

Surprise Ending In Mukund Bapat's Short Story

“Nisha”

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Abstract:

Nisha is a story of one of those millions of- have nots-who languish in poverty and can dream only of a better life at some point of the years to come. A few lucky one somehow succeed and life takes a positive turn for them. Poverty is a curse and it is in man's hands to come out of it. One way of removing poverty is hard work couple with good luck, and the other is hard work in some unconventional way coupled with windfall that good luck brings to them. Mukund Bapat, who as a positive approach to life and also he is very much skilled in the use of surprise element in his stories, has depicted the second way of bringing a change for better in the life of the main character Nisha. The unexpected twist in narrative and the surprise element make the story interesting.

Key words: Surprise, twist, wealth, love

Nisha, a young girl working in a factory is a little late in leaving her office and Misses the bus. The next bus is to come after half an hour and she is compelled to wait at the bus stop as she cannot offer to use private transport. There were two Sindhi women talking loudly and irritating Nisha. Just then a group of vagabonds come there and are discussing about the movie they have seen and dirtying the place by spitting all over. The Sindhi ladies engage and auto rickshaw and leave not caring for the poor Nisha. She notices is Vishal and Mohan Standing On the other side of the road. To avoid the company of the vagabonds she goes over to the other side and request the true friends to help her as it was a getting dark and unsafe for the lonely young lady. Vishal tells his friend Mohan to tell Vishal's mother that he will be a little late in reaching home. Mohan leaves and Vishal accompanies Nisha on foot. During their walk Nisha is told about friendly Duo- Vishal and Mohan are both employed in Spencer's. Vishal's is a joint family and besides Vishal there are his parents and brothers and sisters, the sisters-in-law and children. They are a well to do family. Vishal learns that Nisha is working in a so factory and supports the family financially as the reach her home Vishal is introduced to our family members including her sister. Her father Vinayakarao is retired teacher and with the major pension is struggling to make both ends meet for the family. Nisha's house is a delapidated one but bears signs of the bygone prosperous years. taking leave of the family we Vishal returns home and tells is mother everything that had happened right from the bus stop, is helping Nisha and also about her family while taking dinner. After their first meeting Vishal and Nisha meet often and it was a pleasure for him to escort her to her house. He tells Nisha that has no familial responsibility and the family is financially comfortable. Contrasting this Nisha and her family always face financial problem and Vinayakarao's pension and Nisha's salary are the only source of income. However, they have a very spacious house and the signs of bygone prosperous years are visible. Vinayakrao takes Vishal round his house and to the library and the study room which has a good collection. Vinayakarao informs Vishal that about three hundred years ago in a family feud one of the ancestor removed a lot of wealth and buried it in vast back yard of the house. It was strange that while Nisha's family led miserable life those families staying in the backward were prosperous. Vinayakarao tried to search for the hidden treasure but nobody believed and he had to abandon his efforts. Vishal while returning home was thinking about the hidden treasure. He had read about the discovery of some treasure near Jaipur but had never known anyone who had found any hidden wealth.

Nisha and Vishal's relationship is building up and has become a matter of curiosity for many. Nisha herself was not aware of exact nature of Vishal's feeling towards her.

More than a week had passed Nisha had didn't meet Vishal. He waited at the factory but noticed that she has not been coming to the factory. He thought she might have fallen sick and therefore was not coming to work. Vishal decided to visit Nisha's house and told his mother about this. On reaching Nisha's house is received by her and is relieved to know that she is alright. Nisha clarifies thar factory has suffered losses and the management has lain off many workers. Nisha too lose her job. This was crude shock for the family as Nisha was supporting the family financially. The expenses of Kalavati's college were difficult to bare and the struggle was intense. Vishal tried to help by trying for Nisha's job but did not succeed.

Nisha was Sleepless as she was not able to think of a way out to bring relief to the miserable life. Jobs were not coming by and there was a nothing else to do. During her free time an idea struck her. She felt that they could make an attempt to find the hidden treasure she told this to Vishal who brushed it aside with a laugh. Nisha somehow convinced Vishal for the adventure they made Mohan to join the attempt as he was a very trust worthy friend and would not reveal anything to anybody. After discussing the matter threadbare with Vinayakarao as he was a historian also the decided to dig up in the back yard. After digging for several hours they finally hit a hard object. It was a door to the basement. The team decided to explore and entered the basement. They found two boxes which were locked with great enthusiasm and the expecting to find huge wealth Nisha was given the honor of opening the box. The box was opened after great effort and the team was taken a back at what they had seen. The box contained skeleton chained and other things strewn around. Grossly disappointed and dejected they returned home and all hopes pinned on the Expectations of discovering a treasure had vanished. For days there after Vishal regularly visited Vinayakarao and discussed with him things in his study. Vishal did not pay any attention to Nisha which made her sad and the thought of ending a rejected love came to her mind. Next day Vinayakarao called Nisha to his study and handed over an envelope to her. Her happiness knew no bounce when she read that Vishal had proposed her and even obtained his parents' permission to stay in Nisha's house after the marriage to help the family. After the couple of days Vinayakarao gave another envelope asking her to read it. It was a letter from the archaeology department. Vinayakarao had written in detail about the excavation they carried out and the two boxes that were recovered were then handed over to the department. The department responded to inform that the basement was 2000 year old and the relics found in the boxes and in the room were very important from archaeological angle and the department wanted to carry out further excavation to find out whether anything else could be discovered. For this purpose they wanted to acquire the backyard plot of Nisha's house. For a very handsome price. The poor family readily agreed. in one day Nisha's families life took a turn for better the days of misery, poverty and frustration were going to be over and the old glory of Vinayaka Rao's house was going to return. Nisha's marriage to Vishal is fixed to take place after a fortnight and started dreaming about her for a future. She thought that what appeared to the crude Shock of discovering human skelton's instead of hidden wealth had turned over completely and they were actually reach to the weird discovery. She thought destiny had given her wealth and crowned it with husband like Vishal.

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