



## **An Exploration Of Marital Discords In Amulya Malladi's *The Copenhagen Affair***

**S. Ramalakshmi<sup>a</sup> , Dr. M. Sagaya Sophia<sup>b</sup>**

<sup>a</sup> Part Time Ph.D Scholar, Department of English, Kalaignar Karunanidhi Government Arts College for Women (Autonomous) (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli), Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu, India.

<sup>b</sup> Research Advisor & Assistant Professor of English, PG and Research Department of English, Kalaignar Karunanidhi Government Arts College for Women (Autonomous) (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli) Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu, India.

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### **Abstract**

Amulya Malladi brilliantly explains the husband and wife's relationship, the misconceptions between them, the cause and effects of the misunderstandings, and the familial disagreements in her work *The Copenhagen Affair* (2017). The central characters' problems, as well as how they resolve them and rekindle their relationships, have been examined. This article examines what are the issues arrive between the couple with reference to Amulya Malladi's *The Copenhagen Affair*.

**Keywords:** *Implosion, cultural freedom, spontaneity, recognition, imperfection.*

## **1. Introduction**

In Amulya Malladi's novel *The Copenhagen Affair*, Sanya is a 40-year-old Indian woman who is married to Harry, a white American of her choice. The outgoing and determined Sanya is also a driving factor behind Harry's corporate success. She has imprinted on Harry's mind the idea that she is the catalyst for his life to change. Harry is also immaculate, duty-conscious, and health-conscious. Sanya, despite her beauty and invincibility, is touched by envy because of Harry's interactions with other women due to his cultural freedom.

Sanya is particularly wary about Tara's relationship. Sanya had a nervous breakdown unexpectedly. Harry takes her to Copenhagen in order to help her recover from her mental sickness. Sanya is attracted to Anders Ravn, the CEO of the IT Foundry in Copenhagen. In Copenhagen, and Ravn also cares and is concerned about her health, which her husband is unaware of. Ravn is leading a contented life with his wife, Mandy, but he is also drawn to the imploded Sanya. When Sanya asks him what love means to him, he responds that it is seeing oneself in someone else. Harry is too engrossed in his work to notice her. Ravn, on the other hand, recognizes her, as well as her flaws and disorders. Both Harry and Ravn, are powerful business magnates. They have an insatiable desire for success and accomplishments. Ravn manages to strike a good balance between his family and his job. However, Harry has missed the balance, resulting in Sanya's mental illness. Harry ultimately realizes that he has never recognized or appreciated Sanya's efforts. He is attempting to save his two decades of marriage because he believes that family comes first.

Sanya and Harry's love has expanded beyond their culture, language, and all of their varied parts of life. It was love at first sight for them. Both thought their love was everlasting at first sight, and despite Sanya's parents' opposition, they chose to marry. John Gray's comments on love thus, "Falling in love is always magical. It feels eternal, as if love will last forever" (Gray 13). After his marriage, Harry becomes so self-centered that he begins to focus on his own growth and fitness, leaving the household obligations in the hands of Sanya, who is unaware of her mental and physical suffocation as a result of these loads.

Despite the fact that Sanya and Harry have a love marriage, Harry completely ignores her when they marry. She has no one with whom she can communicate, and she is also overburdened by her profession and domestic responsibilities. She must strike a balance between her various roles as a wife, mother, and professional woman. Because she has no one to whom she can express her emotions and pressures, her mental system begins to implode, ending in a nervous breakdown. John Gray expresses women's nature this way, "Venusians have different values. They value love, communication, beauty, and relationships. They spend a lot of time supporting, helping and nurturing one another" (Gray18).

Sanya's health begins to improve as Ravn enters her life. Ravn's offerings are too good for her to refuse as he expresses concern for her. Because of her delayed promotion in her office, her husband's infidelity, and his fugitive mentality, she is already imploding within her. She could not tell her parents about her disappointment because she married against their wishes. She has no reassuring relationships in his circle because Harry's parents have been apart since he was eight years old. As a result, when she sees Ravn, she is unconsciously drawn to him since he recognizes her and expresses genuine concern for her. Sanya could not say no to his offer, so she begins to enjoy it in secret, as it provides her with an illicit pleasure. Sanya wished for her husband's intimacy with her in the start of their marriage. Harry's only flaw is that he has never attempted to persuade Sanya, believing it to be her responsibility to look after him and the household's attitudes. Ravn, on the other hand, goes above and beyond to capture her heart by forcing her to talk about her issues.

Harry has also been focused on his business, and as a result, he has withdrawn from his family's issues until he has mastered his business techniques. Harry, in the meantime, discovers a way to fix his life. So far, the business-motive Harry focuses his attention on Sanya's health. He takes her to Copenhagen because he believes that geography's magic might help her overcome her mental ailments.

Old Sanya was versatile, open-minded, a happy, naive person who was easy to get along with. New Sanya is devoid of these positive characteristics. When her therapist Arthur inquires about her duty as a wife, she responds by describing how she has become selfish, inactive, and uncaring with her family members. Harry is oblivious of the truth that the root cause of their alienation is not just his infidelity or their cultural differences, but his failure to listen to Sanya.

Harry is goal-oriented throughout his life. In the student hangouts of UC Berkeley, Harry meets Sanya. Her sparkling smile captivates him. He feels he has nothing because his parents split when he was eight years old. As a result, Harry spent his childhood as, "an independent child, and he had grown to be a self confident and independent man. But he had been alone all his life. He'd had relationships, but none of them had made him feel like he belonged. That changed when he met Sanya" (Malladi 26). For the first time, he has the feeling that she is his. She has never refused his demands or chastised him for his lengthy travels. In the earlier stage Sanya was "the one who wanted to make everyone around her happy – and he worried that she'd done such a good job of it that all the happiness had drained away from her, and she was left with nothing. And it was his fault because he had stopped paying attention to her" (Malladi 28). Harry and Sanya have been married for over two decades. She is prepared to leave him since he is unfaithful to her, and she believes she is entitled to a better relationship with Ravn.

Harry is unable to consider Sanya's point of view. He does not believe she desires an emotional outlet. Ravn, on the other hand, recognizes her first need and responds to it by emotionally impressing her. Sanya takes a break from blaming her spouse for her mental condition by going out with Ravn and attending a get-together organized by his wife Mandy specifically for expatriates. Her fears fade as she sees Ravn, but her delight soars as she receives acknowledgment, affection, and care that Harry has yet to return. When Harry sees Ravn's royal goods, he feels inept and envious. When he learns that his wife is equally drawn to Ravn, he becomes enraged. When Harry learns of Sanya's lunch with Ravn, he becomes furious. But Lucky, his friend, persuades him, claiming that Ravn lacks appeal due to his facial scar, whereas Harry is quite attractive. Harry is well aware of the significance of that scar as Sanya's greatest attraction. And he's bothered by the twinkle in her eyes as she recounts the scar. He is afraid that he will miss Sanya. Now Harry understands that he has never taken Sanya on a date like Ravn.

Harry doesn't want to live with Tara, and so he does not want to continue his friendship with Tara. When he learns of his wife's illness, he is completely devoid of any worldly thoughts. When his family life is on the verge of collapse, all he can think about is his family. He feels useless and heartbroken when his wife is ill. He relocates to Copenhagen in an attempt to improve his business while also improving Sanya's health. In contrast to the old Sanya, the new Sanya entirely disregards him. However, Harry changes his character in order to resurrect his old Sanya.

Sanya used to be in charge of everything. She was working in an office, demonstrating her abilities as a capable Finance Executive. Despite the fact that she was qualified for promotion at the outset, she does not receive credit until much later. She is unable to accept it due to her long-standing expectation and subsequent disappointment. Instead of being filled with joy when she hears of her promotion, she collapses due to a nervous breakdown. John Gray views this condition as, "When a woman does not feel cherished in a relationship she gradually becomes compulsively responsible and exhausted from giving too much" (Gray 43). Sanya only wants recognition and reciprocation of her affection from Harry. She could not say no to Ravn's offer of so-called acknowledgment in the shape of love. At the same time, she could not stand Harry's adulterous affair with Tara. Sanya's mental condition is changed as a result of the events depicted by Amulya Malladi. Sanya receives a call. Anders Ravn invites her to visit the 'Around the World' cafe in Copenhagen. She had a feeling she would accompany him 'Around the World.' Amulya Malladi uses a pun from the name of the Cafe, as though Sanya is sceptical that she will go with him all over the world for the rest of her life. When they meet, he talks about his background and, in particular, an episode that led to his suicide attempt. Because his parents were on the run, he was raised by his grandmother. His grandmother passed away because of cancer, and his girlfriend killed herself. When he lost such significant people in his life, he became depressed and tried suicide. Sanya believes that his depression is more severe than hers. She is torn between two worlds. She has never been suicidal, but she has been suffering from depression and loneliness, which has just manifested itself as her implosion.

She now realizes the extent of her mental endurance. Ravn compares her to 'the Monta,' a well-known picture with multiple layers. She recalls how early in their relationship, Harry compared her to an Indian princess. He no longer flatters her since he is uninterested in satisfying her. She, on the other hand, yearns for his compliments and praise. When Sanya asks Harry if he still loves her, he pauses for a moment before nodding affirmatively, but his love is based on the fact that the old Sanya was cheerful, active, and compassionate. When Harry thinks about it, he realizes that he has only received her affection and has never returned it. Now Harry is more compassionate to Sanya, despite his certainty that he would never find Sanya's unselfish previous love again. He has, nevertheless, determined to wait for her love unconditionally. In order to lead a successful married life, Harry undergoes a transformation in his character. He abandons his business affairs and begins showering Sanya with love and attention. He assists her in overcoming her nervous breakdown as soon as possible.

To show Sanya his appreciation, he plans to take her to a Thai restaurant called 'Kiin – Kiin' to commemorate their twenty-first wedding anniversary. Harry is incredibly devoted to his wife in the

restaurant. Harry serves the cuisine one by one keeping her health in mind. Malladi depicts the transformation of Malladi thus, "How could she not love this new Harry? As she smiled warmly at him, love streaming through her insides like fresh, bubbly champagne" (Malladi 146). When Ravn and his wife Mandy approach them, they are taken aback.

Mandy surprisingly utters, "What a lovely surprise", "This is awesome". Harry murmurs to Sanya that "this Ravn must have known about our celebration through Lucky and must have booked our table. For this man everything is business" (Malladi 147). Harry also extends a kind invitation to their anniversary dinner. When Sanya inquires about Ravn's thoughts on her external appearance, he responds thus, "How you look has nothing to do with how I feel", "it has more to do with how you feel. How does it make you feel?" (Malladi 147). Sanya slowly recovers from her mental illness. As a result, Sanya appreciates both their reactions and their pleasant encounters. When Sanya inquires about Tara, Harry reassures her, "You're better looking than her. You're more successful than her, and you have a better husband than she does" (Malladi 149). Consequently, Harry begins to see and appreciate his wife's abilities and beauty.

## 2. Conclusion

After twenty years of their marriage, Sanya's views on love and marriage have changed. She yearns for some imperfection and spontaneity. As a result, she eventually requests their separation without a divorce. However, Harry accepts this condition in order to save his marriage. In an estranged marital situation, they begin to embrace the spontaneity of their lives. As per Mignon McLaughlin's sayings, "A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person" (Brides.com), they rekindle their relationship without divorcing.

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