

**The Heroine of the Lost Cause: A study of June Blyth's suffering in Arun
Joshi's The foreigner.**

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Abstract

June Blyth, the heroine of the novel, The Foreigner, suffers the angst of loneliness and despair throughout her life. She take pity on Sindi when he is sick and then she falls deeply in love with him. She loves sindi from the Zenith of her heart and wants to marry him. But sindi, although he loves her and also he makes sexual relationship with her, can not marry her for he doesn't want to involve with her as a rule of his philosophy of detachment. She makes many marriage proposals to Sindi. She even begs him to marry her yet, Sindi every time denies to marry her and thus, he drives June to despair. June becomes utter disappointed and, inturn, she is driven into the arms of Sindi's friend, Babu. June does not love Babu but she makes a great sacrifice and wants to be of use to babu who is suffering with depression. Again June suffers in the hands of Babu also. Babu gives her consecutive torments and, eventually, runs away from her and dies in a car accident while she is carrying his child in her womb. Thus, June has two men in her life. And she has given her all to both of them, yet, she remains heartbroken throughout her life. She can not marry to any of them and, eventually, she dies in her distress while she is undergoing abortion surgery of Babu's child.

Full Paper

The Foreigner is the first novel of Arun Joshi. Arun Joshi is a highly significant Indian novelist. He has won the prestigious Sahitya Academy Award in 1983 for his novel The last labyrinth (1981). He occupies a distinctive place among the Indian English writers who qualify as existentialist writers. Joshi's writing delineates the moral and spiritual problems of post independence Indian youth who, with their western education, are trapped between the Indian ethos and western influence. Arun Joshi's protagonists are tortured souls who find themselves in a tragic mess of Indian ethos and western influence.

The Foreigner is a study of alienation in the soul of Sindi Oberoi (The hero of the novel). Sindi suffers from the existentialist predicaments of alienation, loneliness, emptiness and identity crisis.

But the novel also exposes the sufferings of its heroine, June Blyth. June had aspired in her life to be a married woman and to have her own children and husband. But despite of being a beautiful, caring and good natured woman; she couldn't meet her aspiration. She loved Sindi from the Zenith of her heart. She loves him so much that she cares for him like a mother or a nurse. Yet, Sindi denied to marry her. Similarly, June gave her all her body and mind to Babu, the another male character of the novel. She made a great sacrifice of her feelings to help Babu to overcome from his depression. She set herself to be of use to Babu and got ready to marry him. Yet, Babu gave her nothing but torments in return. And eventually, he ran away from her and died in a car accident while June was pregnant from him. Thus, June could't meet her aspirations of becoming a married woman. She became an epitome of lost cause.

June suffers the pain of dejection every time when she proposes Sindi to marry her and Sindi always denies her proposal. She loves Sindi intensely and cares for him like a mother or a nurse. When Sindi becomes ill; he breaks into a fit of coughing due to an asthmatic attack then June treats and cares for him like a nurse. She pulls Sindi's head over her lap and says-

“My poor, poor, boy.” (TF 33)

And when he overcomes his asthmatic, attack then June puts her arms around his neck and asks-“And how is the sick boy now?” (TF 34) Next morning June goes to see Sindi. She puts her hand on his forehead and sits down on the bed. She tweaks his nose and says- “How is the little brown Indian today?” (TF 53)

June loves Sindi very much; has sex with him several times, and wants children from him. And that is why she repeatedly requests him to marry her. As Sindi says-

“Several times as we lay in bed June had suggested that we get married. She said we were both growing old and she wanted my children.” (TF 75). But Sindi always Turns down the marriage proposals of June saying that he can not involve with her, for his philosophy of detachment he can not involve with the world. June, however, tries to her best to persuade Sindi to marry her and time and again she begs him to marry her but every time Sindi denies to marry her. This drives June to despair. Sindi exposes-

“At times, she became sad, especially after making love to me. At such time she would say that her life had no purpose.” (TF 75).

June loves Sindi so much that whenever he wants her, she always get ready to give him her body. As Sindi tells-

She said nothing but got up and went into the bedroom” (TF 106)

But then, just after their love making is over she always cries with pain as she knows that for Sindi this pleasure and love is only to get her into bed. And Sindi will never marry her. She says to Sindi-

“It is all so meaningless, Sindi, so utterly mean meaningless. All we do is get into bed and ...” Her sobs choked her off.” (TF 107)

And then she begs him,” Let’s get married Sindi. For God’s sake, let’s get married.” (TF 107)

But Sindi feels that he is unable to marry her. Upon this June says-

“Why don’t we get married?” (TF 90)

“But why. Sindi, why? She seemed genuinely puzzled.” (TF 91)

“But you have some reason, honey” (TF 91)

“Oh, come now, Sindi, surely everybody who marries is not sitting on a heap of crumbled illusions.” (TF 91)

June fears that due to Sindi’s false philosophy of non-involvement and detachment they would break up and then she would lose Sindi, her only lover for ever and she would become lonely.

“Nothing is inevitable’, June said vehemently.

The edge of despair was breaking through her tears.” (TF 107)

Thus, June loves Sindi from the zenith of her heart and she can not stop loving him. She says-“You are beautiful, Sindi, beautiful as God. I don’t think I can stop loving you.” (TF 147) But everytime Sindi brakes her heart, by turning down her marriage proposal. June feels lost and she suffers the pain of despair and loneliness.

Actually, it was Sindi’s cold detachment that had alienated June from him and paved the way for her to fall into the arms of Babu. Truly speaking, the man June loves is Sindi. And she doesn’t love Babu. But, in spite of this she compromises with her feelings and agrees to marry Babu for two reasons. First

reason in that she wants to help Babu to Overcome him from depression and the second is that she wants to marry him as she had been denied by Sindi to marry her. And then she has the only option to marry with is Babu. As when Sindi asks her, whether she loves Babu then She replies in negative. Then Sindi asks her – “then why did you decide to marry him.” (TF 136) upon this June says- “I thought he needed me. I had wanted to belong to you, but you didn’t want it. You are so self sufficient there is hardly any place for me in your life except perhaps as a mistress.” (TF 136)

And she further says-

“Babu, on the other hand, was on edge of a breakdown- and still is for that matter. He needs me and what’s more he says so. He loves me more than he loves himself- that’s more than what can be said for you. In return, I am prepared to give him all that I have.” (TF 136)

And she prepares herself to marry Babu. But, to the worst of her fate; Babu with his peculiar temperament, starts tormenting her. As she herself says-

“He is just not the naïve lovable little boy any more. He has become, I wish to God I knew why, jealous and petty and irritable.” (TF 138).

When Babu comes to know that June is still sleeping with Sindi, he becomes shocked and furious. He calls June a whore and hit her on the face. He calls June a whore and hit her on the face. And then, in his desperation, Babu runs away from June and commits suicide by involving himself in a car accident.

Babu gives a great torment to June even in his death. Later, when June comes to know that she is pregnant by Babu, she becomes utterly disappointed. She then decides to abort Babu’s child and dies during the abortion surgery. Thus, June lives her life painfully and she dies even more painfully. She remains heartbroken throughout her life. She could not meet her aspiration of becoming a married woman and eventually, she dies in her distress. In nutshell, she is the heroine of the lost cause.

Works-cited

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