



## An Analysis of Chetan Bhagat Novel, *Half Girlfriend* Focussing on Man-Woman Relationship

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ABSTRACT

Chetan Bhagat is an immortal name when it comes to writing of fiction as he has been the known as the role model of the youth in India. He has written 6 fictions and one non-fiction and almost in every novel he has highlighted his deep concern about the youth today. Bhagat's latest novel *Half Girlfriend*, which was released in October 2014. It talks about, Madhav a Bihari boy who can't Spoke English meets Riya, a girl who speaks fluent English. This article is an attempt Project the anti - feministic view, that revealed through the man - women relationship.

KEYWORDS

Fiction, anti - Feministic, non fiction.

Chetan Bhagat is an Indian author and speaker. Bhagat is the author of six best selling novels, *Five point someone* (2004), *One Night @ the call center* (2005), *The Three Mistakes of my Life* (2008) 2 staes (2009), *Revolution 2020* Love, Corruption, Ambition (2011) and *Half Girl friend* (2014)

Chetan Bhagat (born on 22 April, 1974). He grew up in Delhi in a Punjabi family in a uncertain home environment where his parents used to fight a lot. His father an army officer was very strict and wasn't allowed to watch television or film. So Chetan and his brother used to make up movie stories and perhaps that's where this fact of writing all sprang up. He studied at IIT, Delhi and then at IIM, Ahmadabad where he was named " The Best Out going Student". He married Anusha, his classmate at IIM Worked as a banker for eleven years, later he turned to writing.

He is the writer of modern India and he has put many problems of youth through his novels. In every novel he has highlighted his deep concern about the youth today, what are the problems, hopes and aspirations of the youth Bhagat believes that India tends to have an academic and social revolution to prevent young people simply adopting what they learn without thinking. He wants to convey this message across to the Indian youth even if they don't get stratospheric marks, they are still entitled to a happy life and it's not the end of life if they fail. He generally talks about youngster's worries, their anxieties and all those things which preoccupy them, by means of his writings. His writing subjects include parental academic pressure along with pre-marital sex, drinking and other topics taboo in socially conservative India.

After six best sellers Chetan Bhagat, latest English novel, *Half Girl friend*, is dedicated to the "non-English types". He is known to attract first time readers to English-language books in his native country.

*Half girl friend* talked about a boy "from Bihar" named Madhav Jha who fell in love with a girl named Riya Somani, who was not interested to date with him because she spoke English better than he did. Mr. Bhagat has said that, through this romance, he intends to explore questions of class in India, and how that's bound up with the English language and with the state of the rural education system. Oddly perhaps, for a book supposedly about class, it is to be set in St. Stephen's college in Delhi, not known for providing an opportunity for various classes to mix. Indeed of anything, St. Stephen's is the most proudly elitist institution in India. Still, given Mr. Bhagat's fondness for placing his characters in "aspirational"

locations such as IIT, IIM and citibank, where he has experienced. Here, sometimes he fails to narrate a St. Stephen's student in a genuine manner, the description goes in a detached manner, being not a student at all in a regular degree college.

Through This book, Chetan Bhagat says that he intends to dismantle the elitism that surrounds English. Writing in *Times of India*, he makes the nuanced point "Let there be English. Let there be no class system about it". Perhaps *Half Girl friend* might actually succeed in making both points, where others have failed. Certainly its author will expect no less of himself. As he says, with characteristic modesty, in his column. " I must say I have had a part to play in dismantling this (elitist, English-speaking) club. "Anyone who has read his books will agree this point.

"Half Girl friend" is the midway stage in a relationship, where two people are more than friends but not elite in relationship yet. Chetan Bhagat says. "When I say that is more a joke as we as a society do not have a culture of dating pan-India, even though there is a lot of curiosity about it".

The novel begins as Chetan meets Madhav Jha, the hero at his room in Chanakya Hotel, Patna. Madhav introduces his *Half Girl friend* as dead, leaving some journals behind her. In a desperate mood he began to narrate his story.

Madhav Jha, a Bihari boy from Damraon, meets Riya Sumani, an upper class Delhi inhabitant at St. Stephen's college basketball court. He is attracted towards her beauty and elegance, though her attitude towards him is moderate. His lack of confidence at his Bihari accented *half English* made him timid in front of others. He tries to overcome it with his excellency in basketball, thus she felt an admiration.

Towards him, as she too is interested in basketball. Thus they became good friends. But Madhav expects something more than what he is now. He wants her to be his girl friend.

Even though Chetan Bhagat claims to be more feministic in his attitudes through the picturisation of bold female characters, he fails to bring male protagonist with the same aspects. They can't keep themselves simply as a friend for long, they expect more. They are all harden admirers of external beauty and enchanted by it.

Here Riya Somani is reluctant towards his proposal to keep herself as a girl friend of him, he stresses for that. Madhav represents a traditional male chauvinist, who wants her to

share everything what he wants. He is optimistic as she says that she will follow him even though he is careless towards her.

"I stamped my feet and walked off the court, She followed me. Ignore girls and they can't leave you alone Strange. I didn't look at her. She spoke from behind me." (Act.5)

I leaned forward to kiss her. At the last movement she moved her face away and it ended up kissing her cheek.

'Madhav Jha', She said. Behave yourself'.

' I am behaving like my self. This is what I want to do.'

'All you boys are the same', she said and slapped my wrist. 'You've experienced all boys ? ' I raised my eyebrows.] (Act 6)

This is the question that every male want to ask, for man, female should be virgin until he touches. Riya tries to protest against his male centred ideas.

'Madhav Jha learn about girls, or figure it out, But don't ruin it. Understand ?'. She said ) (Act 6 ).

At last she agrees to be his half girl friend

'Okay I'am your half girl friend So we are more than

friends ? ' I said

' Well more than just casual friends'

'But I don't get to kiss you'

You are obsessed with kissing, aren't you ?

Is that I am to you, a pair of lips ?]

Riya's voice echoes the status of contemporary Indian female in man-woman relationship. More than romance man is highly passionate and he will hunt until he fulfills his aim.

"Girls never tell you anything straight out anyway. You have to interpolate and extrapolate their responses to figure out what's in their mind.

I Smuggled her in again. As I shut the door of my room. I knew my movements of truth had come. Make Bihar proud, make yourself count, I repeated in my head.

'Deti hai to de, Varna kat le'(Fuck me, or fuck off) most likely I am across Bihari from Damroan whose true animal not use had come out.) (Act 10 ).

After this horrible experience in the hostel room, Riya realizes his intentions and says good bye to their relationship. Though he felt grievance and apologized her, she denied.

Later she married her high class family friend Rohan and flew abroad. Madhav planned to help his mother who runs a royal school at Damraon. Thue he waked a lot to modify the infrastructure facilities and basic needs in that rural school. After a long gap Madhav again meets Riya at Patna as a divorcee. Again the romance starts with intense feeling, yet she is reluctant towards physical attachment. She agreed to help him to learn English speech that he has to take part in an occasion while Bill Gates visits their rural school as a part of funding.

The occasion of Bill Gates arrival, madhav's speech, announcement of enough funding, every thing went in a graceful manner. Then Riya disappears leaving a letters to Madhav that she is caught with lung cancer and nearing to death. At this point Madhav meets chetan with a bundle of journals that her ex-land lord has handed over him as she left it in a wooden box in her flat.

Those journals revealed many secrets in her relationships with her father, Rohan, her ex-husband and with his own Bihari mother. Here she opens her mind that he has to pretend lung cancer and to free from the life of Madhav because his mother don't like a divorcee, rather a modern girl to stick on to her son's life. She asked Riya to leave him alone.

Now Madhv Jha glitened a new hope of meeting Riya again. But she left no trace where she is. Latr he recollected her dreams of singing in the bar hotels of New York city. He decided to start with their dream and flew to New York pretending to do an internship with Bill Gats Foundation.

Here onwards we can feel the depth of love and is heightened to eternity when both are separated. He wandered from pillar to pillar. seeking her. But everything is in vein. After the completion of his internship of two months on of his friends informs her doubt that there is an Indian singer in one of the night bar. The curious heart stopping moments before his return flight, he meets Riya at the bar. The reader experience a highly passionate reunion of the loving couple. Now she is in love with him, not a half girl friend but full. At last she has to yield before the eternal love. Here auther tries to say that no girl can be reluctant for a long time, if he haunds for that. The novel ends with Chetan at Damaron school to participate a function in their well running school under the supervision of Madhav, mother and Riya with their son.

Chetan Bhagat Writes in ordinary english and it is reassuring for young people to know someone knows what they are going through. It tends to be simple with linear narratives and vivid story telling. He admits that he is no Arundhati Roy, The Indian Booker Prize winning auther and says he knows critics feel his books are shallow. But he enjoys a rockstar like popularity among his readers, aged mainly 13 to 30, said he has the ultimate reponse- "my book sell". Half girlfriend is a romance mostly laced with heavy breathing sexuality.

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