

ISSN: 0976-8165

The Criterion

An International Journal in English

Vol. 7, Issue- 3 [June 2016]

7th Year of Open Access

Editor-In-Chief: Dr. Vishwanath Bite

The Criterion



www.the-criterion.com

About Us: <http://www.the-criterion.com/about/>

Archive: <http://www.the-criterion.com/archive/>

Contact Us: <http://www.the-criterion.com/contact/>

Editorial Board: <http://www.the-criterion.com/editorial-board/>

Submission: <http://www.the-criterion.com/submission/>

FAQ: <http://www.the-criterion.com/fa/>



ISSN 2278-9529

Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

www.galaxyimrj.com

Title of the Book: *The Immigrant*

Author: Manju Kapur

Publisher: Random House , India

Publication Year: 2008

ISBN: 9788184000481

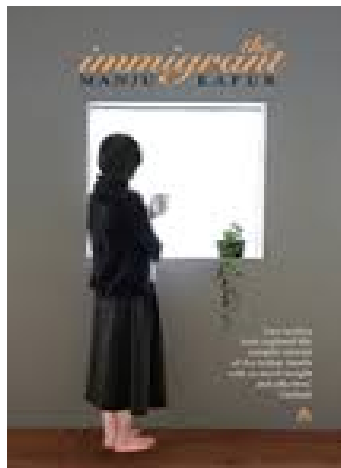
Reviewed by:

Dr. V. Jaisre

Assistant Professor of English,

Bharathiar University Post Graduate Extension Centre, Erode – 1

Tamil Nadu, India.



Manju Kapur's *The Immigrant* depicts the sour reality of the marital and societal predicament of Nina an Indian immigrant. Being a well-educated professional, Nina felt self-sufficient and she could take any resolution on her own before her marriage. But after her marriage with Ananda a non-resident Indian, she comes to Canada with the expectations that at last, she has got well settled and secure marital and social status at the age of thirty. She fails to realize the truth that her dreams of better life are nothing but her uncertain and unclear expectations because real happenings in Canada startle her. She has just become a victim of the patriarchy. However, she is not mainly dependent on her husband as an immigrant. She has a good education, independent thinking, and financial support. In spite of that, she is not different from

any other Canadian immigrant who depends only on her husband for anything and everything.

Just like any married woman, she also expects her husband to be open and faithful to her. All men are not good and similarly, all women are not very bad. There are many Violas and Portias in women in terms of fidelity and good women in real life outnumber good men. Given the situation, even the good men have every chance to become infidel to their wives. Many Indian men who go abroad for their pecuniary advantages and who remain unmarried begin to enjoy the life of 'living together' with other women without marriage. Such men if they want to marry, they marry only Indian women because they consider Indian women virtuous and pure. After their marriage with Indian women, they continue their extra-marital relationship with the other women. Ananda is no exception to this kind of deception on his part as a married man.

Moreover, every married woman wants her sexual relationship with her husband to be happy and reciprocal. If a woman is interested but man is not, the marital life will become uninteresting and uneventful. If a man is interested but her woman is not, man will be forced to find an outlet to his sexual urge. If a woman finds her husband being disinterested in sex with his wife, she must find a remedy to her husband's disinterestedness so that her marital life will be safe and secure. Even before his marriage, Ananda has had a pre-marital sexual relationship with the white women. After his marriage, he should have confessed to his pre-marital relationship to his wife. He has not done it and he has hidden his entire past bachelor life in a woman, she has remained pure and she has Canada. Ananda should not have spoiled the happiness of a woman by marrying her, hiding his weaknesses.

Having been brought up with traditional and familial values, Nina should have remained morally strong even though she does not enjoy her expected sexual satisfaction with her husband. She should not have thought that her marital happiness consists in her sexual satisfaction with her husband and her becoming a mother of his children. Sex and begetting alone will not provide marital happiness. Nina fails to realize this because of her disappointment with marital life. As long as her mother is alive, she leads her marital life without much ado. The moment her mother dies and she feels that she need not go to India, she starts going astray and indulges in an extra-marital relationship with Anton. From her action, it is quite clear that not only do men

go wrong if they get chances but also women do. A woman having extra-marital relationship with other men does not spell out her independence but it indicates her violation of moral code as a married woman.

Both Ananda and Nina could have talked to each other freely to find the solution to the crisis in their marital life. Both fail in their duty as married ones to address each one's problem to the other. Thus, the crisis in the familial life of Ananda and Nina results in their strained marital relationship, which in turn provides a platform for Nina to act independently in an alien country.