ISSN:0971-1260
Vol-22-Issue-4-October-December-2019

The true love in Chetan Bhagat's *Half Girlfriend*

T. Lincy Mary,

I M.A. English Literature,

Holy Cross College (Autonomus),

Nagercoil.

Under the guidance of

Nemesha,

Assistant Professor of English,

Holy Cross College (Autonomus)

Nagercoil.

Abstract:

Chetan Bhagat is an Indian author, Columnist, screen writer, television and motivational speaker. The main theme in this novel *Half Girlfriend* is a love story of Madhav Jha, a Bihari boy and Riya Somani a high society Delhi girl. The book also describes Madhav Jha's love for his mother land. He wants to do something for the school his mother is running in Dumraon, a backward area of Bihar eighty five kilometers from Patna. But meanwhile, he has to go through much struggle to achieve both love of Riya Somani and the development of his mother's school.True love is where one loves the person very true and sincere.

Madhav Jha falls in loves with a rich and Beautiful Delhi girl, RiyaSomani. Madhav Jha and Riya Somani are good basketball players. They both get admission through sports quota in St. Stephen's College, as his English was really bad. Madhav Jha and Riya Somani become close friends due to their interaction in the basketball court. Madhav Jha wants to make Riya as his

 Copyright ⓒ 2019Authors

ISSN:0971-1260
Vol-22-Issue-4-October-December-2019

girlfriend but Riya Somanire fuses. But Riya Somani just wants a friendship with Madhav Jha and she suggests a compromise. Riya Somani agreed to be his Half-assed Girlfriend."Well are you my girlfriend? No. What are you then? Friends. You allow friends to hold you like this. Okay. I'm your Half Girlfriend" (HG 67).

The writer has specifically tried to define the concept of *Half Girlfriend* as uniquely in Indian phenomenon, where boys and girls are not clear about their relationship status with each other. A boy may think he is more than friends with the girl, but the girl is still not his girlfriend. Hence, I thought we need a term like *Half Girlfriend* because in India, that is what men get. Girlfriend is a value loaded word. It means things to many persona. It is hope for life possession of it is the creation of life.

Madhav Jha wanted to be physical so that Madhav Jha can make Riya Somani as his girlfriend. Riya Somani leaves him and tells him not to talk to her anymore. After one year RiyaSomanimarries her childhood friend Rohan and settles in London, where Rohan has a big business. Finding Delhi unbearable on ground of losing Riya Somani, Madhav Jha settles in his hometown and help his mother, Rani Sahiba, toilets who runs her school, seeing the condition of the school no proper classes or toilets Madhav Jha decides to meet local MLA Ojha for financial help. An opportunity comes when Ojha informs Madhav about Bill Gates visit to some school in Bihar. Madhav Jha tries his best to convince Gates to fund his school but to do so he has to prepare a speech, preferably in English.

In the course of his struggle, he comes across Riya Somani, who is now a divorcee. Riya Somani helps him to prepare the speech. The two are successful in their fund rising but after the speech Riya leaves a letter for him which states that she has lung cancer. Riya's letter confesses

 Copyright ⓒ 2019Authors

ISSN:0971-1260
Vol-22-Issue-4-October-December-2019

her love for Madhav Jha but states she has three months to live when Madhav Jha attempts to track her down. He finds that she has cut all ties in India and disappeared.

After three years it is revealed from Riya's journal that her about cancer is faked and she is alive. Madhav Jha goes on search of her in Newyork. After three months of extensively searching he finds her to a jazz event and the two reconcile. "Yes Riya Somani, I found you.I saw your face in a crowded. And I don't know what to do. Cause I'll never be with you" (254).

Centuries have lapsed, times have changed a lot, but permanent truth can never be obsolete. In *Half Girlfriend* one may find some traces of a good novelist in making. Just mark the letter wonderfully set and drafted in section 33 by Riya Somani to Madhav Jha. The letter surpasses even Hardy's letter when less writer to her lover addressing 'My own husband' this letter of Riya Somani creates the climax of the story. It is worth reading, preserving and appreciating. The author visiting the same school in Dumron, three and a half years later and seeing that both Madhav Jha and Riya are successfully running the school, and also have a son of Shyam.

The moral belief by the author is that quitting is not an option for anyone. That is a lesson one must attain. It is a storyline of a guy who doesn't have any idea about his wants from life and falls fascinating in love with very first girl he meets. The girl is not judgmental of his Non-English ways and is amicable and knows what she wants. The hero does not quit and has a cheerfully ever after ending with the girl waiting to be engulfed in his arms. In such a scene, one should rather quit the chase, understand what he wants from life and the strive to purse it.

Work Cited

Bhaget, Chetan. *Half Girlfriend*. Rupa Publication, 2014.

 Copyright ⓒ 2019Authors