

**The Depiction of Investigation, Mad Love and Murder Mystery in Chetan Bhagat's Novel
*The Girl In Room No 105.***

Radha DR¹

Research Scholar, Reva University, Bangalore, (Karnataka) India

Dr. Premalatha. S²

Assistant Professor, Reva University, Bangalore, (Karnataka) India

Abstract

Murder mysteries never failed to grab the attention of the readers because their interest lies in suspense thrillers. The thriller stories take readers to the most amazing reading journey and excite them on a complete note. Chetan Bhagat's recent novel *The girl in room no 105* is unlike his other stories, is a different genre altogether, there is no much space for romance instead it's unlove story as his tag line says. The story revolves around murder case of Zara, a medical student stays in the room no 105. The ex-lover of Zara, Keshav and his friend Saurabh indulge themselves to find out the murderer of Zara. The interesting factor of the story is Keshav and Saurabh both are not professional detectives but still they take an initiative of finding out the killer. The story stresses on Keshav's mad love on Zara, he was unable to move on after the break up, on the other side, Zara found a new partner for herself. Chetan Bhagat followed the typical style of Agatha Christie's murder mysteries by writing the thriller book. Though the story is written on a serious note but didn't fail in making people to laugh at few scenes especially on Saurabh's jokes. The present paper throws light upon the investigation of Zara Lone's murder and Keshav's mad love on his lost love.

Key Words: Suspense thriller, mad love, the girl in room no 105, murder mystery, investigation

Murder mysteries are quite successful because the way they hold the reader's attention throughout the book. In the year of 1920-30 the detective stories were very popular and it was renowned as "Golden age of detective fiction" but it's much less today. Most of the writers of golden detective age were British writers: Margery Allingham (1904-1966), Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher (1887-1969), Anthony Berkeley (aka Francis Iles, 1893-1971), G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936), Dame Agatha Christie. Chetan

Bhagat had followed the footsteps of these writers by writing a suspense thriller fiction.

The girl in room no 105 is an unusual murder mystery where in the murder's ex-boyfriend investigates the case, his mad love over Zara made him to take a special interest to find the killer. The readers develop curiosity as and when they turn page after pages, the book doesn't let them to put down because there are numerous turns, twists and interesting elements. As the title says Zara stays in the room no 105, the place where Zara's dead body found and the

investigation begins from that location itself. The police suspects watchman and arrested him but Keshav doesn't believe in it so he began searching for the culprit of Zara's murder, at first he suspected Prof. Saxena, Zara's PhD guide as he once harassed Zara but later it was proved that he had a limp on his leg, he can't climb the mango tree because the killer climbed mango tree to enter into the room no 105 so his first suspect was not the murderer. The conversation between Prof. Saxena and Keshav as follows.

"Maybe you thought she would reveal the truth about you once she had her PhD degree, something you couldn't delay anymore. Maybe you got scared, went up to her room and killed her. No swear on my kids, no," he said. He pinched his throat like an eight year old." (Bhagat 135)

Keshav along with his friend Saurabh travel all the way to Kashmir to find the killer, his next suspect was Zara's step brother Sikander, who happens to be a member of terrorist group called TEZ, during investigation Keshav and Saurabh and learnt that there was a good bonding between sister and brother and he didn't murder Zara. A conversation between Keshav and Shikender as follow.

"You said you told Zara you had left Tehreek'.

'Yeah'.

So why is she smiling in this picture when she comes to see you finds you with the machine gun? I said. I need to go. You also said this picture is jinxed.

Why? Saurabh said. Sikander winced. He held his head". (Bhagat 209)

The investigation journey continues as Keshav suspects army officer Faiz, because he gifted Zara an expensive earrings and they raid his house in Delhi. They find pregnancy kits in his place the same pregnancy kits found in Zara's room, by checking internet history they found that he searched for abortion and divorce. This evidence made them to think that he could have killed Zara so they interrogate him but he admitted that he had a physical relationship with Zara but he didn't kill her. A conversation between captain Faiz and Keshav as follow.

"I gave these really special Kashmiri earrings to Zara.'

Saurabh and I looked at each other, surprised.

Oh, I said, special as in?

They are traditional Kashmiri earrings. They cost a few lakhs. Zara said she would pay for them" (Bhagat 258)

There is a sudden twist in the story, he invites everyone to the dinner party where he announces the killer of Zara meanwhile he goes on a trip to Hyderabad, this made the readers to think that the killer is someone else, all this while he was suspecting a wrong person. Finally, in the climax Keshav reveals the truth that Raghu, fiancé of Zara killed her because he got to know the illicit affair between Captain Faiz and Zara, outrageous and furious Raghu strangled her to death.

Raghu admitted,

“I did it with my bare hands, I still remember the night. She had fallen asleep. It is easier to do this to a person who is asleep, Every time she tried to kick me, I gripped her neck tighter. She tried to hit my fractured left arm too. It didn’t make any difference”(Bhagat 276)

The investigation, murder mystery and mad love of Keshav on Zara nicely blended together in the novel. The spices are rightly mixed up in the equal proportion i.e. comedy, suspense, love and sentiment, all most everything which can be expected to be existed in the story.

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