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**Title of the Book: *CUSTODY***

**Author: Manju Kapur**

**Publisher: Random House India**

**Publication Year: 2011**

**ISBN: 978 81 8400 154 9**

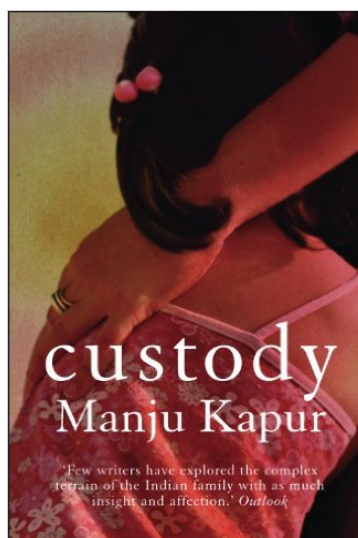
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Raman and Shagun and Suryakant and Ishita are the two couples who battle for the custody of two children Arjun and Roohi in Manju Kapur's *Custody*. The former one has been blessed with two lovely children whereas the latter is the unfortunate ones without any issues. The marital relationship between is spoiled because of Shagun's attraction towards Ashok Khanna whereas marital happiness is stained between Suryakant and Ishita because of Ishita's inability to become a mother. Shagun leaves her husband Raman and her two children and joins her new one as his wife. Ishita is sent back to her mother's house for being sterile. Her preference Ashok to her first and legal husband appears as if she were lustful. A woman with two

grownup children should not have aspired for a new man to satisfy her sexual hunger. Suryakant should have defended his wife when his mother asked his wife to leave the house once for all. Even if he marries another woman and if his second wife will also be like his first one, will the same kind of attitude be shown to her too? What has happened can never be set right because of the mental make-up of both Shagun and Suryakant.

It is only Ashok and Suryakant's mother who are to be blamed for the separation of two couples. Knowing full well that Shagun is a mother of two children, Ashok should not have encouraged her to behave as she has behaved. There are many men like Ashok and women like Shagun in real life who are determined to spoil the marital life of so many men and women. Their main purpose is to enjoy sex wherever it is available unasked. Of the two women, it is the case of Ishita, which is the more pathetic and miserable. Women like the mother of Suryakant are very rare in real life. Even if such women exist, there are many sons who will always fight against the attitude of their mothers to their wives. They will always be on the side of their wives. Men like Suryakant for their helplessness in defending their wives should be treated with the lack of respect in the society. They also forget the biblical saying that it is a man who should leave his parents and get united with his wife. Raman finds his way out of his predicament by marrying the deserted wife of Suryakant. He feels really happier with Ishita as his wife. Ishita also does not feel her infertility now because she has a daughter now to love in Roohi. It is only Shagun who is a real loser by losing her daughter to Ishita.