

Baby Kochamma the Devil of Big Things in the God of Small Things

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Abstract—The God of Small Things, Arundhathi Roy’s Booker Prize Novel has many characters belonging to 3 Generations. They are 1.Rahel 2.Estha 3.Babu 4.Ammu 5.Sofia Mol 6.Margarat Kochamma 7.Chacko 8.Mammachi 9.Pappachi 10.Baby Kochamma 11.Father Mulligun 12.Kochu Maria 13.Velutha 14.Velia Papan 15.Orange Drink Lemon Drink man 16.KNM Pillai Of them 1)Some were born in the generation of Pre Independence Kerala 2) some were born in the intermediate generation and 3)some were born in contemporary generation in post independence India. An attempt is made in this article to present the villainsh role of Baby Kochamma

Index Terms—Unrequited love, bitter, manipulative, vindictive, revenge, hierarchy, Trauma

I. INTRODUCTION

Early life unrequited love: Baby Kochamma’s real name is Naomi Ipe. She is the grand aunt of the twins Estha and Rahel. She was sent by her father to attend a course of study at the university of Rochester in America. She falls in love with an Irish Monk father Mulligan but her love is unrequited. This disappointment shapes her personality making her bitter and manipulative.

II. VINDICTIVE MOTIVATOR

Following this failed romantic obsession, she becomes an insecure and cruel woman.

III. A COMPLEX VILLAIN AND AN AGENT OF DESTRUCTION

The twins Estha and Rahel Emerged as the hybrid children of an inter community marriage. When they

moved to Kerala with their divorced mother Ammu their grand aunt Baby Kochamma looked upon them as outsiders and did not like them and considered them “doomed father less waifs”. She has thus become a pivotal character and is often considered as the antagonist. Her actions drive much of the plot and lead to tragic consequences for the main characters. She becomes vindictive acting as “a snake the grass” who upholds at all costs the patriarchal and caste based rules of the Ipe family.

IV. POWER DYNAMICS AND MANIPULATION OF TRUTH AND REVENGE

Following Shopie Mol’s death she tricks the vulnerable twins into testifying against Velutha to save her own family reputation. When she discovers Ammu’s affair with Velutha an untouchable servant she uses it to her advantages. She accuses Velutha of kidnapping and attempting to rape Ammu leading to his brutal beating and death. She is thus the malicious insecure matriarchal figure acting as a catalyst for tragedy.

V. ENFORCER OF HIERARCHY

She represents “The big things (casteism, patriarchy) that destroy The Small Things (Love, Innocence) forcing Ammu and her twin children out of the Ayemenem house

VI. DEEPER ANALYSIS OF ROLE ON THE TWINS

Psychological Manipulation:
Baby Kochamma terrifies the twins specifically coercing them by blaming them for Shope Mol’s

death turning them into reluctant participants in a fatal injustice.

Triggering Trauma and Silence:

Her actions free Estha and Rahel into a state of shock leading to Estha's lasting mutism and creating irreversible psychological rift in their childhood.

Breaking the Family Unit:

She manipulates Chacko into disowning Ammu resulting in the separation of the twins and the premature end of their childhood innocence.

Life Long Impact:

As adults the twins are still haunted by her actions, she remains a bitter isolated presence in their lives having successfully ruined their relationship with the mother.

To conclude the Villain Baby Kochamma has thus become "the devil of big things" in *The God of Small Things* the booker prize winning maiden novel of Arundhathi Roy.

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