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Title of the book: *Tamanna – A Wish*
Author: Bilina Pattanaik
Publisher: Mind Melodies, New Delhi
Publication year: 2013
Price: Rs120/-

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*Tamanna ne zindegi ki godi mein sar rakh ke puchha,
Mein puri kab hungi...
Toh zindegi ne muskurake kaha,
Jo puri ho jaye woh 'Tamanna' hi kya.*

Really, *Tamanna*-s or wishes are rarely fulfilled. Perhaps, this is the law of nature. Had it been so easy to fulfil every wish or dream, no terrestrial being would have had any faith on the almighty.

Set in the milieu of a middle class family, *Tamanna – A wish*, the debut novel of Bilina Pattanaik revolves around the character of Samedha, the daughter of the family. Born and brought up in a small town, Samedha goes to Delhi, where she struggles to get employed and in this process she gets a job and comes in contact with Siddharth, her first love. Being a common girl with a traditional mind set, she believes that someone's love should always end up in marriage. So she wishes to give an identity to her love relationship with Siddharth. But this wish of her remains unfulfilled. She has to compromise with her destiny and get married to another guy Vedant. This time destiny favours her and she leads a blissful conjugal life with Vedant; she is also blessed with a daughter, named Tamanna. Unfortunately, after 10 years of married life with Vedant, her husband who eventually turned to be her lover, once again she gets cheated by the almighty and meets with her fatal end fighting against cancer.

As a young business executive, Bilina Pattanaik is very well aware of the common trends of communication in the contemporary world. Lack of time combined with technological advancement has enabled human being to use some abbreviation, acronym or jargons in virtual communication. The author has used some words like “ping”, “gals”, “oye”, etc. that are commonly used by youths while online chatting. As such words are in trend and familiar among the youths, the novel has a tremendous appeal to them. Apart from these words, she has also used some Hindi dialogues which are generally used by Indians in everyday affairs.

The novel introduces the readers with the virtual love affair of which most of the youngsters are victims. In a flash back technique, readers get acquainted with the love life of Samedha. She has been presented as a compromising character with her own pleasure and pain. She sacrifices her desires to make her family feel contented that they have selected the most suitable match for her. “It was rather a self sacrificing kind of a day which meant she had to put

aside her own need just to make sure that everyone else were getting what they wanted”. (Bilina Pattanaik, 59)

Through Samedha, readers are acquainted with women of different characteristics and agonies. Samedha sacrifices her emotion for the sake of her parents and family where Sarita shades off her shame for her children without being oblivious of the fact that she might get hatred from her children as a reward.

“A woman’s whole and sole is nothing other than her body, but she can tear down her existence to comfort her loved ones. Perhaps it is because she has the power of giving birth to a new life”. (Pattanaik, 63)

Not only with different women but the readers are exposed to people of different mentality and attitude towards life. Siddharth is rational but Samedha revels herself as an emotional character when she discusses some issues like love and marriage. Although she works and stays in a metropolitan city like Delhi, she holds the innocence and sensitivity of any other ordinary girl as, “...when you fall in love, you ought to get married to the same person”. (Pattanaik, 93)

Although a woman is the protagonist here, it cannot be categorized as a feministic novel where women are seen fighting for their rights and justice under male chauvinism. Samedha is portrayed as a loser in her love life but a winner in her conjugal life with Vedant. The notion that a man cannot see or imagine his wife with another male has been proved wrong when Vedant calls Siddharth to meet Samedha on her death bed. Vedant has been presented as a man who is ready to do anything possible under the sun for his beloved. To some extent, the novel can be categorized under the genre of Romantic Fiction as it deals with the love relationship of the protagonist. Although it has a tragic end, no human being is responsible for such a tragedy.

A travel in Samedha’s world enables the readers to feel the heart of a father. In common parlance, fathers are seen to be a bit strict than mothers. But through the character of Samedha’s father, the unspoken feelings and emotions of a father for his daughter and vice versa are experienced. The way Samedha’s father preserves each memory of his daughter’s childhood days is really amazing and brings tears in the eyes of readers.

The novel has brought out some harsh reality which is usually very tough for a girl to expose. It is nothing but the reality of some of her so called own people.

“Because when there isn’t a man in a woman’s life then every man who sets eyes on her feels like it’s his moral duty to hit her. At times the man would be one amongst her family. SAD but TRUE”. (Pattanaik, 93)

The narrator has employed some marvelous quotations which touch the heart of a sensitive person. The novel represents a picture of a trend adopted by the youth to make friendship over virtual network. The novel begins with a quotation that says *tamanna* or wish is never materialized. But one of the wishes of Samedha to meet with Siddharth before her death gets fulfilled by Vedant.

This is a piece of work that appeals to youngsters the most. While narrating the love story of Samedha, it makes the readers aware of the fact that the path of love is not always a bed of roses. At times they are to be thorn and bled.