
**Woman's Journey towards Love and Identity in Preeti Shenoy's
*Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake***

Dr. G. Kayalvizhi, Assistant Professor in English (PG), Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi

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Abstract:

In "Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake", Preeti Shenoy masterfully weaves a heartwarming and compelling love story about two individuals who embark on a journey of self-discovery and romance. As they navigate the complexities of their relationship, they must confront the risks and challenges that come with opening themselves up to love. This study provides an in-depth examination of Shenoy's writing style, exploring how her simple yet evocative prose draws readers into the world of her characters. Furthermore, this analysis delves into the author's journey, highlighting her transformation from a dependent wife to a self-sufficient individual after leaving her husband's home. Through her narrative, Shenoy extends an invitation to her readers to engage in introspection, prompting them to contemplate their personal experiences with love, loss, and resilience. This introspective exploration renders "Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake" a profoundly relatable and poignant literary work as readers navigate the complexities of human emotion through Shenoy's masterful storytelling.

Keywords: feminism, male-dominated, independent life, equal rights and positions, etc.,

Introduction:

Love isn't about being flawless. It is about being with someone who realizes that perfection occurs when two individuals completely understand and appreciate each other without limitations and conditions. Love is like ice cream; we must savor and taste it before it melts. Everyone desires to have their own identity and be able to stand on their own two feet. They gain their own identity and demonstrate their accomplishment as a result of their hard work, experience, and intellect.

Regardless of age, a woman's priceless pearl is love and uniqueness. It has a lengthy journey and has encountered many obstacles, many of which are filled with women's screams and pains. A woman's identity is the face of a coin that is shaped and molded by real love; she comes into her life as the other side. Love from her

family provides her bravery and confidence; however, love from her better half alone fulfills and makes her glitter with the most identity in her life and society.

Women have a wide range of emotional ideas and sensations. Nisha, the protagonist of the novel *The Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake*, lives in a post-modern civilization. Historically, all ladies began their love and also their lives in sacred sites or their homes. However, in the present day, all love begins in clubs, bars, parties, and plays. Similarly, Nisha picks her better half during a lavish celebration.

Nisha's trajectory is marked by a quest for self-actualization as she endeavors to heed Preeti Shenoy's dictum, "Life is short; follow your heart and chase your dreams." This existential imperative motivates Nisha to pursue her long-held aspirations despite the vicissitudes of fate. However, her journey is complicated by the absence of parental affection, particularly the paternal love that is essential for a daughter's emotional flourishing. The lack of paternal validation leaves Nisha with a profound sense of melancholy, which is palpable in her countenance. Nevertheless, her encounter with Prashanth Mathur offers a fleeting glimpse of joy, only to be thwarted by his departure with his lover, Leena. This disappointment precipitates a serendipitous encounter with Samir, whose ocular gaze manifests a profound fascination with Nisha. This chance meeting serves as a turning point in Nisha's narrative, as Samir's evident interest in her facilitates a nascent connection that potentially mitigates the emotional distress precipitated by Prashanth's rejection.

A Plump, ordinary girl gets the attention and interest of a handsome, rich business tycoon who is loving, considerate, and perfect. Every woman needs three things in her life – a good job, trustful friends, and someone to love, but Nisha does not get anything in her life. She works in a firm, but she lost it. She is struggling for her life's love. Fate turns her existence into a dream. Because of her intelligence and charm, Samir offered her a new job in his company.

When he sees Nisha in his company, he wonders if a star has fallen to Earth. She places all of her confidence and hopes in Samir and confides in him about her deepest secrets. They had a heart-to-heart conversation. Because of Samir, she has real love and the opportunity to prove herself successful. The organization is the ideal environment for her to develop her personality. They go out together and discuss numerous aspects of their lives. Nisha feels like Cinderella when she goes out with Samir.

Nisha's pleasure and happiness increased exponentially once Samir entered her life. Jealousy plays an important part when women fall in love with males. Of course, Nisha gets envious of Samir when he talks about his previous love affair with Jeena. It demonstrates Nisha's actual feelings for Samir. The presentation during Bali vacations strengthens their friendship. Following the presentation, they enjoy a private candlelight meal when she recounts her traumatic recollections of her previous mother and icy father.

When she is going to weep, he raises her hands and kisses her to convey his devotion. She doesn't say anything, but she needs more affection from him since she's never cared for herself this much before. They go to a room and have sex.

True love is a perpetual struggle between the head and the heart. She listens to her heart and is overjoyed with their partnership. Aside from love, she gives numerous successful presentations and establishes herself as a clever lady. She, like everyone else, has a distinct identity. Her life is coming into perfect order, like parts of a jigsaw puzzle. She is even unconcerned about the chatter of their coworkers since she needs Samir's love and care. Nisha is a wonderful woman after the presentation on the Kerala trip. She's curious about the name of their partnership. She requires safety and security as a woman. Women cannot face any difficulties in their lives unless they have a partner. They both decide to be married. Marriage is a risk that we accept in the hope that we will all grow as people together.

Nisha informs her father about her marriage plans, and her father agrees to meet with him. The pompous parent transforms into a nice one. Despite his arrogance, he worries about his daughter's life. Unfortunately, he dies before meeting Samir. Nisha's father's death may have served as a wake-up call concerning her own life. But she is unconcerned since Samir is by her side. They married soon after.

Nisha's romantic adventure comes to an end when she marries Samir. After a few days, her life will be completely altered. Samir gradually limits the time he spends with Nisha. They divorced after the birth of Tanya, her first child. Samir wishes to spend the entire day with Nisha, but she refuses. Tanya is cared for as a joyful girl by her loving mother. Nisha's individuality is lost after her marriage and the birth of her first kid. According to Philio Larkin's poem "Afternoon," all women lose their identities after marriage. When women assume many roles as wives, mothers, and daughters-in-law, their individuality diminishes. They lose their individuality as a result of their household tasks and responsibilities. Similarly, Nisha loses her individuality as a result of her husband and children.

Samir's dream is to be able to live with Nisha without their children. He will not comprehend her circumstances or health difficulties as her husband. She declines to attend Samir's mother's funeral due to health concerns. As a good wife, she conceals all her knowledge and true nature, but Samir never understands her and shows no compassion for her. When Rohit, their second baby son, enters their lives, their relationships suffer greatly. Samir is bothered by the presence of two youngsters. So he is disregarding his wife Nisha to pursue a beautiful girl named Maya.

Nisha is unable to bear all of her traumatic events. Her mouth is tingling from the experience. She believes that her status as an ideal employer and perfect spouse is fading. Except for a few syllables, she can manage all of his speech. "My house," he continued, and "your precious baby."

Nisha finds herself alone, yet a thousand breaths appear to mix in the surrounding air. With two children, she moves back to her former residence. She buries her past and begins to care for her two children. Especially Rohit, who is still a baby. The baby boy is the most wonderful thing Nisha has ever had. He is now her treasure, delight, world, and everything. A million ideas buzz in her head like a swarm of bees whose colony has been disturbed. She gathers all of her aspirations and dreams and begins to live a joyful life for her children.

Sudeep Nagarkar, a burgeoning Indian author, has garnered acclaim for his works that delve into the complexities of relationships and their perceptions in diverse contexts. In his novel *Sorry, You're Not My Type*, Nagarkar adeptly illustrates the pivotal role of trust and care in relationships, skillfully elucidating the essence of love and friendship. Through the narrative, Nagarkar demonstrates how Akash's empathetic gesture towards Nisha, who is grappling with loneliness, catalyzes her emotional rejuvenation. By offering her a new opportunity, Akash enables Nisha to channel her grief and disappointment into productivity, thereby exemplifying the therapeutic benefits of immersing oneself in work.

Nagarkar's narrative resonates with Shenoy's emphasis on the significance of connections in human relationships. He astutely remarks, "All relationships should come with a precautionary warning: 'HANDLE WITH CARE,'" highlighting the fragile nature of relationships and the need for mindful nurturing.

Nisha is preoccupied with her work. Mrs. B, Nisha's neighbor, assists her while she is cooking. In her absence, she looks after her children. Mrs. B, like Nisha, lives a lonely existence following her husband's death. Nisha is pleased with Akash, and when she reads the business card, she is impressed and eager. The magic Saucepan We make good food! They both work together to make Nisha's business a huge success.

Unlike Samir, Akash makes a polite proposal to Nisha. Samir expects desire from Nisha, not love. But Akash requires genuine love and care from Nisha. She declines his proposal since she despises marriage. However, she desires to be in another relationship with Akash. Women always consider age while selecting their better half; if they don't mind, it doesn't matter.

Akash asks Nisha to spend the summer in Pondicherry. On the Pondicherry trip, Nisha saw Akash's sincere compassion and caring. His interaction with the two babies greatly impresses her. He is similar to their father. Akash attempts to persuade Nisha to live with him, but she refuses. Finally, he persuades her and begins a wonderful life with Akash and her two darling children. Sudeep Nagarkar's *You're the Password to My Life* is similar to Shenoy's perspective on partnerships. He says, Sometimes you have to wait for a very long time to find that special person, but it is definitely worth the wait

Nisha's life is completed by her love for Akash, as represented by the woman's path toward Love and Identity. Despite living with Akash, she maintains her personality and stands on her own two feet. They both opened "The Soul Garden" restaurant. The road toward Nisha's love and identity is a triumphant and happy one.

Preeti Shenoy's novel *Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake* depicts trust and compassion as fundamental aspects of all relationships. Love and companionship are as natural to her as breathing. Without love, life is like a tree with no blooms or fruits. One faithful buddy is worth ten thousand relatives. Even Nisha and Akash are transformed into chalk and cheese. Because of trust and care, the two are successful in their lives.

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