

## A SCANDALOUS SECRET BY JAISHREE MISRA DISCUSSES WOMEN'S MARGINALISATION

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### Abstract

The walls of confinement become a part of married women's lives, the fascination towards one's own dream and the related decisions shatter due to the preservation of culture, and the fascination towards one's own dream and the related decisions shatter due to the preservation of culture. Because the Indian culture nurtures and highly values the family integrity, the stretching of traditional values becomes a part of an individual's dreams in life.

The pressure and internal tension that the protagonist Neha experiences as a result of traditional culture are depicted in Jaishree Misra's book *A Scandalous Secret*. Neha gives in to her professor's lust since she is infatuated with him. Due to the former's early pregnancy and her terrible condition, she abandons her newborn daughter with an English couple. She must give up her child and marry an Indian in accordance with the demands of her parents because of the society in which premarital sex and pregnancy are viewed as sins. She is forced to choose between the truth and pain because of their secret relationship, and she is also ostracised in terms of cultural ethics. In-depth discussion of "Women and Marginalisation" as it appears in Jaishree Misra's literary works will be the focus of this essay.

**Keywords:** Jaishree Misra, *A Scandalous Secret*, Women, Society, Cultural ethics, Westernisation, marginalisation

A Malayali family welcomed Jaishree Misra into the world in New Delhi in 1961. She began her literary career in 2000. Her books raise people's consciousness, especially women. In her book *A Scandalous Secret*, she tells the tale of a woman who gave birth to a kid when still in her adolescent years. She entered the field of special education in 1990 as a result of her daughter's exceptional needs. At that point, she travelled to England to pursue a postgraduate degree at the London Institute of Education.

Misra's novels focus on the plight of women, including not just their hardships but also the effects they have on their offspring. She makes an effort to provide answers to numerous issues that are described in her works. She hopes to impart lessons to her readers through her books. Misra has persistently advocated for women to let go of their inferiority complexes and to be proud of their gender. She encourages women to let go of their docile attitudes and life strategies in order to grow into strong, independent women who can handle any challenge that comes their way in daily life.

The late Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, a well-known Malayalam author, had a great niece named Jaishree Misra who is a distinguished English writer. She has numerous years of experience working in Buckinghamshire's Social Services' Child Care Division. In London, England, she has also worked as a film classification for the British Board of Film Classification. The scenarios that Jaishree Misra presents are from real life, and her characters have souls like real people. Naturally, their road to salvation is not a smooth one to travel on, but rather a rocky one littered with obstacles, mental breakdowns, and ruin. The women of Jaishree Misra can only gain true independence by conquering obstacles. She doesn't want to serve as the male writers' willing mouthpiece.

Despite the fact that Jaishree Misra does not offer any solutions to the issues faced by Indian women, her novel's conclusion does present Jaishree Misra is well known for her realistic exposure of the issues faced by the affluent urban women of Kerala, Delhi, and London. Despite the fact that Misra does not offer any solutions to the issues faced by Indian women, the novel's conclusion offers some hope to the readers. *A Scandalous Secret*, the third book in Jaishree Misra's "Secret" series, is her seventh literary creation. The main character of this book, Neha Chaturvedi, seems to lead a life that is straight out of a fairy tale. Neha is a blissfully content woman and the envy of many in her family and friends because she is married to the wealthy, powerful, and extremely dignified Sharat Chaturvedi.

She enrolled in Oxford as a young student at the age of eighteen to pursue a degree but abruptly quit after a year. She has entirely put her past in the past and is now fully devoted to the new life she and Sharat have made. Her husband Sharat is "her rock." She possesses wealth, glitz, and grandeur in spades. She also harbours a scandalous secret that dates back eighteen years that she strictly forbids herself from thinking about until an unexpected letter with a British stamp arrives and rips the fabric of her composure and tranquilly to shreds.

Sonya, the daughter Neha forsook and gave up for adoption as an eighteen-year old student in Oxford, is the second protagonist of the story. Adopted and brought up by the loving Richard and Laura Shaw, Sonya has enjoyed a warm and protected childhood and is the apple of her parents' eyes. As a child Sonya has 'wanted for nothing'. Her parents have given her everything within their modest reach—including ballet and horse riding lessons. Though an integral part of this loving English family, questions about her true parentage have been 'like a missing piece in a jigsaw puzzle'.

Being eighteen also gives Sonya the legal right, under U.K. laws, to trace her roots. As a result, Sonya has located her birth mother, Neha Chaturvedi to Delhi, India and is scheduled to visit Neha there in order to meet Neha and find answers to questions that have troubled her her entire young life. Sonya writes to Neha to inform her of her impending arrival.

Sonya travels to Delhi with Estelle, her longtime best friend and the proprietor of the chatty Mrs. Mahajan, the proprietor of the B&B where they stay, introduces them to Keshav, their driver and guide, and Sonya finds herself drawn to him. Neha visits Ananda to ease the intense emotional turmoil she is experiencing, where she meets Arif, a retired lawyer. He is essential in assisting Neha in reliving the pain of the past and realising that she wasn't fully to blame for everything that had occurred in Oxford 18 years before. Neha is persuaded to battle the odds to keep her marriage to Sharat intact by Ananda's serenity and Arif's wise advice.

Arif is essential in assisting Sharat in putting things in perspective and helping him cope with the sudden upheaval in his life. The confrontation between Neha and Sonya, their conflict, and its settlement come next. Neha also has a confrontation with Sharat. Based on factors including colour, race, religion, culture, gender, and ethnicity, marginalisation can take many various forms. Based on their gender, women are marginalised from the moment they are born. The hardship and suffering that women experience generally are depicted by Jaishree Misra. She also shows how her female characters succeed in overcoming their obstacles.

## References

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