

Self Confession Breaks the Unheard Scream of Frustration in Jaishree Misra's *A Scandalous Secret* : A Study

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ABSTRACT:

Jaishree Misra had earned a special status of being a successful Indian writer, through her thought provoking writing style. She uses her work as an intermediate to break the dominant ideologies that suppress women even in this contemporary society, though women today are educated and independent, still there are some hurdles that stagnate the growth of a women to transform into an individual being. Misra's work pinpoints the facts that if men when commits mistakes are given a second chance to rectify it, but if it comes to an women she is being viewed as a stigma and sin. Misra wants to break such a bias state being prevailing in the society and she wants women to be a self identified being rather than being passive and inferior. The present study focuses on the aspect of how women are being easily victimized by the cruel injustice enforced by men and it depicts how the major protagonist Neha Chaturvedi becomes a voiceless victim and made an easy prey in order to satisfy the sexual urge of the victimizer, though life provides her with second opportunity she leads a hopeless life as she is infused with an untold secret of her past life within her, which creates a deep intense wound and at last she takes a toughest decision to confess her untold secret in order to break the inner pangs of frustration which had resulted her into a fragmented being. The study further focuses on how a women being inferior later recognizes her worth as a individually identified being.

KEYWORDS: suppression, inferior, victimized, frustration, fragmented, confession, identified.

Jaishree Misra had placed herself as one among the leading Indian Novelist, her writing takes a significant path were she depicts women who fight back against their depressed state. Though she was born to Malayali parents in 1961, she was brought up in Delhi due to which she had to face two different lifestyle, in home she was a typical Keralite and the outside world had modelled her up with western lifestyle. She excelled in her education and has a M. A., degree in English Literature from the Kerala University and two post graduate diploma's one in special education and the other in Broad cast Journalism from the University of London, she had a different genre of working experience were she served in Child Care Department of Social Services and later worked as a film classifier in the British Board of Film Classification. She also started a

residence for the adults with learning disabilities in Kerala. She started her successful writing career with her debut Novel *Ancient Promises*, which is her masterpiece followed by seven more Novels and one Non fiction work, poem and also she had co-authored a story based on environment awareness. At present she is one among the member of Vahani Scholarship and write India Mentor.

Misra is the regular visitor of the literary festival held at world wide, this shows her intense passion which she has devoted to writing and reading also added to her fame she was the part of the panel discussion of the London Book Fair also. She was invited as a special guest by the Arts House in Singapore to conduct a workshop for children and adults for creative writing, which shows her excellence as a versatile writer. Misra has a recognisable place among the Indian women novelist as she analysis into the Psyche and the inner quest of the contemporary women her protagonist acquire a standardized way of leading a life which they receive from the valuable teaching of life. She depicts women from being suppressed to identified, they represent as a continuous hope in the state of hopelessness. The transformation of her protagonist takes place from being oppressed, passive, to revolt and revolutionary, the cruelty and injustice exposed by men do not victimize women to yield their success were as Misra present them as a strength and courage by challenging the overriding complexities and circumstances enforced by men.

Neha had a luxurious lifestyle with her husband Sharat Chaturvedi, both together had a busy and speedy life, as Sharat was involved in Business and political affairs they were filled with circumstances such as gatherings, parties and business meet up. Sharat was a humble gentleman who plays a significant role in bringing good fortunes in the life of others, he faces every situations with clear understanding and knows on how to tackle the defects and effects of the outcomes. Neha a dutiful wife cares and guides her husband in every aspects of his life. She had a year of untold secret being deep rooted in her, which resulted in an untold voice of frustration, her description of palm tree in the garden reflects her own condition, were she says that the strong and erect palm tree makes her feel astonished on how it survived by being uprooted and withhold the extreme hot weather condition because she had a fear that it would shrivel and die unable to tackle with the new surroundings. Neha being filled with mystery and fear, felt that the past truth if revealed once would banish her entire happy life forever.

Neha the major protagonist of the work *A Scandalous Secret* had an untold truth of her past life rooted within her, which she never tried too reveal to her parents nor her beloved husband. Though Neha was leading a wealthy life, she was childless and had years of longing to have a child, she felt that her childless life was a result of what she had did 18 years ago by giving away her daughter for adoption. She never tried of getting back to her daughter, because the child which she conceived was a result of being a victim as a young student of Oxford, were her Professor had sexually assaulted her by making her loose her virginity. Thus by having no other choice of what must be done at the tender age, she gave her child for adoption.

Neha's state can be related with an migrant, who feels as an alien in an foreign land where the visitors are unwelcomed and are been treated as outsiders which

results in an internal and external suffering. They migrate to an alien land either forcefully or voluntarily, where the later has an impact to pursue their goals with desire filled great dreams in order to bring upliftment in their life. Where as the reality shatters their dream, same way Neha had left her motherland in order to pursue her higher Education in Oxford University, but the reality had shattered her passion to acquire her graduation and stopped her educational career in Oxford. Neha's despised state can be related with Elenor who is one of the major protagonist of the work *The Haunting of the Hill House* were both Neha and Elenor have a same sound opinion, Elenor had a thought about herself were she states:

"I hate seeing myself dissolve and slip and separate so that I'm living in one half, my mind, and I see the other half of me helpless and frantic and driven and I can't stop it..."(118).

Thus Neha was made passive, and an easy prey for the sexual desire of her Professor who makes use of her innocence, which resulted Neha to loose her virginity.

Neha being at a very tender age of 18 didn't had enough courage to speak against her injustice, also the person who raped her, had threatened to ruin her entire life if she dares to speak out the truth. Neha incapable to speak against her victimized state decides to give away her child for adoption and also returns backs to her native without pursuing her graduation on Oxford University. Neha also makes a strong decision of not speaking against her victimized state, because her family is bounded with traditional and cultural values. Where as she felt that such a pathetic state of her would totally ruin and spoil her family's reputation, so she decides to be voiceless against the cruel injustice faced by her, where such an upshot had shattered and ousted her entire life and her dreams.

Indian society is highly tied with age old customs where family integrity is considered as core significant in such a case, westernization of thoughts, ideas, concept becomes a social taboo. Such a rigid society dosen't permit any premarital sex which considers such an act as a sin and stigma bringing defame to families honour. Neha been captivated with the charm of her professor thinks that it's her love towards him and looses her chastity. Even when she was pregnant bearing Alastairs child in her womb she didn't developed any courage to fight back were she felt:

"I was a child no more because I now had a dark secret. Nothing like the kind of secret children keep. A big and terrible secret that would need to be covered up"(51).

Thus the above statement describes the immature state of Neha who is been captivated with blind and innocent teenage love, who still trust her victimizer for hope and acceptance. Where for the victimizer she was one among the many women whom he had abused, and so he rejects Neha and her infant in womb which was the result of the abuse. In such a helpless state Neha gives away her daughter for adoption as she was immature to be a mother in her teenage.

Jaishree Misra in her work not only describes about women's suffering, isolation and victimized state in general but a detailed account of mother and daughter relationship. Even her Debut Novel *Ancient Promises* describes the life of the major protagonist Janaki, where motherhood gave her the strength to fight back the iniquity and cruel discrimination faced by her. In the same way the Novel *A Scandalous Secret*

taken for study, explores the concept of how Motherhood had helped the protagonist to break years of unheard frustration, which Neha was facing all throughout her past life. Misra writes her work not only to describes the dejected and suppressed state of women, but she wants to wipe up the inferiority complex among women and urges the need of being proud to be born as a women. She wants women to cope with every struggle and to build up the strength to fight bravely rather than being submissive.

Neha Chaturvedi's present life was a dream filled fantasy, just like the life of Disney princess, which is been portrayed as a luxurious filled life. But a sudden storm had worn out all the dreams and contentment where her daughter Soniya comes in search of her biological mother Neha. Whom Neha gave away for adoption 18 years back, Soniya who is at the present 18 years had an urge to find out the reason why her Biological mother gave her for fostering so she writes a letter stating that:

"I am planning to make a trip to India because I have few things to set straight before starting university this autum...And please don't ignore this letter, as you ignored me all these years"(9).

Soniya the second major protagonist was at present leading a love filled life with her adopted parents namely Richard and Laura Shaw they gave her protected, cared and love filled childhood and made her sensed the real parental love. Soniya was never given any chance to think that she was an adopted daughter and they were their adopted parents. But apart from that she felt a burden within herself for why her biological parents left her away, so she seeks permission from her parents stating:

"I know, Mum. I know you Dad have only ever wanted to shield me from painful stuff. And you always have. But I'm eighteen now. About to leave for uni. You won't be able to protect me from everything, y'know.'" (62).

But apart from that Soniya certainly had queries about her biological parents and had a intense impulse to trace her real roots. She had an internal urge to find out her Biological parents and to ask them about the reason for giving her away as an infant for adoption. Soniya now being 18 had a legal rights to know about her Biological parents who gave her for adoption, and she finds out that it was Neha from Delhi who gave her for adoption. She gets the address and immediately writes a letter to Neha informing about her arrival, in order to question her about the reason for adoption. But even Soniya was unable to accept the reality were she had several queries and a subsequent fear of how Neha would react at her presence with anticipation she further felt:

"sicker and sicker as they went along, clutching in her hands the slip of paper on which she had scribbled the name and address: Neha Chaturvedi. 54 Prithviraj Road, New Delhi110001."(124).

Both Neha and Soniya had an agony and anticipation in order to meet each other and to solve the untold secrets which was unrevealed for years. Thus it was a journey of hope to both were Soniya was answered all her queries and Neha was given a solution for her fragmented state by self-confessing her past filled life with secrets.

Neha Chaturvedi's Fairly world got shattered because she never expected any such incident would happen in her life, were her daughter would come back to question her. She never dreamt of such situation and didn't had enough courage to speak about the truth. The present condition of Neha can be compared with Shipwreck within

herself. She had several conflicts and questions such as what would happen to their present life? would it shatter her love filled life with Sharat? Would Sharat forgive her? will Sharat understand the reason behind hiding such an truth?. Though Neha had such conflicts and fear, along with all such dispute the motherly love of Neha never had any strength to face her daughter. Whom she had gave up for adoption just after her birth, but at the same time Neha was eager to meet her daughter. On how she had grown up all these past years now mature enough in search of her mother and to question her about the reason of adoption, inorder to clarify her rights as a daughter.

Through the letter from Soniya, Misra presents the deprived and the helpless state of Neha which she had underwent, she goes on reading the letter again and again, stated: "This will, I warn you, be regardless of your own circumstances, seeing how little you have cared for mine all these years"(10). keeps on looking the word written in the letter carefully and she repeatedly cries, she covers her face with pillow inorder to hide her desperate filled loud cry. She feels that such kind of miserable state was never felt by her, even when she was been victimized. At present Neha always thinks of the outcomes she has to face after the arrival of her daughter, whom she gave away for adoption years back. But on the other hand her daughter Soniya is now bold enough in search for her biological mother and to ask the reason behind giving her for adoption. The letter from Soniya terrified the present state of Neha, were she felt that her present life would be ruined and questioned, she always wept and felt unsteady and exhausted, she had a constant fear that it would collapse her marriage life, again she went through an isolated life away from human introspection. She thinks that Sharat would never forgive her, because no man would be ready to accept a women with such deadly past, with an fear to accept the reality she felt estrangement and guilt, Neha 's state can be related with Maya the major protagonist of the work *Cry, The Peacock* Here Maya is obsessed with the reality were the narrator states:

" Her unhappiness is in part related to the process of her growing up she has lead a protected life and has been brought up on fantasies, and now when confronted with the reality of life and disappointment, she is unable to face it."(18).

Neha is under the same trauma where she believed that only her death would give her hope from her sufferings. She even thought of committing suicide, such a cruel experience of life and death is not only felt by Neha but many women who undergo such sufferings, were they feel that life is puzzled and very hard to get a solution.

Misra condemns the society were she draws the attention towards the position of women in the contemporary society, as Neena Arora points out:

"...the place of women in society is different from culture to culture and from age to age, one fact common to almost all societies is that women has never been considered the equal of man"(8).

She claims that the society is always eager to blame a women but would fail to understand that men are opportunist who ruin the life of women as it is in the case of Neha who was an easy prey of sexual desire. The Indian society would never accept the impregnation of women before a marriage and would consider such an act as transgress and disgrace. Though it is unethical to have a premarital affair, some women are easily targeted in the name of love and happiness. Neha is an innocent victim who considers

her victimizer as a beloved one and blindly trusts him, were the professor was an opportunist to make use of innocent women in order to satisfy his sexual passion. To him Neha was a sexual need and an easy target, the society which finds fault in Neha, never thought of blaming the professor he was simply uncharged and unblamed for creating such a mess and complication in the life of Neha. Also Soniya who had an urge of searching her biological mother never thought of her biological father, even her blame was on Neha for giving her away for adoption.

Misra wants her readers to change their attitude on realizing the real definition of women, where the pathetic women were always blamed and unanswered. Where their desperate cry remains the same even when they realize their mistakes. Where as Anita Myles promotes her view by stating:

“In male- dominated Universe, she is expected to ‘amalgate’ the various rules of Mother, Partner and also a Sacrificial Goat” (1-14).

Once an image created for a women never changes easily whether it is good or bad were as men even after committing crimes are easily unheard and flawless. Such a bias attitude towards men and women always make majority of women to suffer worldwide and remain submissive towards their agony.

Jaishree Misra had a personal touch of being suppressed and voiceless in her life, so now she uses her writing as a key tool to speak against the voiceless victim, she tries to bring out a self transformed individual, especially for women were she feels that inspite of social pressures and struggles, a women need to battle against the oppressed and marginalized state. Misra uses Neha as a key to describe the courage that an women should possess in every aspect of life. Instead of being a victim of violence Misra wants Neha to master the strength to fight back the negative consequences, instead of being unassertive towards the exploitation.

Neha faces a devastating series of misfortune when she meets Alastair, her entangled emotional bond with the teacher resulted in her tragic fall. Such a state makes her to experience the mixture of fear and revolt. Neha fears of the destructive and violence filled world thinking that it would vanish her if she speaks up against the sex exploitation and makes herself a passive acceptor of being numb towards her pathetic state. And decides to lead a lonely life away from family and society, due to which she faces psychological issues which resulted into an untold inner agony. Such a intense journey of pain and pangs made Neha to take the toughest decision in life, which made her to inherit the secret within her and made her a depressed and isolated being.

The Chauvinistic society might blame Neha for having a pre-marital affair and might accuse her for committing such a deadly sin but they fail to understand that Neha was unaware of the facts and circumstances which she would face as result of outcome, where her teacher Alastair uses her innocence to satisfy his sexual hunger. Neha’s state of exploitation can be related with child abuse were many research and reports of child abuse had stated that, sexual abuse might result an individual in association with stress, anxiety, depression, suicidal attempt, lack of sleep, thus Neha being the victim of sexual abuse faces such psychological defects. Thus Misra through Neha had depicted the state of girl child abuse and their exploitation in the present society and an clear image of how an individual is been easily targeted towards exploitation.

The child based organization recommends that when a child faces such sexual exploitation, must be given an opportunity to attain their individuality and achieve their goals. But the society gives significances to the age old traditional values which runs by the code of patriarchy, where the victim fear to speak up thinking that they might be considered as a blot if they revolt. Thus the age old customs is been highly valued rather than an individuals dignity. In such a cruel state, self empowerment would rescue an individual from exploitation and would lead them in search of self –worth, dignity and esteem.

An individual crossing the age of seventeen think themselves as an independent being and simply take bold decision even in complex situation, but they fail to understand the aftermath of their eagerness which might result in severe complications. In some cases such complexities might ruin their entire life, Neha represents an outcome of such a crucial adolescent age, were she reflects as a victim of being sexually abused at her teenage , were she takes a bold decision of losing her virginity thinking that her infatuation towards her professor was love. Neha's passion towards Alastair can be related with Valsala's passion towards Gandharva, in the work *The Better Man*, she longs for Gandharva by stating: " come to me, Gandharva. Can't you smell the fragrance of want in me?... Make me your lover, your slave" (129). Neha too uprooted with an unripened love towards Alastair states: "if I'm to be honest- I wouldn't have minded in the slightest if Alastair had attempted to flirt or even seduced me."(181).

Thus Neha, well aware of the circumstances yields herself to the sexual passion of Alastair in the midst of her adolescent.

A sexually abused individual needs to speak up and share their miserable experience to get an emotional relief, but a victim remains passive thinking of society and thread were sometimes sharing their pathetic state with an unworthy person might backfire the victims were their pathetic state might result in gossip in such a case a victim maintains secrecy by not exposing about their deprived state. Also the enforcer might threaten and blackmail the victim to ruin their entire life if they reveal the truth, the same happened with Neha were she was threatened by Althasar that he would destroy her entire educational career if she dares to speak up against him, Neha out of guilt and shame readily accepts for being a passive receptor for the injustice faced by her and the worst path is that she believes that the abuse is the result of her own fault. Because she knew that she might be one among the many student who Alastair might have easily trapped in orders to satisfy his sexual urge, she states:

"Of course, despite my naivety, I wasn't such a fool and I did wonder if this was where Alastair brought pretty female students to seduce them but, curiously, I wasn't anxious at the thought at all"(181).

Thus Neha for being young, innocent, passive, reserved was been easily confiscated thus Misra explores the journey of an innocent childhood to a beautiful womanhood, by using Neha as a tool for her depiction.

A child being trapped by sexual assault, whether a girl or a boy undergo several trauma which results in the violation of self, thus they are torn between the physical and mental state, they feel themselves as a self- inferior person and they never trust

anyone and they lack friends in life, the same is the case with Neha where she lives an isolated life even when filled with luxuries lifestyle love and care, she feels comforted only with the company of Nature, were most of the time she stands in the balcony and silently enjoys the scenery of her garden. Such a state of sexual abuse in her teenage gets an intense wound, and she segregated herself into a self- isolated state, even a simple thing in life gets complicated and confused. She thinks that her present childless life is a sin of what she had did to her new born child by giving her for fostering. Thus Neha's mentally wounded state had stooped her from even achieving her goal to attain her graduation from the prestigious Oxford University, she lead a aloof life though her present life was filled with love and happiness. She had an intense guilt of hiding her past life to her beloved husband and she felt defenceless whenever she thought of her teenage life in Oxford and the past life haunted her present life.

Misra significantly presents the lack of emotional relationship between parents and children in the present day society, where children trust in isolation rather than parents care and support , they fear of revealing any incidents and secrets to their parents were. Neha never thought of revealing her sexual exploitation to her parents, thus Misra takes an opportunity to enforce her readers about the practical life, change and solution, and her writing style is enlighten with social consciousness. She assimilates that children must enjoy their childhood and it is the duty of parents to provide their children with a safe, secure and healthy life

Neha, well aware of her exploitation and cruel circumstances thinks that no justice would be provided to her and to her infant, so she decides to dropout her studies, returns to India and as a typical middle class women and silently gets ready for her marriage, which is been handpicked by her parents. Here the conversation between Neha and her Mother can be related with Karuna and her Mother who are the major protagonist of the work *Socialite Evenings*, thus Karuna's mother states the complication in the life a women if being single stating that:

"A woman cannot live alone. It is not safe we are here today but who knows about tomorrow? A woman needs to a man's protection"(275).

Thus lacking her aspiration of higher education, she awaits her marital life with Sharat filled with fear and guilt but at the same time she thinks that her new life is a second opportunity given to her and a key of freedom. Neha thinks that the sexual pleasure is unworthy and meaningless because she feels that such an urge of passion towards physical pleasure is the main cause of her present dejected state. She urges for a need of free and dependent life she feels that she would get the desired life back only after revealing her past life to Sharat by telling him about her love affair, her daughter, and the circumstances which forced her to give away her daughter for adoption. Thus Neha represents as a torn up individual who was fragmented by her past life were she suffers for years without any solution to her problems and feels that only the self- confession of her past life would break all the barriers of intense pangs and isolation.

The present day writers not only focuses on traditional women likes Savitri, Sita, Kanagi and other social aspects, were as their writings give a different image on the perspective of modern era women who can't be an historical legend but can achieve dignity by self esteem; whereas self-empowerment would make them an independent

individual even in difficult times and crisis. Misra through her writing attacks on the hypocrisy which is prevalent even in present society, she pinpoints how Male lacks love, sincerity, and honesty when it comes to family and relationship, where the modern man feels it difficult to come out from the dominant root which was prevalent for centuries, she also depicts the entanglement among the relationship which creates gap and misunderstanding. And also condemns the society which is not ready to accept the bold and courageous women who is in quest for special status in society. Where she is been treated as outcast, where her actions for identity is been considered as the act of chaos and confusion by others.

Love which plays a significant role in the life of individuals becomes a curse in the form of blessings to Neha. Where the true love acts as a guiding force and protects individual but it becomes a miserable retribution in the life of Neha, were she as well as her child in womb were deprived. Were the only aim of her seducer was to seek physical charm, which resulted Neha to suffer from mixed emotions, such as conflict, anxiety, pain and made her blame herself for being the victim. Also the patriarchal society would neither listen her desperate cry, nor the state of victimization.

The cruel nature of Alastair reflects when he asks Neha to abort her child, he states:

“There is no “our”; we don’t have a relationship. Do you understand that, Neha? So there can be no baby, don’t you see? What you need is a good gynaecologist, woman. Go straight to the Brooke Centre on Mead Street; they’ll help you to get rid of it over there. It’s a free service too. Don’t delay things till it’s too late, for God’s sake”(233).

He thinks that no stigma should effect his fame and pride, the helpless Neha decides to be voiceless towards her victimized state, and she decides to give away her child to the social workers were she was been promised that her child will be love, protected and cared until they find out a responsible filled adoptive parents, the social worker said:

“The social workers said there were long waiting lists of potential adopters. I imagined those couples desperate for a baby and how much more they would be able to give you than I would,...I gave you up, convinced that both you and I would go on to have better lives without each other than we could together”(292).

Thus from the above description of Neha it can be stated that it was a heart breaking circumstances which forced her to give away her infant for adoption thus Neha left the place with pangs and agony as she is unable to give motherly love to her child, such a sense of loss intensed the pain of Neha. In such a dejected state she gave up her career and passion as a young student of Oxford for which she has longed throughout her childhood. It seems to be death of hope but life gave her a second opportunity in the state of hopelessness.

Though Neha made an attempt to fight back her victimizer she had a fear of loosing her career, her friends tried to bring justification by discussing the issue with the higher authorities. But they dropped out the plan thinking that it would backfire on Neha itself stating that:

“Things will get very messy if Henderson is named. Especially if he denies it. There could be all sorts of repercussions, an enquiry and stuff. Certainly there’ll be no keeping it quiet after that”(190).

Neha represents as a symbol of cruelty and exploitation faced by women especially girls of teenage who are been easily trapped and victimized by the opportunist who uses women as a prey in order to satisfy their sexual urge and intense passion. Thus Neha's marginalized state is well dwelled by Misra where the writer uses Neha as a tool to address the injustice faced by children. Misra has depicted Neha as silent observer against her exploitation but later life gives her unexpected turns and twist but still there was a torn up state beneath such luxurious life. But at the final state Neha gets ready to fight back her isolation and turns herself from the fractured self into a strong empowered being.

Neha's state of being victimized can be related with the 17-year-old girl child who have committed suicide for being sexually assaulted by her teacher named K. Mithun Chakravathy who belong to the private school in Coimbatore. The innocent victim was found dead in her home further investigation states that she was sexually assaulted several times on the special classes which was held in march. Though the victim tried to file a complaint against the school management, it have been stated that no action was taken against the brutal teacher, but the innocent souls death was brought to light and justification when the Tamil Nadu cops had booked the conspirer with imprisonment under "IPC306", "SECTION 9(I)" and "10 more severe punishment for aggravated sexual act under the (POCSO) The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act". Here the teacher Mithun reflects the cruel Altsair where as the victim reflects Neha, here both the victim have underwent same extreme pangs of pain. where as the intense agony made the little soul to end her life, were as Neha had ended her life by being passive and giving up her education, dream desire and also her urge of being an economically independent person was culminated without being fulfilled.

Misra's representation of men and women resemble the individuals whom we encounter in our day to day life. An intense reader might get an opportunity to dwell deep in Neha's psyche and can explore the state of modern women who is been easily victimized, and might understand how tennagers are been trapped and blamed for what is not their fault. Where as the society blames Neha for having a premarital affair, but fails to understand the circumstances which made Neha to loose her virginity. Also Neha reminds us about Marriamma who is one of the major protagonist on Bama's Sangathi, where Marriamma was been sexually assaulted by the upper caste men, though she fought back for bringing justice to her, it was been backfired were the Conspirer had charged the Victim and blamed against her, thus Marriamma was been punished. Here the Victimizer was not convicted because he belongs to the upper class. Neha to some extend also depicts Marriamma who have been blamed by the Society even though being a cruel victim, the Society gives a bias statement for men and women, were Mohini Giri states:

" Societies are characterized by both general and total cultural system binding on all associates and by a specific cultural systems to which only certain segments must adhere"(100).

A men when commits mistake is left free, were a women when commits mistakes is been caged. Even Soniya blamed Neha for giving her for adoption and leading a

luxurious life in Delhi, where as she had failed to vision the consequences which might forced her mother for adoption.

Women Writers especially those who were once in a state of being oppressed through their writing urge on the need of women Empowerment. In an attempt of discovering such a new women, it can be stated that Jaishree Misra had played a dominant role in creating such a strongest women we can roar back against those who pluck their wings, which helps them to reach the state of enlightenment and the dominant ideologies which tries to banish them. Misra had a personal experience of facing domestic violence and being victimized, where the fight made by her against her injustice had made Misra a well flourished writer, such an attempt from isolation to identified resulted. Misra in creating a vision of an Ideally independent women, to exemplify it can be stated that Misra through her work.

A Scandalous Secret had created a strongest protagonist Neha who undergo several crisis , oppression, exploitation and intense mental agony rather than being fragmented Neha proved to be a self identified individual and learned to be an empowered independent women.

It is said that life gives second opportunity to everyone, Neha after facing several hurdles and complications was too provided with a life filled with all pleasure, she gets her hand with Sharat were she receives true love and comforts and uplifts her life in a better way, but the secret which she carried within herself had created a deep wound within her , were she feels herself has a dishonest person for cheating her beloved husband, by not revealing him about her past life. When she receives a letter from her daughter Soniya, at first she fears a threat of shattering her love filled marriage life with Sharat, but later she uses the opportunity and gets a courage to reveal her past life and the state of being victimized. Though it was a delayed decision of self- confession it helped Neha to break the years of frustration digged within her. The love of Sharat towards Neha made him to forget and forgive the mistake committed by her in ignorance, thus love united them both and made Neha to confess and Sharat to forgive, it can be aptly said that even love helped Misra in creating a new life and flourished as an distinguished writer.

Though the Novels seperates a mother and daughter physically, but both were emotionally tied with the same idea, that is to seek their identity, the union between them provides a clear solution of all the queries which haunted them both from the past years of their life, it can be said that the education had played a vital role in their life. Neha a drop out from oxford and Soniya a yet to be student of oxford explores the meaning of their existence, the journey of their exploration towards life starts from oxford.

Misra as a writer is not bias in her writing of focussing only on women' pathetic state, she readily condemns women who commits mistakes as well as she never fails to describe the noble nature of men too. The novel taken for the study emphasis the role of Sharat is a significant one. He was the only hope to bring peace and happiness in the life of Neha, the life of Neha can be divided into two parts were it can be aptly said that men who ruined her life, and it was men who gave her second opportunity of hope. Sharat played a vital role in bringing back all her lost happiness and desire , in the present

dominant society it is difficult to encounter men like Sharat, it was Sharat who accepted her past life and forgave her and also made arrangement for Neha so that she can meet her daughter and provide her the lost motherly love. It was not the sympathy that made Sharat to forgive Neha it was his love which made him to accept her. Though he was not the biological father of soniya he showered the fatherly love towards her, it was Sharat who provided Neha with the luxurious love filled life, which remains as a dream for many, thus Sharat represents a symbol of hope and love.

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