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A Critical Study of the Novels of Anita Desai

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Form and Vision in the Novels of Anita Desai Atlantic Publishers & Dist

Young And Vulnerable, Janu Gave Up Arjun, Her First Love, To Enter Into An Arranged Marriage.

Years Later, She Is Miserable, Having Been Gradually Shut Out By The Coldness Of Her Husband S

Family And His Indifference To Her And Her Daughter S Needs. Finally She Flees To England To

Escape The Loveless Union-But At What Price To Herself And Those She Loves? The Moving Story Of

One Woman S Painful Journey Of Self-Discovery, Ancient Promises Is About A Marriage, A Divorce,

And Motherhood. It Is About Why We Love And Lose, Sometimes Seeming To Have Little Control

Over Our Destinies.

Ancient Promises Sarup & Sons

Anita Desai Is The Foremost Indian Novelist Of Te Post-Independence Era. A Close Reading Of Her

Novels Reveals That Her Concern Is With The Exploration Of Human Psyche. The Book Is The First

Study Of Its Kind That Assesses Her Characters In The Light Of Third Force Psychology.

Anita Desai, Fire on the Mountain Allied Publishers

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Man Booker Prize: An "extraordinary" novel

"lit by a moral intelligence at once fierce and tender" (The New York Times Book Review). In a

crumbling, isolated house at the foot of Mount Kanchenjunga in the Himalayas, an embittered old

judge wants only to retire in peace. But his life is upended when his sixteen-year-old orphaned

granddaughter, Sai, arrives on his doorstep. The judge's chatty cook watches over the girl, but his

thoughts are mostly with his son, Biju, hopscotching from one miserable New York restaurant job to

another, trying to stay a step ahead of the INS. When a Nepalese insurgency threatens Sai's new-

sprung romance with her tutor, the household descends into chaos. The cook witnesses India's

hierarchy being overturned and discarded. The judge revisits his past and his role in Sai and Biju's

intertwining lives. In a grasping world of colliding interests and conflicting desires, every moment

holds out the possibility for hope or betrayal. Published to extraordinary acclaim, *The Inheritance of*

Loss heralds Kiran Desai as one of our most insightful novelists. She illuminates the pain of exile and

the ambiguities of postcolonialism with a tapestry of colorful characters and "uncannily beautiful"

prose (O: The Oprah Magazine). "A book about tradition and modernity, the past and the

future—and about the surprising ways both amusing and sorrowful, in which they all connect." —The

Independent

The Peacock Garden Random House

This book is the story of a young girl obsessed by a childhood prophecy of disaster. The author

builds up an atmosphere of tension and oppression, in the middle of an Indian summer.

Existential Dimensions in the Novels of Anita Desai Orient Paperbacks

Virginia Woolf was a talented and indefatigable writer. She was a very serious and conscious artist,

interested more in the life of the mind - in sensation, thoughts, feelings, intuitions - than in the life of

external action. Being an artist of great insight and penetration, she painted a picture of real life as

she saw it. In her desire to paint reality she broke with the traditions and conventions of the 19th

century novel. Anita Desai is also an indisputably one of the most powerful and distinguished

contemporary Indian novelists in English. A novelist of considerable merit, Anita Desai has enriched

the tradition of the Indian novel in English. She is a conscious artist of a high order and her concern

for human has imparted profound appeal to her novels. Anita Desai, in contrast with other women

novelists is more interested in the interior landscape of the mind, the thought than in political and

social realities. Thus, Virginia Woolf and Anita Desai are two great artists in the realm of English

fiction. Both are rooted in two totally different milieus, yet the works of two share not only in

structure and themes but also in imagery, style and technique. The study of the impact of Virginia

Woolf on Anita Desai provides a very fascinating and rewarding experience. Anita Desai and Virginia

Woolf have taken deep interest in depicting the family structure. These two writers have their

thematic nexus on the familial relationship. It is the depiction of the familial relationships, which

binds the two novelists with each other in a strong bond. Though these two great writers, Woolf and

Desai are from two different centuries and countries, the works of two shares in the structure,

themes like loneliness, isolation, death etc. and imagery. Also, in the novels of both, there is a major

role of 'time and memory'. This book makes a modest attempt to focus attention upon the impact of

Woolf on Desai. In both Woolf and Desai, we find an almost obsessive involvement with the

characters' past as a key to their consciousness, their lives. A pre-occupation with nostalgia and

memory thus becomes an integral part of their craft. But these are not used as things in themselves.

They are used artistically both for thematic as well as formal purposes. A careful study of the novels

makes us understand how they are made to function as artistic tools. This book particularly,

highlights the impact of Virginia Woolf on Anita Desai, with respect to three novels of each. These

are - I) Mrs. Dalloway and Cry, the Peacock II) To the Lighthouse and Clear Light of Day III) The

Waves and Fire on the Mountain I record my gratefulness to the principal of J.E.S. College, Jalna- Dr.

R. S. Agrawal, Head of the Department of English- M.A. Sami Siddiqui for support and

encouragement at every stage of my work. I also offer my sincere thanks to the senior teachers of

my Department for their valuable suggestions. I feel deeply to put into words my sense of

thankfulness to my parents and family. I am thankful to Rut Printer and Publisher and Dr. U. P. Mogle

for the valuable work help to design and print. Dr. Varsha P. Zanwar

The Novels of Anita Desai Shriniketan Press

This book is the story of a young girl obsessed by a childhood prophecy of disaster. The author

builds up an atmosphere of tension and oppression, in the middle of an Indian summer.

The Village by the Sea Atlantic Publishers & Dist

Neurosis Reminds Us Of The Fact That There Is A Seamy Side To Our Civilization. Society Compels

Every Individual To Repress Instinctual Urges And The Desire For The Free Exercise Of Will, All In The

Name Of Upholding Its Ideals And Expectations Which Are Very Often Oppressive And Anti-Human. If

The Individual Is Too Ill-Equipped To Oppose The Societal Sanctions Openly He Or She Will Find An

Alternative In Neurosis Because It Is A Form Of Protest Among Other Things. Neurosis Is Thus

Invested With Profound Psychological And Social Significance. It Is Basically Subversive.Indian

Society Continues To Be Rigid And Conservative And The Repression One Has To Put Up With Is

Often Very Severe. Women Especially Bear The Brunt Of It As The Social Norms And Moral Codes Are

Heavily Loaded Against Them.It Is Against This Background That Some Of The Indian Women

Novelists In English Have Fictionally Treated The Neurotic Suffering Of Susceptible Characters.

Through This Fictional Endeavour They Seem To Underscore The Need For Subverting The Present

Oppressive Value System In Order To Make Way For A Humane Social Order.This Book Proposes To

Discuss The Neurotic Characters Of The Indian Women Novelists In The Light Of Freudian And Post-

Freudian Psychoanalysis Which Has Equipped The Modern Literary Critic With Remarkable

Knowledge Of The Inner Struggles Of Literary Characters And Other Aspects Of The Literary Product.

The Novels Studied Here Are: Anita Desai S Cry, The Peacock And Where Shall We Go This Summer?,

Bharati Mukherjee S Wife, Kamala Markandaya S A Silence Of Desire, Shashi Deshpande S That Long

Silence, Ruth Praver Jhabvala S Get Ready For Battle, Nergis Dalal S The Inner Door And Nayantara

Sahgal S The Day In Shadow. Apart From This, The Book Contains A Chapter And An Appendix Which

Prespectivise And Discuss In Detail Freudian Psychoanalysis, Characters And Neurosis, And Indian

Women Novelists In English.Psychoanalytic Critical Study Of Literary Works Is Limited To A Few Stray

Articles In India. This Book Is, In Fact, The First Full-Length Psychoanalytic Critical Study Of Indian

Fiction In English.

The Novels of Anita Desai Orient Paperbacks

Cry, the Peacock is the story of a young girl, Maya, obsessed by a childhood prophecy of disaster. The author builds up an atmosphere of tension as torrid and oppressive as a stifling Indian summer, both in the crowded, colourful cities and the strangely beautiful countryside. Maya's extreme sensitivity never alienates the reader because it is rendered in terms of measurable human loneliness... How well Desai does in the business of carrying her narrative through to a satisfactory, even explosive end.' — The Times Literary Supplement, London

[Studies in Fiction](#) iUniverse

Anita Desai, A Recipient Of Many Literary Awards In India And Abroad, And A Creative Writing Teacher At Massachusetts Institute Of Technology Since 1993, In Addition To Being A Fellow Of The Royal Society Of Literature In London And Honorary Fellow Of The University Of Cambridge, Has Proved Herself To Be A Major Indian Novelist Of The Post-Seventies India, Whose Novels Epitomize The Emerging Women's Search For Self-Hood In The Indian Context. *Fire On The Mountain* (1977), Winner Of The 1978 National Academy Of Letters Award, And Generally Considered Desai's Masterpiece, Is A Beautiful Novel, Focused On Two Elderly Ladies And One Small Girl. Nanda Kaul Retires To A Hill Station House In Her Old Age, And Leads An Isolated Life There, When Her Great-Granddaughter Comes To Stay. With The Arrival Of Raka The Story Takes A New Turn, Gathers Momentum, And Unfurls Quickly To A Symbolic End When The Mountain Has Been Set On Fire. The Atlantic Critical Study Of *Fire On The Mountain*, Which Is Primarily Meant For The Students Of English Literature Of Indian Universities, Is A Comprehensive, Self-Sufficient And In-Depth Study Of The Text. The Author, A Distinguished Scholar In The Area, Has Taken Special Care To Combine Lucidity And Profundity In Her Treatment Of The Text. In Its Eight Chapters The Present Study Examines The Text From Various Angles Such As The Title, Themes, Characters, Images And Symbols, Narrative Technique, And Feminist Discourse, In Addition To Providing An Introduction, A Brief Story-Outline, And A Detailed Critical Summary Of The Entire Text In Its Three Parts, Along With A Select Bibliography And Sample Questions. The Book Will Be Immensely Useful For Students, Scholars And Teachers In The Area.

Roots and shadows Orient Paperbacks

Today Anita Desai Is Recognised For Her Originality, Versatility And The Indigenous Flavour Of Her Character-Portrayal That She Brings To Her Work. Her Women Characters Are Real Flesh And Blood Protagonists Who Make You Look At Them With Awe And With Their Relationships To Their Surroundings, Their Society, Their Men, Their Children, Their Families, Their Mental And Psychological Make-Ups And Themselves. The Present Book Purports To Be A Pioneering Attempt To Evaluate Desai's Fiction And Fictional Art From Various Points Of View And Assesses Her Contribution To The Indian-English Fiction. What Is Unique About This Book Is The Attempt To Include Desai's Complete Fictional Oeuvre From Her Maiden Attempt *Cry, The Peacock* (1963) Till Her Latest Published Work *The Zigzag Way* (2004). Her Novels Of Four Decades Have Been Divided Into Different Sections For A Focused Study. The Present Critical Anthology Of Dr. Neeru Tandon On Anita Desai Is An Admirable Effort On The Presentation Of A Coherent And Comprehensive Assessment Of Anita Desai As A Powerful Indian English Fiction Writer. In Her Collection She Has Included Certain Burning Topics Of The Day Such As Male-Female Dichotomy, Existentialist Vision, Religion And Culture, Concept Of Marriage And Narrative Technique In The Fiction Of Anita Desai. The Uncomplicated Language And The Natural Flow Of Words Make For Easy Reading. Since Desai Is Prescribed In The Syllabus In Most Of The Universities Of India, Both The Teachers And The Students Will Find This Book Extremely Useful, And The Research Scholars Will Also Find It Very Interesting And Purposeful.

Critical Essays on Anita Desai's Fiction Atlantic Publishers & Dist

Anita Desai And Her Novels Have Been An Enigma For Decades. Scholars, Critics, Researchers And Students Have Never Stopped Marvelling About Supremacy Of Idea Over Matter In The Works Of This Gifted Novelist. The Philosophical Mood, The Realization Of A Grand Design, The Presence Of Unsaid, Unarticulated Realities All These Have Forever Teased The Mind Of The Discerning Reader. In The Present Volume, Anita Desai Has Been Extensively And Intensely Probed. As The Reader Will See, The Thrust Has Been More On Psychological And Intellectual Facets Of Her Fiction, Rather Than Social, Cultural Or Physical Areas. This Is The Trend Of Criticism These Days And It Is Rightly So. The Fine Subtleties, The Small But Significant Turn Of Events, The Role Of Place In The Formation Of Mental Scene, The Vitality Of Characters, The Force Of Their Personalities, The Intricate Web Of Relationships All These Have Been Examined And Expressed In Words That Are At Once Easy To Understand As Well As Graceful To Aesthetic Sense.

Bye-Bye Blackbird Random House India

An activity booklet designed by Staffordshire teachers aimed at developing advanced reading skills, with the particular needs of more able pupils in mind.

The Artist of Disappearance RUT Printer and Publisher

Anita Desai's Work Represents A Unique Blending Of The Indian And The Western. Her Novels Catch The Bewilderment Of The Individual Psyche Confronted With The Overbearing Socio-Cultural Environment And The Ever-Beckoning Modern Promise Of Self-Gratification And Self-Fulfillment. In The Face Of This Dual Onslaught, Her Protagonists, Male Or Female Maya, Sita, Monisha And Amla; Sarah, Nanda And Raka; Bim And Tara; Devan, Baumgartner Are Seen Poised Rentalizingly At Different Junctures Of The Philosophic Spectrum. Applying Sociological, Psychoanalytic, Structural And Other Approaches Of Formal Textual Analysis, The Essays In The Present Anthology Take A Fresh Look At Established Works, Revealing Aspects Of Study Hitherto Unexplored, Offer Critically Insightful Probes Into Individual Novels And Explore The Deployment Of Images, Symbols And Other Poetic Devices, Besides Diverse Narrative Strategies. An Indispensable Source-Book For Students, Researchers And Teachers Of Indian English And Commonwealth Literature In General And Fiction And Anita Desai In Particular. An Insightful Companion For Research In Sociology And Women-

Studies.

Cry, the Peacock Random House India

Gone are the days when Nanda Kaul watched over her family and played the part of Vice-Chancellor's wife. Leaving her children behind in the real world, the busier world, she has chosen to spend her last years alone in the mountains in Kasauli, in a secluded bungalow called Carignano. Until one summer her great-granddaughter Raka is dispatched to Kasauli – and everything changes. Nanda is at first dismayed at this break in her preciously acquired solitude. Fiercely taciturn, Raka is, like her, quite untamed. The girl prefers the company of apricot trees and animals to her great-grandmother's, and spends her afternoons rambling over the mountainside. But the two are more alike than they know. Throughout the hot, long summer, Nanda's old, hidden dependencies and wounds come to the surface, ending, inevitably, in tragedy. Marvellous yet restrained, *Fire on the Mountain* speaks of the past and its unshakable hold over the present.

Fasting, Feasting Atlantic Publishers & Dist

Between Eternities interweaves the assertions of Science, Philosophy, Religion and Mysticism on the fundamental issues that underlie the universe and life, allowing a reader to find a meaning. "This is a book about life in various dimensions, considering the questions from the scientific (physical and biological) to the religious to the philosophical to the mystical to the literary and artistic viewpoints. There is immense erudition, but it is worn lightly This is definitely an exceptional work." Jayati Ghosh, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi "Well Written, full of information, compendious in its sketch of the world from the view point of the sciences, and successful in its endeavour to make complex martial accessible in an comprehensible by the general reader." Professor A. C. Grayling, University of London "Highly impressed with the author's grasp of scientific and philosophical theories mastery of such an array of complex subjects almost awe inspiring at times issues are more than merely thought provoking; they are both challenging and far reaching." Marie Evans, Macmillan, London

Fire on the Mountain Atlantic Publishers & Dist

The Book Is A Pioneering Study Of Its Kind, Chronologically Examining The Novels Of Anita Desai Mostly From A Feminist Point Of View. The Book Excels In Formally Analysing Indian And Western Traditions Of Feminism, Man-Woman Relationship And Art Of Characterisation In The Overall Context Of The Feminine Psyche Which It Thoroughly Examines. Anita Desai's Is A World Of Married Women Who Combat To Get Out Of The Maniacs That Bind Them; To Evolve From Being A Mere Nonentity Victim To A Vibrant Individual Capable Of Breaking The Fetters Without Breaking The Relationship. The Book Is A Voyage From A Sense Of Incompetence And Paranoia To Self-Awareness And Resilience, To Self-Poise And Concord Within The Family Matrix. Dr. Gupta Shows How Anita Desai Has Depicted The Depths Of Human Unconsciousness And Subconsciousness In Her Existential Concern Which Makes Her Writings Uniquely Powerful Through Feminism. Hence, The Need And Justification Of The Book To Undertake The Present Study Of Her New Perspective On Feminism. [Cultural Resistance and Gender in Anita Desai's "Cry the Peacock"](#) Random House India

Contributed articles.

[Indian Women Writers](#) Atlantic Publishers & Dist

Desai's classic novel of the Holocaust era is the story of the profound emotional wounds of war and its exiles. The book follows Hugo Baumgartner as he leaves behind Nazi Germany and his Jewish heritage for Calcutta, only to be imprisoned as a hostile alien and then released to Bombay at war's end.

In Custody Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

A young American in Mexico discovers his family's past—and a present-day danger—in this “elegant, exquisite” novel of suspense (Elle). Eric is a newly minted historian just out of graduate school, plagued by self-doubt over both his past choices and his future options. With no clear direction, he follows his lover, Em, when she travels to the Yucatan for her scientific research, but ends up alone in this foreign place. And so he pursues his own private quest, tracing his family's history to a Mexican ghost town, where, a hundred years earlier, young Cornish miners—among them Eric's grandparents—toiled to the death. Now, in place of the Cornish workers, the native Huichol Indians suffer the cruelty of the mines. When he inquires into their lives, Eric provokes the ire of their self-appointed savior, Dona Vera. Known as the “Queen of the Sierra,” Dona Vera is the widow of a mining baron who has dedicated her fortune to preserving the Huichol culture. But her formidable presence belies a dubious past. The zigzag paths of these characters converge on the Day of the Dead, bringing together past and present in a moment of powerful epiphany. Haunting and atmospheric, with splashes of exuberant color and darker violence, *The Zigzag Way* is “a beautifully rendered combination of history, folklore, and modern fiction” (Entertainment Weekly), from a Booker Prize finalist. “Long before Jhumpa Lahiri . . . long before Monica Ali . . . another novelist was offering us exquisitely detailed portraits of bodies in transit [and] classes in the art of sly and sensuous fiction . . . Anita Desai was a global, migrant writer before such a thing was fashionable.” —Time “Almost unbearably suspenseful.” —The Boston Globe “A hypnotic journey.” —San Jose Mercury News

Cry, the Peacock Abhinav Publications

Studies In Fiction Deals With George Orwell, John Steinbeck, Thomas Love Peacock, Anita Desai, Jerome David Salinger, Thomas Hardy, Charles Dickens, Mrs. Elizabeth Gaskell, Anthony Trollope, W.M. Thackeray, George Eliot, Walker Percy And George Meredith In Addition To A Number Of Other Novelists. The Chapters Based On These Novelists Thoroughly And Conclusively Analyse And Summarise Only Those Aspects Which Form The Central Part Of The Modern Criticism. Novels Chosen For Discussion, Too, Are Those Which Usually Have A Scholarly Tradition Of Criticism. The Early As Well As The Late Victorian Fiction Has Been Re-Interpreted In The Light Of Uniformitarianism, Naturalism Newtonism And Darwinism.

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