



**“Falling for another man is more often than before”- “Endless female hunger”  
for true love stimulates? – Kamala Das equalized any other woman.**

**Quest for real love – Kamala Das unveiled for every women- reason of extra  
marital affairs**

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**Abstract:** Kamala Das, the heroic voice of English literature, pioneer in confessional writing, portrayed the inner self of banal women. She has justified herself and all quenched womankind through her confessional words. Her writings are enough to disclose the real reason of women’s falling for another man which is frequent now than before, it’s quite appropriate to canvas. This article endeavors to reveal the ground of extra marital affairs, mostly justifiable, by the righteous exposure of tormented female self and its pursuance for love by the veritable life story Kamala Das.

**Key Words:** Kamala Das, Female Hunger, extra-marital affair

### **Introduction**

Women, the most gracious, compassionate, adorable initiation of God. She means a lot to the family and society. People offer everything to get her, she is high-priced, but her ultimate demand is ‘true love’. The ‘perpetual hunger’ in women, for love, is already discussed and examined by a lot of people. She primarily seeks love from her father and then from husband. Unfortunately, the women folk -hardly receive authentic love and affection from the men. And hence she falls for another man, explores external love.

The underlying reason behind the hike of extra-marital affairs is her quest for genuine love. Although, her sexual needs and desires are unexplorative, it’s logical to think that she wanders only for one instinctual desire, which is ‘love’. Kamala Das, the great Indian woman writer, a victim of loveless marriage, a child of buried patriarchy and male –domination, a typical Indian woman, generous in love. She is the beloved and the betrayed. It’s obvious in her writings that





she never liked to be a 'freak' but" her endless female hunger 'ensued in extra marital affairs. She was like any other women, in constant search of an understanding, affectionate man.

### **Accelerating Extra-marital affairs?**

Newspapers today are updated with a good deal of articles and reports regarding the consequences of extra marital affairs, increasing number of divorces due to loveless marriage, humiliated and destructed female heart. When Tolstoy wrote *"the law of loving others could not be discovered by reason, because it is unreasonable"* in his classic Anna Karenina, he was defining the impediments of human mind. When he unravelled the impalpable reasons that lead to the very married Anna's falling for another man, he captured the readers' attention by making them empathies with her.

Dr Mini K Paul, a psychologist specialized in marriage counseling says: *"Extra marital affairs are not a new advent into our society, it was always there. However, today people have started accepting it more openly or the cases are coming out more often than before."*

Kamala Das too had extramarital affairs; she made up her mind to be unfaithful to her husband, as she was brutally harassed both mentally and sexually. She was a tender woman, who asked only for love, in return she received a coquettish man, her husband never loved her, but exploited and beaten her in every way. In My Story she scribbled her longing for love and sexual satisfaction. She confesses her readers and marked as a voice for all tortured women, who seek love.

Kamala Das's confession reveals the inner feelings of women kind. She was betrayed in her ordinary life, so she has chosen a part of life to celebrate, to fly away from desperation, to refine her pains, to be alive. She says in her conversation with Merrily Weisbord *"I laid with other men to heal myself"*; An epitome to all betrayed women she too wanted to come back and be herself, be an innocent women. Every women is plain like her, they don't like to kill their virginity. She said to Merrily *'at times I fell down in the pond of love, but comes up to outer layer of water to breath"*.

### **Understanding the reason behind infidelity**

It's very common when woman have affair with their boss or colleague, Kamala Das had an affair with her husband's boss, she portrayed him as father figure. She finds and receives a kind of love and affection that she always urged from her father. Her unkind and loveless father is also a typical man, who believed in unwanted constraints and policies of society. From her childhood





she never received unconditional love. She therefore becomes the replica of common women, somehow abandoned in the family, society and so on.

Kamala Das had an uncommon approach to marital life, which raises questions on the notion of 'fidelity'. She fearlessly admits infidelity and vindicates it "*I was ready for love.....rite for sexual banquet*". She thus ruptured the norms of conventional "gender role". The drastic heterosexuality of Mrs. Das is resulted by the predatory sexual whim of man. She was completely horror-struck by that. It bilks every women, later leads to 'infidelity'. Women's primary urge is for love not for bodily subjection. Kamala Das justifies herself and every women by questioning the society by unveiling her powerful inner self "*you build around me with the moving love words flung from doorway and tea of carve. You tired lust; I shall someday take wings, fly around as often petals. Do when frame in air, and you are, just the sad remnant of a root on double-beds. And grieve. (Das, 43)*

Her husband unheeded her female ego and always overpowers her with his '*monstrous male ego*'. She felt a sort of dwarfism with that swelled head. She opens up "*Beneath your monstrous ego I ate the magic loaf and became a dwarf. I lost my will and reason; to all your questions I mumbled incoherent replies.*"

Kamala Das outlined the showdown of female desire with matronly meekness. The prototypical woman is forced to subdue her sexual desire to accomplish idealistic femininity. Woman is shaped as a 'sacrificer' she is obliged to be a docile daughter, observant wife and mother. The onslaught of patriarchy is responsible for the restriction of her physical and mental liberty. Every woman has this drive inside her to be unconfined. Kamala Das is one such woman never satisfied her hunger for love, her feminine instinct was caught by her husband, and he used her only for satisfying his ego and physical hunger. Kamala Das disliked her husband, her hatred is obvious, and she opens the most concealed and pathetic experiences of a woman:

*"Whenever he found me alone in the room, he began to plead me to bare my breasts and if I did not, he turned brutal and crude. His hands bruised my body and left blue and red marks on the skin."*  
(Kamala Das, 10)

Das's writing comprehends the solitariness and valid estrangement from society. She came across with the realities of 'becoming woman' and endured a lot. She is the only woman from Kerala boldly opened the untold truths. Iyengar remarks: "*Kamala Das is a fiercely feminine sensibility that dares without inhibitions to articulate the hurts it has received in an insensitive largely man-made world.*" (Iyengar, 680)





Kamala Das narrates her pangs as a quelled woman *“For, he drew a youth of sixteen into the bedroom and closed the door. He did not beat me but my sad woman-body felt so beaten.”*(Das, 27-28).

The Looking Glass reflects is yet another poem of Kamala Das, she challenges the egoistic man with the tenderness of woman, very honestly she says:

*Getting a man to love you is easy  
Only be honest about your wants as  
Woman. Stand nude before the glass with him  
so that he sees himself the stronger one  
and believes it so, and you so much more  
Softer, younger, lovelier....*

According to Kamala das the male partner is unable to give emotional satisfaction but he seeks only for ‘sexual gratification’. She uses sexual images to portray the lack of emotional attachment between the partners but only physical desire and lust which satisfies the males body not females mind. She writes her very secret experiences to bring the core female desire to limelight and to liberalize female sexuality.

She exclaims, *“If my desires were lotuses in a pond, closing there petals at dusk and opening out at dawn once upon a time, they were totally dead, rotted and dissolved and for them there was no more to be a reporting. The pond had cleared itself of all growth. It was placid.”* (Das, 194) Mrs. Das has voiced the expectation of woman in a collective form. The suffering, the pain, the loss, the hatred, and the frustration that she has experienced in her life are something that she simulated in My Story. The statement that she made in this writing proves her to be a radical feminist making a discourse on behalf of the exploited and oppressed marginalized women. Aurora observes, *“She becomes a feminist writer by making her women conscious and providing those wings to rise and flutter and hence constructing a collective identity”* (Aurora, 67).

As A. N. Dwivedi remarks, *“Whatever she wrote was born of her own experiences which immediately make her integral poet, a poet of felt thought.”* (Dwivedi, 20). Kamala Das has interrogated the gendered identity of ‘desire’ and smashes the binarization between male and female desire. She creates an ambience of liberated sexuality and freedom of expression.





Willard Harley Jr in his book, *His Needs, Her Needs: Building an Affair-Proof Marriage*, lists sex as the number one need for men and affection as the number one need for women.

Kamala Das's confession in 'An Introduction' awakened her readers to justify her sexual desires and affairs with other men. Her writings are definitely for other crushed females, if they are in her route of extra marital affairs. She believes that infidelity is excusable when equated with their sufferings and insatiable human desires. It crosses the limit of humanity.

## Conclusion

Finally, it's provable that women's bottomless need for love and affection she urges from man is the ultimate reason of falling to another man. Kamala Das demonstrated and uncovered her life as a life of every mediocre woman. When society blames women for infidelity, they are bound to think about the inherent reasons behind. No women like to bungle, or spifflicate her tender self and body, the immense ferociousness of male ego tends her to become a beguiler. The new generation society, from her father to husband, spends no time for her, demands her to strive for the family. She demands care and affection from men, but deserted reciprocally. Therefore, extra marital affairs are usual now. Render them unconditional love and care, hold them close in your arms, supply little time and space for her, she will never seek foreign love.

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