum aptly reviews,

“She was innocent, he was mature.
She was friendly, he was an introvert.
Studies are her first priority, politics is his first priority.
They were complete opposite”.

On the campus, their lives fly on happily involving in many activities. Suddenly, an unexpected incident draws their interest and cements their bonding which unites them together to grill against professor Mahajan’s heinous act of molesting the maid, Raheema. Arjun and Rupali endeavor with utmost strength to see the accused professor put behind bars.

Meanwhile, the romantic flight of Arjun and Rupali run harmoniously and they express deep love to each other anticipating blissful life in future. Ironically, the entry of professor Mahajan into university campus from jail reverses their fate. Once again villainously, the professor conspires against Rupali by getting her kidnapped and gang raped by his goons. Consequently, after struggling hard for life, she breathes her last. The news of her terrible death agonizes Arjun and makes him welter in a sea of sorrow for missing his sweet heart once for all. He cries in excruciating suffering:

‘Oh Rupali...’ he screams in pain.
He hits the bed with his hands. Again and again in frustration.
She’s gone... she’s gone... (262)

After regaining composure, as a token of expressing his love bondage, he rushes to the campus before dawn to dig out the tulasi plant that Rupali has planted. He digs it out and brings home to replant in his garden as a symbol of their perennial love and he recalls: ‘...won’t let your dreams die. They are mine now... they are mine now....’ He repeats like a child. (264)

Justification of the Title

The title of the paper is justifiable in the sense that Rupali’s harrowing experience in the hands of the savage goons resembles Nirbhaya’s poignant plight of 16th December 2012 in South Delhi. As well, the events that followed the death of Rupali reflects the movement that broke out after the demise of Nirbhaya which literally rocked men and women, particularly in Delhi and spread like wild fire all across India and abroad. The perception of the author is no doubt apt and suggestive in every sense of the term. This romantic fiction with tragic climax has sensitized the women folk and has become instrumental in bringing about Nirbhaya Act to safeguard the interests of women in protecting their lives and providing social security.

SUMMING UP

The above discussion clearly reveals that the author has made an earnest attempt to expose the atrocities that have been perpetrated on women in society, despite making stringent laws and amendments from time to time. Many readers are of the view that the author has made a benchmark as a creative literary writer. But Ravin himself confesses that his work is not a literature, it is an art of storytelling to entice the cross section of the people to kindle the habit of reading. Singh himself says in an interview with *National Arts Life Style Magazine*, "Tags don't affect me". He also says, "I don't even call myself an author. I would love to call myself a storyteller". Holistically speaking, the novel is a perfect blend of romance and campus politics with thrust on social concern.

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