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Name of Book: *The One You Cannot Have*

Author: Preeti Shenoy

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About the Author: Preeti Shenoy is a prolific author. Her books, 'Life is What You Make It' and 'The Secret Wish' are the best sellers. In this new endeavour, 'The One You Cannot Have' she talks about love in twenty-first century.

The story narrates the love, lives and relationships of four individuals- Shruti, Rishabh, Anjali, and Aman. Shruti and Aman used to be inseparable. They were together for four long, intense years and always believed that their relationship would culminate into marriage. They had not imagined a future without each other. Shruti's parents were dead set against the match, but Shruti fought with them. And then, suddenly Shruti left Aman. She had her reasons-her family life was hanging by a thread-but Aman could not understand her mercurial sentiment. She walked out on him and got married to Rishabh, a nice-boy from her caste-the one her parents chose for her. Aman could not take another blow to his already shattered heart, and on the advice of her boss-cum-mentor, he went overseas for the work.

The new setting helped to nurse his broken heart and repressed the memory of Shruti but could never truly forget her, he never completely got over her. Shruti on the other hand, was happily married to Rishabh, or so she thought. Aman kept haunting her thoughts. She felt happy with Rishabh, but never as alive as she used to be with Aman. He was present in her subconscious and she wondered if she could forget him ever. When Aman decided to come back India, he met Anjali. Chirpy, trusting, and attractive, she won Aman's attention and heart, albeit reluctantly on his part. Aman was not ready for any sort of relationship or commitment, because the last time he gave away his heart, it was returned to him into pieces. Anjali was besotted by Aman and loved him. She wondered why he kept on giving her mixed signals about liking her but did not give up completely. Meanwhile, Rishabh discovered few old emails in Anjali's mailbox and baffled about why she never discussed about it and started acting indifferently with Shruti. After that they never really got normal again in their married life.

The main theme of the book is “Everyone has always the one you cannot have.” The prolific and creative author, Preeti Shenoy has conveyed her point very well depicting the caste system still working in this global era even. The story talks about the acceptance of your past and moving on. The main theme is not difficult to understand, rather it can be guessed from the title. Aman, a north Indian, and Shruti, a south Indian are star-crossed lovers. After four years of togetherness, they believed that nothing is going to stop them from getting married. However, fate interferes in a cruel way and Shruti is married to another guy, Rishabh, from her own community. Even after two years, Aman and Shruti struggle with the ghost of their past. It affects Shruti’s marital life and Aman finds himself unable to commit into another relationship. The book is fast-paced and does not sag in the middle. It keeps flitting between the happenings in the lives of Aman, Shruti, Anjali, and Rishabh. The relationship between Aman and Shruti is beautifully explored and portrayed. The conflict of thoughts and love experienced by Shruti and Aman is very realistic. The ending was abrupt. We are not told how Shruti and Rishabh reconciled. Although she has written an epilogue, yet it is insufficient since we invested so much time on them. Preeti has tried to show here that most couples think that courtship will sustain and carry them through a relationship. Preeti hopes this book too will make more positive since life is short and unpredictable. Marriage is not shown is short and of roses, but as a reality of life, full of adjustments.

This book teaches us how to get over the screwed mind. After reading the book, it is apparent why and how couples in Indian society get separated because of orthodox parents thinking and where younger generation stands in terms of relationship and love marriage. All the characters in the story bear close resemblances to the people we know personally in our life. This is the striking feature of this book. The aim of author to write this book is to depict the fact that whatever we want to have in our life, we cannot have, as everything we get according to our predetermined destiny that we cannot change and we should accept this hard truth of life. This is an engrossing tale of relationship, crossroads of love and responsibilities, choices that are made and how they influence the whole course of our life. It truly inspires someone to move on in life after the devastating break up. Love is a beautiful thing as long as it lasts, but when it ends, it takes a lot to get over it. And this is presented in this book very beautifully and creatively by Preeti Shenoy.

The simple yet compelling narration portraying the modern day relationship pros and cons is a highlight of the book. The shift from the past to present the story all the way is more beautiful for the readers to enjoy. It is not just a work of fiction but it is an eye opener for many as sometimes we are too blinded with the rage to understand the sensitivity of the relationship or a situation. It is a perfect book served to the readers by the author.