



# The Complexity of Human Relationships in Naheed Phiroze Patel's *A Mirror Made of Rain*

Lakxana S<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr. M. John Suganya<sup>2</sup>

Department of English

<sup>1,2</sup> PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore.

<sup>1\*</sup> [slakxana@gmail.com](mailto:slakxana@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> [suganyajohn@gmail.com](mailto:suganyajohn@gmail.com) +919994924381

## **Abstract:**

This research paper entails family intricacies and the evolving community's influences on a relationship. It primarily focuses on the consequences of a drifting bond between a mother and a daughter. The novel disrupts the stereotypical and conventionality of a women's role in society. In her debut novel, Noomi, the protagonist has been portrayed with all her flaws to make it relatable to the readers of the author, Naheed Phiroze Patel. The mental disorder and addiction of a single member (Aasha) have a ripple effect on the entire family. The anxiety of not turning into her mother (Aasha) caused her to become entrapped in the trauma she had inherited. This tale tears off the ethnicity of a family that depends on the ideal Mother, Daughter-in-law, Wife, and Daughter. The Mirror made of rain partially reflects the prejudices between the higher-class community, and the stress laid on its inhabitants to meet the canons to suit the anticipated framework.

## **Keywords:**

Complexity, Trauma, Relationship, Addiction, Self-Destruction, Misogyny.

## **Introduction:**

Social realism, Morality, Feminism, Individual Experiences, Social Prejudices, Conventional Ethics, and Familial Expectations are observed in Indian Writing. An Emerging Writer, essayist, Interviewer, and critic Naheed Phiroze Patel, graduated from Columbia University's School of Arts and initiated her literary career with the novel *A Mirror Made of Rain*. This book's complicated narrative painstaking sifts through the past and present to show how patriarchal upbringing and intergenerational trauma are difficult to erase and require ongoing negotiation since domestic violence is peculiarly excused.

## **An Insight into *A Mirror Made of Rain*:**

Bright, hot-tempered Noomi Wadia, a young woman with a propensity for mischief, battles with her mother's complicated feelings towards her. She develops from a wild-eyed, lonely teen to a tormented adult who finds love but is unsatisfied. In rural Kamalpur, Noomi Wadia is being watched closely by her friends and extended relatives who are looking for any indication that she would follow in the footsteps of her disgraced alcoholic mother. Additionally, she is harassed and beaten by several golden boys who, like their families, made a hurting comment to her that she is a whore like her mother. Ambitious and worn out, Noomi escapes to Mumbai, where she establishes herself as a famous writer and meets Veer, the love of her

life. Veer hails from a wealthy, traditional New Delhi family that demands more stringent adherence to gender and ceremonial rules than Noomi can handle. Noomi turns to booze for solace as the countdown to their wedding intensifies, and this decision foretells a future that is less like her own and more like her mother's. She seeks counseling to get her life back on track.

## **Dissecting the Obscurity of Relationship concerning the novel:**

Relationships are incredibly complicated and call for traits like acceptance, compassion, concern, and the willingness to pursue the pleasure of the other person. Here Jeh, Noomi's father, struggled to strike a balance among his roles as a devout son, a caring husband, and a loving father. He was deeply drawn to his responsibilities. However, his equilibrium had been utterly wrecked due to his alcoholic wife Asha. As a result of losing her kid at delivery, Asha has an absolute alcohol addiction. But in honor of her deceased son, she fails and loses sight of her crucial motherly responsibility for her existing daughter. Insisting on his granddaughter, Zal Papa tells her, "I hope you'll turn out better than she has,"(AMMR

13), implying the entire family's anxiety about keeping Noomi from succumbing to addiction. Throughout this crucial time in Noomi's life, Asha failed to encourage and lead her daughter as a mother. The best illustration of what a daughter might become in the absence of her mother's care is provided by Noomi. So, the story revolves around the toxic back-and-forth between Noomi and her mother, who are both harboring unresolved grudges from the past and present. They accuse one another of being selfish and incapable of love while, in reality, they are both hurting themselves and thrashing about in search of a resolution. However, there are some less acidic aspects of this novel as well, including a quiet undercurrent of connections and ties that support both the storyline and the characters.

Adding to that high society parties, lavish weddings, and other upscale events serve as the backdrop for a significant portion of the story's action. The stormy adolescence of Noomi is mostly dominated by a few disastrous relationships. Noomi discovers the love of her life just as it begins to look like all of her former boyfriends have moved on and are either engaged or married while she continues to be pathologically single. She ultimately consents to a conventional Punjabi wedding, while still having doubts regarding marriage and the various intricate traditions that go along with it. Noomi wants to be married despite having a lot of self-doubts about it because she wants to break the pattern of hereditary inheritance and have a happy family life. However, she ends up failing at it. With reference to the article psychological conflict in Anita Desai's *Cry the Peacock* by Suganya B and M John Suganya, this paper explores The Complexity of Human Relationships in Naheed Phiroze Patel's *A Mirror Made of Rain*.

Moreover, the daughter makes an effort to distance herself from her mother since she doesn't want to experience the same level of anguish as her mother. The first mirror people view themselves in is their mother. Noomi, however, would believe she is eternally flawed and worthless for the rest of her life because the mirror she is gazing through is broken. Eventually, she follows her mother's route even though she was ill-prepared to be drawn into the traumatizing cycle that her mother had created. Both the mother and daughter pair turn to booze as their sole means of solace as they struggle to deal with the realities of the outside world, their fears, their incapacity, and their reluctance to get rid of the past.

The subtle ways in which misogyny is expressed in this novel significantly impact the female characters' lives like the pepper in the cuisine. Though Jeh and Veer support their spouses, they are somewhat influenced by societal expectations and familial customs, which causes them to impose it on their wives even if they have no interest in doing so. Despite getting married, Noomi still struggled with anxiety and hopelessness. She despises how there are invariably separate laws for women and men in almost every area of life. The author makes some frank insights on marriage in the writing, especially when seen from a woman's perspective and in between all the humor.

## Conclusion:

In this feminist fiction, Naheed Phiroze Patel investigates the scars that are handed down inside a family from one generation to another with tremendous innovation. As the book's main character, Noomi, reaches adulthood, we see in her mother Asha the beginnings of the self-destruction that would eventually make their way into Noomi's life as well.

Addiction and mental illness are the two main components of these traces. Both of these topics are delicately used by the author to wonderfully acknowledge the harm our familial past inflicts on our present life and how important it is to acknowledge the pain and move forward with hope.

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