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**SOUL DEALING-“FRIENDSHIP, LOVE, SEX AND MARRIAGE” IN CHETAN BHAGAT’S HALF GIRLFRIEND**

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**Abstract**

Chetan Bhagat has been acclaimed as one of the best-selling novelists of the Indian fiction. He has written about modern Indian youths and their need in his novels. He says that novels are entertainment tools through which one can express his views and opinions about society and the youth. In the modern India human behavior changed into lust, greed, hypocrisy, and hatred and these are the major themes of Bhagat’s novels. His novels are incomplete without friendship, love, family conflicts and marriage. The background in which Chetan Bhagat has written novels is predominantly of the society in the post globalization era. His novels are based on day-to-day happenings in the Indian society so ultimately he has written the problems of Indian society. He has handled the modern situation in proper manner. One cannot deny the possibility of family conflicts in which Bhagat has described. His characters easily get involved in friendship and love and suffer a lot. He takes upon the sensitive issues which concern to the society in his novels ranging from romantic love story to a shocking condition of the Indian multiculturalism. Bhagat, in the novel describes about the Indian culture and

trend. This paper aims to study the friendship, love, and sex in modern India that Chetan Bhagat presents in his novel, Half Girlfriend.

**Keywords:** Love, sex, marriage, friendship, betrayal

**Introduction**

Chetan Bhagat is an Indian author, columnist, and speaker. He is the author of eight blockbuster novels, *Five Point Someone-What not to do at IIT* (2004), *One Night @ the Call Center* (2005), *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* (2008), *2 States* (2009), *Revolution 2020* (2011), *Half Girlfriend* (2014), *One Indian Girl* (2016) and *The Girl In Room 105* (2018) and two non-fictions, *What Young India Wants* (2012) and *Making India Awesome* (2015). All these books have best-seller since their release and some bollywood films like *3 idiots*, *Hello, Kai Po Che*, *2 States* and *Half Girlfriend* took inspiration from these novels. Chetan Bhagat is seen more as a youth icon than just an author. This IIT and

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IIM-A graduate is making India read like never before.

Bhagat like his earlier novels starts the story of the novel by interacting with Madhav Jha, protagonist of the novel at Chanakya Hotel, Patna. The story of the novel revolves around Madhav Jha, a boy from Dumraon in Bihar and Riya Somani, a girl from New Delhi. Both the characters took admission in the same college in Delhi, become good friends make sex and finally get married. Madhav gets admission in St. Stephens College through sports quota. At the same time Riya also gets admission in the college on the basis of sports quota. On the first sight Madhav falls in love with Riya.

They become friends and used to play basketball in the college. He says, "Yet, it was one of the most beautiful faces I had seen my entire life. Sometimes it is hard to explain why you find a person beautiful. Was it her narrow face, perfectly in line with her slender body? Was it her flawless skin and complexion which had turned from cream to pink to red? Or was it not about her looks at all? Was it her passion, her being totally immersed in the game? I didn't know". He falls in love with her. Every time he used to think about her. He visits her home to see her when she was sick. He becomes jealous when he comes to know that Riya is going to marry with Rohan Chandak, a businessman in London. He feels so humiliated and thinks what his friends will think about him who already advised him to keep distance between her.

He says, "The situation reminded me of what my friends used to tell me. I was induced a toy. I felt like Woody from the movie *Toy Story*. In the film, Woody, a neglected toy, cries alone because his owner grows up and no longer plays with him".

Chetan Bhagat's novels are incomplete without kiss and sex scenes. From the beginning Five Point someone to Room No 105 we see the both the scenes. In this novel Madhav Jha is very much attracted towards Riya and wants to kiss her. Once he takes her in his hostel and tries to kiss her. He describes his first scene, "I let out a grunt of protest. She laughed. I took aim and bent. In a second I managed to place my lips on hers, despite her face being upside-down. Spiderman kisses like that. It isn't easy. I wouldn't advise it if you are kissing someone for the first time".

Madhav after completing his study goes to hometown Dumraon. He leaves his job at International bank and starts teaching at his own school, run by his mother. Bhagat like his other novels also creates coincidence of meeting with lost lover. Madhav Jha joins English Spoken classes at Patna as he has to prepare a speech for a function where Bill Gates was going to visit his school. Once he comes to Patna to meet Samantha, one of the employees at Bill Gates Foundation at Chanakya Hotel. He sees Riya Somani in the hotel who comes to Patna for a work related to her company which she joins after taking divorce from her husband, Rohan Chandak. He feels extremely happy. In his words,

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‘Oh my God’, Riya said. ‘Madhav Jha’

‘Riya ...Riya Somani, right?’ I said.

‘Wow, you have difficulty recollecting my name, Madhav Jha!’

‘Riya Somani’ I said, giving up all pretence of indifference. The receptionist seemed surprised at the happy coincidence right at her counter.

Madhav takes Riya to his village, Dumraon where he introduces her as a friend to his mother. Both as a love bird can't wait a long from making love. So go to terrace and take a long kiss. An excerpt from the passage describes their kiss scene:

‘Shh...’ I said and kept my hand on her mouth. I came forward and kissed my fingers placed on her lips. Her eyes blinked in surprise. I removed my fingers. My lips landed on hers. We had kissed exactly three years, four months and eleven days ago. She put her arms around me as if to keep her balance. The kiss was light at first and then picked up intensity. Frogs croaked, cricket chirped and the breeze soared as Dumraon's night sky witnessed Bihar's, if not the world's, best kiss ever.

She buried her face in my shoulder. More than kisses I could tell she wanted to be held, as if she has not hugged anyone in a really long time. I held her tighter, landing kisses wherever I could, on her face, neck, lips. After a minute, or maybe an hour, she stirred.

‘That lasted a while’, she said ‘Still count as one kiss. Was it nice?’ I said.

Riya attends Bill Gates program at Dumraon and leaves Madhav and goes to America to fulfill her dream of becoming a singer. Madhav becomes mad as he gets Riya after three years, now at any cost he wants to marry her. So in search of her with the help of Bill Gates Foundation stipend he goes to America and lives with his friends. There he searches her day and night and at last he finds her at a singing program. On seeing Madhav in America Riya could not stop herself from crying. He goes with her at her flat and makes sex with her. Bhagat here is successful in giving climax scene just like a movie. His hero and heroine, in most of the novel make close contact. The ecstasy of getting closer after a long period could not stop them from making sex. As soon as they reach at flat, both are eager to make sex. An expert from the novels:

‘She silenced me with a kiss. Her lips felt like warm honey. She kissed me for a long time, holding my face in her hands. Our tongues gently touched. I placed my left hand on her cheek. My right hand kept my towel in place. She guided my right hand to her back. Her gown was backless, and felt smooth skin. She removed my pink T-shirt. I tried to remove her gown but It was too complex a garment for me to understand. I tugged at it, and then gave up. She unzipped a side zipper and stepped out of it. We embraced. We kissed. We touched. We

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caressed. We reached the bedroom, the bed. Our lips never stopped kissing. Our hands never stopped touching. Every moment felt special as we made love. I entered her, and our eyes met. Both of us felt strong and vulnerable at the same time. I saw tears in her eyes.

‘You okay?’ I said

She nodded. She brought her face close to my ear to whisper.

‘More than okay. I’m great’, she said, ‘And you?’

‘More than great’, I said.

Chetan Bhagat always tries to end his novels in happy ending by marrying his main characters. Madhav and Riya come to India, get married and start living at Dumraon. She helps her husband, Madhav in teaching in a school.

**Conclusion:**

Thus, Chetan Bhagat in his novel, *half Girlfriend* has tried to present the real conditions of today’s Indian society. Friendship, love relationship, betrayal, sex and marriages all are beautifully worded here. In the novel the author has given stress on friendship and betrayal in love. Riya Somani, who is beautiful, slim and tall, attracted Madhav Jha’s attention. Made friendship with him but married with a rich guy, Rohan Chandak. She did not get real love in her married life as Roshan gave divorce to her. Being frustrated she joined a company and luckily met to Madhav at Patna. Riya’s wish from her childhood was to become a singer was unfulfilled. So she

tries to distract Madhav and goes to America. But Madhav, being over excited in love with her tries to catch her. In the end he got success in getting Riya. The condition of Bihar and its language, besides school run by Ranisaheba is also realistically described by the author. Bhagat has succeeded here in describing all the things in beautiful manner. He has also succeeded in keeping the readers stick to novel up to at the end.

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