

# Deception and Travail Are the Cameos in the Novel 'The Lowland'

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**Abstract:** Bela the little girl is happy with her small family, mom Gauri and dad Subhash. Subhash the protagonist of the novel was from Tollygunge Calcutta, India but lives in America with his wife and daughter. Deception is the main theme in the novel *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri. Lahiri is a diasporic writer who lives in America and writes about her native land and its culture in her works. She is a second generation immigrant from India settled in America. Subhash the elder son was so responsible that he married his younger brother Udayan's wife after his death. At the time of her husband's death she was carrying her baby. So Subhash married her and takes her to America with, where Bela was born. But Gauri was not genuine to her husband Subhash and her little innocent daughter Bela. First Udayan deceived Gauri through his death. Later Gauri betrayed Subhash and Bela. But Subhash was so responsible that he never let Bela down. As for Gauri, it is said to be that she was totally haunted by the obsessive thoughts of her lovable dead husband Udayan. The disloyal of her husband often incubates in her mind and results in belittle her child and husband Subhash.

**Keywords:** Birth of Bela, Gauri's betrayal, happy ending for Subhash and Bela, retribution for Gauri's act, Subhash and Udayan as siblings, Subhash as a single parent, Udayan's marriage death.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Gauri is the protagonist of the novel *The Lowland* written by Jhumpa Lahiri. She started her married life with great expectation. But her beloved husband Udayan betrayed her by his death. Bela the little baby girl was an angel to her father Subhash. Subhash and Udayan were siblings, lived in Tollygunge Calcutta which is Kolkata now. They were best friends more than being brothers. Subhash was so responsible by nature, but on the other hand Udayan was so mischievous and adamant. Their parents never worried about Subhash, because he never tried to go out of their parents' sight. It was Udayan who jumped over their fence and vanishes in the back side of their home. His mother would shout for him always. He never let them in rest which was his uniqueness, which made their parents to love him more than Subhash. This was little about their childhood together in the lowland near their area.

Gauri the wife of Udayan was the new arrival to their house after Subhash went to America for his higher studies. Gauri is Udayan's friend's sister, whom he wanted to be his wife forever. Gauri's parents died long before leaving her and her brother Manash alone.

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This was Gauri's first blow in her life and reduced her confidence in life. But Udayan came into her life as a saviour, he supported her, admired her, and he stood by her side, precisely, he never let her down. Gauri entered Udayan's home as an unwelcomed Guest. His parents were against his marriage but it was Udayan, who married her adamantly and stayed with his parents.

Everything went well until the Maoist revolt gets aggressive. Udayan was one among the other revolutionaries who took part in the revolt. It was unknown to his parents about his strong involvement in Naxalbari movement. He was wanted by the city police and all the police stations were alerted with shooting order. Gauri who partially knows about his secret revolution was dumbfounded when he was shot dead. The naïve parents' protest against the police to leave their son was in vain.

Finally Udayan was shot dead after a long protest from his family. In Gauri's language, Udayan betrayed his entire family and destructed his family's peace and happiness. Udayan was the only hope and happiness in Gauri's life. She was more affected than her in-laws, because she was carrying her baby at the time of Udayan's death. It seems that he never thought about the consequences that his family will face after his death. But, Subhash married her and took her to America with him. That was a great help for Gauri, who suffered loneliness in Udayan's home after his death. Later Gauri engaged herself in her Studies and showed little concern towards her baby Bela.

Subhash was taking care of Bela in evenings and she will do her homework with her father, sometimes they go for a stroll to their nearby shops. Gauri was so in attentive towards Bela, but Subhash's endless affection shattered all the disappointments in her life. But for Bela, she just wanted her mother to be presented in home, nothing more. Subhash and Bela went to India alone for his father's funeral, as Gauri was not interested in going to India. That was the day all three were together, and they never know that, that was their final day to be with each other. Because, Gauri left her home soon after the two has went to India. It is considered to be a treacherous action by being a mother.

Subhash had a tough time to bring up Bela without her mother. Later Subhash mentioned about her biological father Udayan to Bela. It was hard for her to accept the truth about her parents. She never thought that there will be a big secret behind her birth. It is the duty of the parents to pacify their

children in all their sufferings. But knowingly Gauri deceived her little daughter Bela and spoiled her entire future.

It took a long time for Bela to understand that her mother has left her permanently and she would never see her again. She was so little that she cannot come out of her delirium same as her mother who had suffered by same problem after Udayan's death. In other words it can be said that, Gauri punished her little guiltless daughter for her own sting caused by Udayan. Even Subhash never thought that Gauri would deceive him in spite of all his true affection towards her. He gave all his attention to Gauri and Bela, and considered their happiness is more important than anything. But Gauri was not true to his love and affection.

On the other hand Gauri was so devastated by Udayan's death. And she cannot come out of the tragedy she had had before her eyes. Her love, affection, expectation and dream all have been crushed by his death. It was also a kind of treachery that he failed to keep up his promise of taking care of both Gauri and their child. It was also Bela who was tormented in this novel without even knowing her fault that she has done. Subhash the protagonist of this novel, solely responsible for Bela's life after Gauri's deception. He never quit from his responsibility in the upbringing of Bela.

He has been well depicted as a good father and also a good husband. Just like Gauri, he never disappointed anyone. He took sole responsibility of Gauri and her unborn baby. Till the end he kept his promise for Bela as Gauri has left him in the middle of his life. Bela had a child and was married to a man in the due course of time.

After Gauri left Subhash, there was no communications between them. But Bela was the one to initiate the communication for the benefit of her father, because, she wants her father to be married to her school teacher. Now Bela wants her mother to give divorce to her father so that his second marriage will be at no risk. Now it was Bela's turn to punish her selfish, culpable mother for all her sin done to her father.

Gauri came to visit Subhash to give him the legal documents for their divorce, was stunned to see the little Bela who has grown as a lady and now a mother for a child. She adored her granddaughter and gave her some stuff which she bought while coming here. But Bela was not surprised by her visit, because she was the one who planned this meeting. In order to meet her alone, Bela sent her father and her husband out on work. She encountered Gauri directly and remonstrated for her crime and condemned for everything she has done in her past.

Gauri was astonished by Bela's words, and left that place before Subhash's arrival. Later in India, Gauri went to her hotel room, after meeting her brother Manash. She was often recounting her daughter's words and her anger and later she found dead by jumping from her room's Balcony. At the same time in Rhode Island, Subhash with his newly wedded wife was going for their honeymoon. Finally, Gauri repents for all her wrongdoing done to Subhash and Bela through her entire life before her death.

## REFERENCES

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