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A Thematic Analysis of 'Girl in Room 105' By Chetan Bhagat

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ABSTRACT: "The Girl in Room 105" is the eighth novel and tenth book written by an Indian author. The story primarily follows the story of Keshav who is heartbroken after his ex-girlfriend Zara leaves him. One night, he receives a cryptic message from her, which leads him to her hostel room at night. What follows is an exciting journey filled with mystery, love and unexpected twists.

KEYWORDS: Keshav, Zara, Love, Ambition, Romance, Religion, Conflict, Destiny, Challenges, Heartbreak, Murder, Mystery, Friendship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CHETAN BHAGAT:

Born On: 22nd April, 1974, **Born In:** New Delhi, India, **Career:** Novelist, columnist, script writer and motivational speaker.

Chetan Bhagat is a well-known Indian novelist who has written novels that have been commercially successful. All of them have been hits since their release, and they have been filmed by well-known Bollywood directors. Chetan Bhagat is recognized as a young idol rather than merely an author. With his colorful and funny depictions of stories, he has motivated many young Indians to read. He is also a competent journalist, having written pieces for several major publications. Novels, he believes, serve as engaging instruments allowing him to convey his thoughts and opinions about society and youth. Columns cover economic growth and national concerns. Chetan's books have remained bestsellers since their release and have been adapted in the major and well-known Bollywood films. The New York Times titled him "the biggest selling English language novelist in India's history". Time magazine named him as one amongst the '100 Most Influential People in the world' and Fast Company, USA, listed him as one of the world's '100 most creative people in businesses.

Bhagat writes for leading English and Hindi newspapers too, focusing on youth and national development issues along with being an editor and writer for newspapers he is also a motivational speaker.

Chetan quit his international investment banking career in 2009, to devote his entire future time to writing and make change happen in the society and criticise the societal norms. He lives in Mumbai with his better half Anusha, and his twin sons Shyam and Ishaan.

Contribution

Chetan Bhagat has made significant and major contributions to the entertainment industry. He never limited his creative abilities to only creating or writing books. As an ethical social person, he frequently writes pieces for publications, mentioning and debating numerous social and national topics. Many of his writings were noticed by MPs, resulting in major debates in the Indian Parliament. He addressed topics such as corruption in an initial letter to Sonia Gandhi, as well as political difficulties surrounding Baba Ramdev. His writings were fearless as his novels mainly revolve around the themes of societal constraints, norms, politics, corruption, disloyalty, and many more dark themes.

I. INTRODUCTION

A THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF 'GIRL IN ROOM 105' BY CHETAN BHAGAT

Chetan Bhagat, one of India's best-known contemporary authors, is noted for his sympathetic writing and ability to grab the hearts and attention of the young minds. Bhagat's work "The Girl in Room 105" is no exception, taking readers on an emotional rollercoaster as it blends various aspects of romance, suspense, and social concerns to create a riveting and vivid read.

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Chetan Bhagat's novel The Girl in Room 105 represents his debut in a new genre. Chetan Bhagat, India's best-selling author, has now ventured into the mystery or thriller genre.

According to the creator, this is "an unlove story" rather than an affection storytelling. So here is the "unlove story" of Zara and Keshav, who were formerly lovers but belonged to parallel religions. Keshav is smitten with Zara, but she has moved on. So, when he accepts a meeting request form her, it is like an extra chance. But what follows is a voyage that transports the readers to many places while having them experience a wide range of emotions.

The plot is extensively researched, and his insights are brutally honest, as he discusses complex relationships, the myriad prejudices that plague our society (faith, culture, region, and even skin tone), the divisive Kashmir conflict without multiple dimensions, and the terrorism component.

A writer's skill is demonstrated when he or she can discuss a contentious topic without taking sides, and Chetan Bhagat does it with flair in his book. He discusses the Kashmir conflict without taking sides, presenting both viewpoints of the argument.

Plot

A fascinating twist to the romance tale, "The Girl in Room 105" The story of the book revolves on Keshav, a recent graduate of IIT, and his romantic relationship with Zara, an independent young woman. Their love story begins in the traditional Bhagat fashion, with humor, companionship, and realistic college life set within the setting of an Indian college campus. But when Zara is killed in her hostel chamber (Room105) under strange situations, things took a terrible turn. As the plot develops, this startling incident paves the way for an intriguing puzzle to be revealed.

Characters

Chetan Bhagat's characters are recognized for being relatable and deep, to which audience tend to connect smoothly, and "The Girl in Room 105" is no exception. The protagonist, Keshav, is a young guy following his aspirations, struggling with heartbreak, and attempting to make his way in his life, a factor many readers can relate to. Zara, on the contrary hand, is presented as a powerful and independent lady, which gives dimension and weightage to her overall personality.

The Writing Style

Chetan Bhagat's work is noted for its straightforwardness and colloquialism. This makes his writings accessible to a diverse readership, particularly those who are not passionate readers. "The Girl in Room 105" is no exception, since Bhagat uses both English and Hindi terms to make the dialogue appear real and authentic. This literary style appeals to a wide range of readers, especially Indian youngsters as it draws their attention and gives them vivid imagery of the scene that the author wants to convey.

Brief Summary of the Story

This section discusses the book's main points. Basically, it's a synopsis of the novel. The Story, in Short, may provide you with a cause to read a book, which is the publication's primary goal.

Part 1: The Current Story of Keshav

Chetan Bhagat has adopted a fresh approach with this novel. He became bored of love stories. This is a thriller love tale. The major protagonists in the novel are Keshav, Saurab, and Zara.

Keshav is an IITian that teaches at 'Chandan Classes', a JEE tutoring centre. He despises his work and seeks employment through the site called LinkedIn but is unable to locate a suitable position. He belongs to an Orthodox household that contain stereotypical thinking. His mother is a homemaker, while his father is a member of the RSS, a political group in India. As always, he enjoys a love affair with a Muslim coworker named Zara, is presently pursuing a Ph.D. at IIT. **Zara** is raised in a Kashmiri Muslim household, and their love story ends when their families disagree based on religious grounds.

Let's not go into it. If you are an Indian reading it, you would understand the difficulties that an inter-religious relationship might encounter in the country. Keshav is unable to move on from the affair and continues to recall Zara, who later falls in love with Raghav (Keshav's classmate). Raghav appears to be an intellectual individual with a geeky appearance.

Keshav often contacts Zara, imploring her to return to him, but she rarely accepts. Saurabh also works at 'Chandan's Classes'. He attended NIT and is a buddy of Keshav. He encourages Keshav to forget about his former love and past relationship memories in order to concentrate in betterment of his own future.

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Part 2: That Night

Zara Lone, as the book's title implies, is the resident of RoomNumber 105. It is Zara's birthday, and Raghav has been beaten up by a group of thugs and is in Apollo Hospital. Keshav resists the impulse to phone Zara and wish her a happy birthday at midnight. He and Saurabh drank wine and fell asleep. Around 3 a.m., he receives an electronic message from Zara asking why he did not make a wish this year. He is surprised to get a text from her. Zara goes on to say that he should see him in her bedroom immediately. Keshav hurries to the girls' hostel beside Saurabh.

He then turns on the lamp and finds her dead. He is astonished, horrified, and saddened to find his girlfriend as a corpse on her birthday. He notifies Saurabh, who proposes they flee the situation. But Keshav becomes anxious to identify the murderer. The remaining portion of the novel follows his travels following Zara's death to seek justice.

Part 3: The Journey to find the Killer

Keshav embarks on a voyage of suspects. He notifies the police, Raghav, and Zara's parents. The police arrest the hostel's watchman, who had disappeared from the CCTV footage when Zara was slain. However, we all understand that the narrative does not end easy. Keshav delves further with the assistance of the police, Inspector Rana. He first accuses Prof. Saxena (the Ph.D. advisor), who attempts to harass Zara. It is subsequently revealed that Saxena has a handicap and could not have climbed the mango plant on the night Zara died.

He then searches for Sikander, Zara's stepbrother, who is a member of a terrorist gang in Kashmir. Keshav gets aid from Zara's father and searches her room for answers. He discovers a locker with explosives, pregnancy kits, and pictures of Sikander holding a rifle alongside Zara, who appears to be smiling in the photo.

Keshav looks over each hint one by one. He initially attempts to contact Sikander and inquires about his group, TEJ.

Sikander becomes terrified and threatens them with a pistol before fleeing. They try to contact him using his mother in Kashmir. Sikander approaches them again and attempts to explain how he is not the killer.

However, given the right information, Keshav is nearly certain that Sikander murdered his

sister out of concern that the Army would discover TEJ. The next day, Sikander commits himself, claiming that his presence would damage TEJ and convincing everyone that he murdered his beloved sister.

Keshav is back at square one, seeing he made an error by questioning Sikander. He then recalls the pregnancy kits and saw a photo of an army commander in Kashmir with Zara on her Instagram.

After a thorough inquiry, he discovers that the army officer gave Zara valuable jewellery, and they raid his Delhi home. They uncover the same pregnancy testing and investigate his online history, which includes search histories for abortion and divorce.

They also discover gold bricks in his home, leading them to believe that he tricked Zara expectant and then murdered her out of remorse.

They throw an evening gathering to announce their loss and inadvertently arrest him, inviting anyone Zara knew, on the 100th day of her passing.

Part 4: The Twist

The tale needs a twist. Keshav takes a brief vacation to Hyderabad shortly before revealing the identity of the murderer. The twist in the story rotates around the mysterious disappearance of the character Zara Lone. As the novel unfolds, unexpected, surprising turns and revelations of events come to light leading to the climax that challenges the assumptions of the readers and keeps them engaged till the end of the story. The twist in the novel adds a layer of intrigue and suspense, hence making it a compelling read for the fans of the author Chetan Bhagat's work.

II. THEMATIC ANALYSIS

RELIGIOUS CONFLICT

Religious conflict represents a contest that happens as a result of religious differences and continues to this day. In this scenario, religion has a tremendous impact on people's thoughts, actions, perceptions, and interests. In this scenario, religion promotes variety of thought, behaviour, and interest among cultures. Diversity, as a result, leads to conflict. Religious disagreement leads to many types of religious violence, including both physical (violence actions) and conceptual (violent, i.e. hostile/hate-filled rhetoric). It also raises concerns regarding the precise relationship among these two kinds, such as the way they should be treated and the extent to which each is detrimental to society. Furthermore, there are subtleties to such violence.

Religious strife as a real-life phenomenon is frequently depicted in literary works like novels. It might happen because the creator of a literary work lives in society and is aware of the societal norms and stereotypes. According to Wellek and Warren (1995: 94), literature is a representation of life that depicts both the natural and individual worlds in social reality.



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Chetan Bhagat's story The Girl in Room 105 is one of several literary works that show conflict over religion. The Girl in Room 105 tells the narrative of Keshav, a Hindu guy who faces a predicament after discovering the Kashmiri Muslim ex-girlfriend, Zara, has died.

Keshav is suspected of murder because he is the first one to discover the dead corpse in hotel room 105. The victim and suspect are of different faiths, which complicates the murder case. Keshav, who is stuck in the murder case, then attempts to identify Zara's murderer. He looks at any evidence that appears to be related to religion.

The writer chose The Girl in Room 105 since it depicts religious ideals in some civilizations. These religious principles cause conflict among people who hold different views and ideologies. The novel portrays those biblical tensions via the protagonists, the Surroundings, conversations, as well as the additional traits. As a result, The Girl in Room 105 is picked as the subject of research.

Religious Conflict in The Girl in Room 105

In general, the religious war in The Girl in Room 105 is presented as a fight between Muslims and Hindus communities owing to differing ideas and philosophies. Furthermore, to validate the religious tensions shown in the novel, they will be examined from the perspectives of belief, ideology, organisation, family, and individual.

All religious conflicts in each domain are interconnected and might occur at the same time. All these theological disputes are reflected by the people in the narrative. Zara and her family represent the Muslims, while Keshav and his family represent the Hindus.

Religious Conflict in the Sphere of Belief

Because of the disparities in their married beliefs, The Girl in Room 105 depicts religious conflict in a spectrum of beliefs. One of the Muslim characters, Safdar, expresses this kind of belief. He upholds sharia, the canonical law of Islam, as a Muslim. According to him, a marriage will be successful if the bride and husband both belong to the Islamic community. For Muslim marriages, it is an essential need (Muzammil, 2019: 9). As a result, before the relationship is consummated, the non-Muslim participant in the couple needs to convert to Islam. Religious Conflict in the Sphere of Ideology

The conceptual divide between Kashmiri Muslims, who consider Islamic law to be the cornerstone of their way of life, and Hindus living outside of Kashmir defines religious strife. According to Woodhead, religion may be seen as an assertion of identity. In Kashmir, Muslims are not a minority. They desire to distance oneself from India so as not to regard themselves like being part of Indian communities. Despite Kashmir becoming a part of the Indian subcontinent, they regard themself to be Kashmiri, rather Indian. Kashmir is seen as the state, its identity, and the whole of Kashmiri societies. Farzana, a Muslim Kashmiri, offers an additional illustration of conflict between faiths within the philosophical domain during her talk with Keshav and Saurabh. Kashmir, she says, means all to her. Differing religious beliefs are the root cause of the religious strife which exists in society. It has a negative impact on society. Therefore, it's critical to comprehend religious disparities in our communities that are founded on religion. One way to stop religious strife might be via tolerance. Nowadays, there is still a religious strife caused by boundaries of faith.

As per **Kadaifi-Orellana** (2003: 26), religion has a noteworthy impact on individuals' thought processes, behaviours, perceptions, and interests. This indicates that religion introduces diversity into civilizations in terms of behaviour, thought, and interest. It is the diversity that leads to strife.

Religious disagreement leads to a variety of kinds of religious violence, including both physical (violent deeds) and discursive (violent, i.e. hostile/hateful words). It also raises problems concerning the precise relationship between these two kinds, such as how each one should be addressed and the extent to which each is detrimental to society.

Furthermore, such violence is a difficult issue. Therefore, faith is not just the motivator in religious conflicts. The rationale can be political considerations, local conditions, or the personal objectives of the main protagonists. Religious strife as a real-world phenomenon is frequently depicted in literary works such as novels. It is possible that this occurs because the author of a literary work lives in society.

The religious conflict issue was chosen as the focus of this study because it is a phenomenon that persists in nations with religious variety, such as India. This study attempts to describe the causes of religious conflict and the contexts in which it may develop.

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Humour

All of Chetan Bhagat's works contain a strong dose of humour in them. Chetan Bhagat's works contain "black humour," which is a type of humour that portrays sorrow and suffering as very cruel or that views human existence as sarcastic and meaningless but somehow comical. 'Black humour' is also known as 'Black Comedy' or 'Dark Humour', and the notion that humans are impotent victims of fortune and character is frequently used to depict farce and poor humour. The novelist uses humour to convey a realistic image of contemporary society. Humour may prove more effective in one's native tongue. Although the novelist speaks in the language, he uses simple language that appears to be one's native tongue.

The main theme of all of Chetan Bhagat's works is humour. His books are full of "black humour," a type of humour that views human existence as sarcastic and senseless but in some way amusing or that shows pains or grief and sorrows as extremely cruel. The term "black humour," frequently referred to as "black farce" or "dark humour," describes its belief that humans are powerless subjects of destiny and character, and it is widely employed in low comedy and farce. The author Chetan Bhagat uses comedy to provide a realistic image of modern society. Humour works better when it is spoken in one's mother tongue. Even though the writer writes in English, his use of straightforward language causes it to seem as though he is speaking it natively.

Irony is the difference between expectation and actuality. Chetan Bhagat's works usually include an element of irony. Irony is important in his most recent two detective books, 'The Girl in Room 105' and 'One Arranged Murder'. Irony is used here to create a murder mystery, keeping readers guessing about the true murderers of both poor girls from the novels who died prematurely because of murder. Both killers in these instances are unsuspecting individuals who were supposed to have appeared totally innocent and are related to the subject committed murder--either a lover or a blood relative.

There are three sorts of irony: verbal irony, dramatic irony, and situational irony. Verbal irony involves the use of phrases to convey meanings that differ from what an individual says. Dramatic irony is designated for performance literature, such as plays and movies. This is whenever the viewer understands something but the individual in question does not. Situational irony occurs when the anticipated result is the exact opposite of what occurs. In this paper, the third sort of irony will be addressed, with an emphasis on Chetan Bhagat's most recent stories, The Girl in Room 105. An investigation is based on the initial information obtained from the books.

Contemporary Issues

"The Girl in Room 105" explores current challenges in Indian culture in addition to being a love tale. Bhagat examines issues including the power dynamics in the Indian educational system, the judgements associated with intimate relationships, interfaith partnerships, as the hardships faced by the LGBTQ+ population. These components give the story more complexity and provoke readers to consider the persistent biases and cultural conventions. An attempt at a case analysis to validate the debate would improve the research. A group of students may have been analysed based on their consumption of sellers to demonstrate the importance of the style or concepts that allow them that are still worthwhile in their target audience of contemporary teenagers. A thorough examination to back up the qualities of blockbusters against canons would have demonstrated the bestsellers' originality. For the investigator, failure to undertake a thorough investigation of the scholarship ended up leaving the publication standing alone.

Zara is very energetic in her studies, although she is encouraged by her father and would- be to carry on her education. Her family encourages her to pursue her aspirations. Women's empowerment stems from their dread of the future. If they are trustful if the man then would meet (as spouses) is going to accomplish what they want, they will not struggle for their rights. When an individual fails to fulfil his duties being a spouse, he is forced to assert herself with authority. Undoubtedly, empowerment causes several alterations in women's lifestyles. For example, those who linger about Zara are determined to win against her because she is an asset and a symbol who will undoubtedly be antlers in their cap. We subsequently learn that Bhagat spent most of his childhood years in Kashmir (which might have contributed to this aspect of the backdrop), as his parent's served in the army. "I felt that numerous tales existed about Kashmir, but nearly each of them went right into the militant aspect of the state," he says, providing some context. Instead, the setting helps build up the tension that he frequently asserts for the story. He also discusses interreligious romance.

The focus of the novel is the animosity among Hindus and Muslims communities in India. The novel is set amid the background of India and Pakistan's long-running Kashmir war. The book looks at how this conflict affects regular or common people, particularly those caught up in the violence and those who were forcefully engaged. Another issue in the novel is injustice and corruption all throughout India.



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Women Empowerment

These days, empowering women is an inherent element of having a family. The so-called patriarchal culture and the norms also permits women's advancement in some fields. Numerous changes in families and society are brought about by empowerment. In certain regions, the presence of strong female leadership contributes to the financial stability of families. Zara, an industrious student at IIT, stands out. She does very well academically. Her relationship with her partner, however, destroys her soul. At the start of the book, Zara is rather modest. Keshav, her partner, is aware of her being a social activist who speaks up in Kashmir on behalf of the voiceless.

It also raises concerns regarding the precise relationship between these two kinds, such as the way they should be treated and the extent to which each is detrimental to society. Furthermore, there are subtleties to such violence. Religious strife as a real-life phenomenon is frequently depicted in literary works like novels. It might happen because the creator of a literary work lives in society. According to Wellek and Warren (1995: 94), literature is a representation of life that depicts both the natural and individual worlds in social reality.

Women from the modern era faced setbacks and limits in all aspects of their lives. Adversity compelled them to empower themselves, and their descendants did the same in time. Finally, they have allowed girl children to make their own decisions.

To better their lifestyle and establish a conducive environment, alpha children, particularly females, are educated and given equal attention as boys. Education allows girl youngsters to spread their wings. Parents who clipped daughters' wings in the modern period begin to assist them in the postmodern age.

This shift in parental attitudes promotes the overall development of young girls.

She lacks a family that includes her parents and siblings. His mother's death forces her father to choose a companion of his own choosing. But as a girl having flying dreams and goals, Ms. Lone departs from the great story of married a man and remaining chaste for him forever. She creates her life according to her heart's wishes, yet her decisions are not successful. This paper tries to demonstrate how liberty and independence can sometimes lead to damnation in the lives of a scholarly girl and her friends.

Bhagat's story The Girl in Room 105 is amongst one of the most impactful and thought provoking several literary works that show conflict over religion. The Girl in Room 105 tells the narrative of Keshav, a Hindu guy who faces a predicament after discovering the Kashmiri Muslim ex-girlfriend, Zara, has died.

Keshav is suspected of murder because he is the first one to discover the dead corpse in hotel room 105. The victim and suspect are of different faiths, which complicates the murder case. Keshav, who is stuck in the murder case, then attempts to identify Zara's murderer.

The purpose of the paper is to encourage women's empowerment and how it affects their personal growth. In some families, empowerment is imposed in order to shield their daughters from the harmful effects of a patriarchal culture. A few female characters hit the barriers hard and were buried deep into the earth as they fluttered their wings in preparation for flight. He defies the overarching narrative that confines girls to being housewives. He gives Zara full permission to be free.

III. CONCLUSION

"The Girl in Room 105" was not just a typical Chetan Bhagat book. It blends the themes such as romance, suspense, and social criticism to produce an original reading experience. Bhagat's ability to address modern societal concerns while being accessible to a wide audience demonstrates his storytelling talent. This work of fiction is an excellent selection for someone seeking an intriguing and psychologically charged read. It transports you on a trip through love, sorrow, and the difficulties of modern connections, all while keeping readers captivated by its intriguing mystery. Well-planned surprises along with concise storytelling kept me engaged throughout, anxiously turning pages to see what occurred next, therefore I believe The Girl in Room 105 is the writer's best work to date.

The story is good. Scenes are neatly written and arranged in tiny segments. The tale moves at a good pace. However, the study is not particularly promising. The peculiar aspect of the search is that Madhav and Saurabh initially speak the

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truth to everyone they meet, after which others assist them without question. They might inquire like a shrewd investigator, yet they were always straightforward with the people they encountered. The latter section is good. Presenting the creator as a passenger aboard Keshav was unnecessary. The story could have been told without the drama, and it was not connected. Twists and curves are beneficial to the plot since they keep the reader interested and persuade them.

Whenever we enter an assassinated plot, the story becomes more captivating. Regardless of his past, upbringing, or environment, the protagonist remains committed to his beliefs. The novel keeps you thinking who the perpetrator is until the very end, and it's a good roller-coaster journey with some nice story twists. The book also discusses prejudices and current political challenges in India. Surely, a Bollywood film based on this is in the works! I adore how the authormaintained tension throughout the entire book. I adored Saurabh's character so much. He was clever, hilarious, smart, supportive, and a true friend. Keshav could not have solved this matter without his assistance. Though Keshav holds a prominent role, my affection was captured by Saurabh.

My Thoughts

First and first, I would want to point out that The Girl in Room 105 is not a classic. There is little literary value in it. It's just an entertaining and addictive thriller. There is no elaborate imagery, symbolism, or multifaceted metaphorical language. The characters, however, seem simplistic and limited to me, even Zara, despite the writer's attempt to make her multidimensional.

I also believe the wording is very simplistic, to the point that it gets unpolished and boring. However, I do not want to appear snobbish. You don't need sophisticated words to make what you write more significant. I love way The Girl in Room 105 was crafted to be more inclusive to Indian audiences while yet providing strong entertainment value.

The thrilling Element

While the author Bhagat is most known for his romance books, "The Girl in Room 105" features a fascinating surprise that keeps people on the verge of their seat. The mystery behind Zara's murder is expertly intertwined into the romance tale, resulting in an interesting and surprising plot that will fascinate the viewer.

Chetan Bhagat is a successful humorist who incorporates it into almost all of his writings. He keeps his audience entertained and interested in his works. He uses humour to reflect the new generation's problems, desperation, and failures. He is additionally recognized as a black humourist because to this characteristic. The novelist uses satire to convey serious and vital messages. He further expresses to readers through humour & wit in his works that any unpleasant situation can and should be addressed with a smile on one's face. He is a master at creating black comedy and cynicism in his published works.

A thorough examination to back up the qualities of blockbusters against canons would have demonstrated the bestsellers' originality. For the investigator, failure to undertake a thorough investigation of the scholarship ended up leaving the publication standing alone. Zara Lone is very energetic in her studies, although she is encouraged by her father and would-be to carry on with her education. Her family encourages and supports her to pursue her aspirations. Women's empowerment stems from their dread of the future.

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