



**‘A HOMOGENEOUS COMBINATION OF PASSION, WILLPOWER, AFFECTION, HUMOUR, CYNICISM AND EXISTENTIAL CRISIS’ THROUGH ‘BHAVIK SARKHEDI AND SUHANA BHAMBHANI’S ‘THE UNPROPOSED GUY’**

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**Abstract:**

**Bhavik Sarkhedi** is born in a small town Jetpur, Gujarat on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1992. He is an established branding connoisseur, award winning digital marketing consultant, storyteller, public speaker at TED<sub>x</sub> event, standup comedian, musician, essayist, Chief marketing officer at Content Whale, Indian content writer, journalist, author, SEO professional and founder of several blogs and content marketing agencies such as Dad of Ad, Write Right, Kalam Kagaz, Estorytellers, Bloggism, The Content Ideators, Taletel etc.,.

**Suhana Bhambhani** is a co-author of debut novel ‘The Unproposed Guy’. She is a famous spiritual author, creative content writer, script writer, artist and ex-investment banker. She has tremendous zeal for writing.

Bhavik Sarkhedi and Suhana Bhambhani’s ‘The Unproposed Guy’ is a worth reading and much appreciated fiction. It highlights the roller coaster journey of Kevin, the protagonist and awe-inspiring standup comedian of the story, who is from an ordinary family? Kevin’s personality is Bhavik’s creation wherein Kevin’s routine is a droning and there is no significant change in his life. Kevin is the symbolic representation of ‘existential catastrophe’. His relationships are quite despondent and abnormal. His creativity and talent lies in putting off a girl. But he is unable to impress them for a longer period. Therefore he realizes the fact that he can be anyone’s best friend but worst nightmare of every girl. His friends and family members mock and jeer at him. Finally he decides to make his career as a standup comedian. Sarkhedi has projected Kevin’s love story and his career as a standup comedian.

The main attempt of the researcher is to portray the study ‘The Unproposed Guy’ as a homogeneous mixture of passion, determination, love, stand-up comedy, sarcasm and existential crisis. The research delineates Kevin’s struggle, his identity crisis and anxiety, his humiliating and painful experiences and engulfed with societal pressures. The prime focus of the paper is to explore the thematic concerns such as Love, guilt and the quest to understand.

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**Index Terms:** *Passion, determination, love, guilt, quest, stand-up comedy, sarcasm, existential crisis*

### **About the Authors:**

**Bhavik Sarkhedi** is graduated from Marwadi University as a Mechanical Engineer in 2014. He has delivered lectures on the topics such as entrepreneurship, marketing technology, career guidance, small business strategy, health, travel, artificial intelligence and ChatGPT. His language skills have earned him the prestigious titles such as Content King and Word Maniac. His work has been mentioned in well-regarded publications such as The New York Times, Forbes, Elite Daily, Buzz feed, Your Story, Huff Post, and Entrepreneur. His main focus is to achieve branding success. He has authored seven books on various genres such as content marketing, short stories, motivational writing, romantic fictions etc. His books endow with valuable insights into individual branding, digital marketing, technology, travel and entrepreneurship. His writing not only notifies but also stimulates accomplishment and augmentation. In 2022, he has completed twenty ghostwriting projects. In the year 2016, Google established a Knowledge Panel in his honour and recognized him as a top content globalised writer. He has also contributed to various high profile corporations, websites and startups such as BroBible, Digital Donut, Life Hack, Inc42, Tripoto, LinkedIn, eSparkBiz, Quora, and Tech in Asia. By the year 2017, Sarkhedi has published more than one thousand online articles as one of the top content writers in India. His notable works are:

- a. *The Weak Point Dealer* (2015)
- b. *Will You Walk a Mile?* (2015)
- c. *The C to T of Content Marketing* (2017)
- d. *How to Start Your Own Content Writing Agency* (2021)
- e. *How to Be A Great Story Teller Online* (2021)
- f. *How to Become a Digital Marketing Expert* (2021)
- g. *The Unproposed Guy*, co-authored with Suhana Bhambhani (2022).

**Suhana Rahul Bhambhani** is a co-author of debut novel '*The Unproposed Guy*'. She is a famous spiritual author, creative content writer, script writer, artist and ex-investment banker. She has incredible fanaticism for writing. Her notable work is: '*Meet the Lame Loader Next Door*'.

### **Introduction of Key Terms:**

Before going to discuss the aforesaid study in detail, let's try to figure out some unambiguous terms such as pain, humiliation, passion, determination, love, guilt, quest to understand, standup comedy and existential crisis in this research paper.

The term '*pain*' is a stressful sentiment often caused by passionate stimulus. It is a poignant experience associated with damage and can be in the form of pricking, tingling, injuries, diseases, burning or ache. It is a signal that conveys something is going to wrong with the body.

**Humiliation** is a feeling of indignity or thrashing of self-respect. It is the awkwardness and ignominy you suffer when someone makes you appear unintelligent. You feel dishonored when someone intentionally does something that formulates you feel mediocre or look dreadful in the eyes of others. Mortification and isolation are experienced as extremely as corporal soreness.

The word **Passion** is derived from Latin word 'Passio' which means torment and torture. It is well-built sensitivity of gusto or exhilaration for something. The passions are in the form of emotions, desires and instincts such as jealousy, lust, anger, aggression etc. that drive a human being.

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**Determination** is the unyielding or permanent purpose to achieve a preferred end. It is the excellence that you demonstrate when you have resolute to accomplish something and you will not allow anything discontinues you.

**Love** is the sturdy sentiment and enjoyment which you fond of most. Love is a concentrated and cavernous friendliness for another person. It is a strapping like for something. Love is a superiority or sensation of sturdy or unvarying warmth for and perseverance to another. True love promotes an association that goes beyond the phony. It is a connection that frequently involves comprehension each other's core values, viewpoints and life goals. This relationship creates a sagacity of friendship, where both partners experience they are on the same team, working towards common goals.

**Guilt** is the dreadful reaction that you have when you identify that you have done something mistaken. It is a feeling of unhappiness created due to wrongdoings. It may be resulted into causing destruction to others. Guilt is sensitive and insensible and experiences a sense of anguish about your impending accountability for an unenthusiastic conclusion. It originates from a progression of self-appraisal and introspection.

**The quest for knowledge** refers to a journey toward a specific mission or goal. It aims at seeking considerations, to explore innovative information and to enlarge knowledgeable prospects.

**Standup Comedy** is a presentation directed to live spectators. The entertainer here stands on a stage and conveys amusing and mocking monologues. It consists of one liner, narratives, comments that can utilize replications.

**Existential crisis** is an age of internal disagreement and indecision about the connotation of life, ones individuality and rationale. It can cause apprehension, pressure, and gloominess, and can make it tricky to function in daily life.

### **Research Methodology:**

The researcher has employed qualitative method and close reading of the texts related to the thematic concern of the novel. This helps to figure out Kevin's struggle, his identity crisis and anxiety, his humiliating and painful experiences and engulfed with societal pressures. It also acquaints us to know the facets of love, guilt and the quest to understand. Reading a text helps to interpret several thematic aspects of the novel. It also helps to generate textual and numerical evidences from texts at large scale so that comprehensive information can be visualized and put before the readers extensively. Therefore the researcher has interpreted the literary texts for better insight.

### **Literature Review:**

Literature review is the momentous attribute which analyses the former researcher's observations on the hypothetical topic. Here the researcher has portrayed the study '*The Unproposed Guy*' as a homogeneous mixture of passion, determination, love, stand-up comedy, sarcasm and existential crisis. He has proved the facts wherever necessary.

### **Discussion:**

#### **---Aptness of the title**

The meaning of '*The Unproposed Guy*' is a gentleman who has not been anticipated or proposed by the same or opposite gender. Here the irony of the word lies in the eccentricity of it. Unproposed means the person is not into the focal point or the radius of girls' retina. The story is relevant for today's youth. The novel is filled with cynicism, drollness, and humour while exhibits the most scandalously accurate facts about life. It is a combination of everything the youth of today goes

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through, sentiments, affection, denunciation, malfunction, triumph and imaginings all set with the manner of humour. *The Unproposed Guy* is a classic romantic comedy. It portrays an extensive range of human being sensations that everyone faces in their life. It motivates today's youth who are equipped to pursue their obsession.

### **---Kevin: Introvert and Perplexed Personality**

Kevin in *'The Unproposed Guy'* is very ordinary, adolescent young man who is perplexed about girls, livelihood and relationships. He doesn't know how to face the challenges and struggles in life. Kevin is depicted as perpetually single man and never proposed by girls. He is the light hearted, self-insulting, hopeless and reverberating personality. He deals with interpersonal issues. He lives in a cyclical continuation and has a regular family. He is the symbolic figure of love, rejections, friendships, hardships and exploring his life style. He engages himself in dating with girls. He is fully confused and torn with two career options: as a standup comedian or a rapper. The life story of Kevin starts with him recognizing himself as 'the funny gentleman' in every sphere he enters. His journey to become as a standup comedian as a career and to discover himself interested in expressing words through rhymes and rhythms made him seek the path of Rapping. But he failed in creating a brand to succeed in these creative fields due to lack of a good person.

Kevin is the person with several personalities of jocular and humour, still he fails in his assignments due to his reserved attitude. His interfaces with society were a foremost apprehension. He is the token of sarcasm and derision. In Kevin's life, girl has strong confrontation but men have free access. In this context, Kevin's life was inspirational for youths. Youths can encourage from Kevin's spirit of demonstrative challenges, steadiness and bravery. His existence was sensitive roller coaster for youths. His inexorable expedition to find the love of his life and to discover the answers to the unidentified questions about himself, his unexpected change of plans about his career, his perpetual trepidation of existential crisis and tolerating the normal family drama are really praiseworthy. His introvert nature makes him declined by others and nobody helps him. Every time his bad luck comes into his ways. Because of these rejections, he goes through the trauma and existential crisis. Kevin was arrogant due to his exquisite friends and siblings like Ansh, Dev, Kabir, Tina, and Zubin, who often draw him back to the authenticity on his wedding day from the past sweeps. At his wedding, he was quite stress-free externally but deep inside he was feeling the jitters.

### **---Kevin's Life Journey with Ups and Downs**

*'The Unproposed Guy'* is a modern fiction and narrative of sarcasm and humour comprises with 198 pages. It deals with contemporary themes such as aspirations, friendship, marriage, love, lust etc. The novel contains evocative and nostalgic elements. This book is a journey of self-discovery, passion, loss, forgiveness, trusting and bandage of friendships. It is about acceptance & thinking outside of the box. The book is a juvenile grown-up novel which is progressive in its real sense. The book depicts Kevin's life journey with ups and downs filled with his every experience. The story is depicted in first person narrative. The protagonist Kevin is introvert by nature and socially troubled person. He is the realistic representation of modern society and sympathetic figure. He has the capacity for entertaining people especially to girls and boys with his self-effacing temperament. The story starts with the wedding day of Kevin and concludes with his weddings. In between, there is the expedition of Kevin's existence. The story is about Kevin who has hard luck in case of girls. He was introverted who would hardly converse a verdict when given a opportunity to verbalize in front of girl. He was all the time compared to his big brother, Zubin by his not-so-supportive parents. Besides, he was zealous about comedy and likes to perform on stage in front of

several people. He was clever enough to manage to perform in between public.

Kevin has moments and memories of indecision, funny reminisces with girls and a sea memories in which he drowns before his marriage. He assumes about his school crush, flora and fauna adventures, his uncles bereavement and his characterless response. Later, due to existential crisis, his life has been dragged towards standup comedy. He remains steady among the hardships. The feats of Kevin are a package of enjoyment, amusement, excitement and unsuccessful romances. There are no drastic changes within Kevin. His existence and routine is monotonous. Of course he was a magnificent entertainer but his getting rid of girls is mysterious. The proficiency in him is rising innovatively and profusely however his powerlessness to astonish a feminine continues pulling him downward gradually. The novel projects the characteristics of adventures of self-discovery, adoration, conviction, expertise and attachment with friends and family members.

### **---Kevin witnesses the failure in relationships**

The novel offers the readers entertainment, excitement and an engaging storyline. At the end of the novel, Kevin realizes the truth and lives in real life. Kevin, in this novel, for others, is unfocused, unthoughtful, useless, unkissed, unproposed and unfelt. The girl Rita denies him kissing and chooses someone. Kevin's crush cannot understand his emotions. A girl to whom he wishes to take on dating cannot comprehend his genuine love for art and dance. Kevin thus seems a lonesome figure. This cool and cheerful Kevin takes delight in his friends but he is not comfortable in the company of girls. It's a tragic concern and emotional side of Kevin that women don't want to know more about him due to his introvert nature. He constantly witnesses the failure in relationships. This makes him panic and becomes hurtled.

### **--- Transformation of Kevin as a Mature Person**

Kevin, a lonesome figure and young man, deals with humdrum of life. He tries to seek love and was in the search of an aspirational career. He fails in achieving success but still he pursues it unflinchingly. His family members are against him and showed their resistance for his career as standup comedian but he courageously fights with them and sets his own career as a performer by choice. Now he transforms his experiences of tragedy, pain and sufferings into stage performances and being a standup comedian and performer, he entertains the people and makes them laugh. He loves his profession of standup comedian. He paved the way for his complicated emotions. Finally he ponders his past experiences, works on his current existence and contours his prospect. The narrator concludes that single individuals have hardships in their personal life. Kevin followed his passion despite hardships and searched his true vocation. Meanwhile his romantic life created a huge negative impact on his career. He always ruins every chance of building a rapport and relationships with girls.

### **----Interesting and Appealing Love story of Kevin and Ryan**

Here the readers find the interesting and distinct love story of the protagonist Kevin and his beloved Ryan. We find that these two odd persons are engaged in a love relationship keeping social values of the time. Kevin and Ryan is a beautiful couple in the novel *'The Unproposed Guy'* by Bhavik Sarkhedi and Suhana Bhambhani. It indeed offers the readers a discernible ecstasy, an unobserved and uncelebrated protagonist ponders and contemplates on several contemporary issues. Here Kevin utters random soliloquies which retain the interest of the novel. Like a philosopher, he expresses logical and coherent interpretations of the world through his performance, his stand-up comedy and his pain entrenched in the ideas he shares to make others giggle. Bhavik Sarkhedi takes his readers into past flashback by narrating abrupt and random anecdotes and popping in between the primary storyline.

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### **---Intellectual and Emotional Crisis of Kevin**

The novel starts with the nuptial ceremony. The protagonist Kevin is getting married with a girl whose name is not disclosed yet. Kevin is the boy who experiences failure in love relations with many girls. Eventually he admits that he is a gay and wants to be with the guy he loves, Ryan. The story is universal in nature which exposes the pretense in modern society. It is personal in experience. Kevin shares his own experiences to the readers. The readers visualize several incidents in Kevin's life, i.e. his Tandava performance, deep explorations of failed love relationships, experience of homosexuality, his classical dance interest, unprecedented physical desires etc. Bhavik Sarkhedi and Suhana Bhambhani have represented the minute details in the story as a chaotic narrative with fragments. The novel investigates Kevin's emotional and intellectual crisis through his straightforward interpretations. The story makes interesting with the apt usage of first person narrative with occasional storytelling. It gives the real momentum to the story and prevents the spirit of monotonous happenings. Thus Kevin is a conventional person from a self-effacing upbringing whose idealistic misfortunes lead to self-discovery and conversion.

### **Findings:**

The major findings of this research are as follows.

- a. It underscores the homogeneous combination of passion, willpower, affection, humour, cynicism and existential crisis of the protagonist through Bhavik Sarkhedi and Suhana Bhambhani's *The Unproposed Guy*.
- b. It depicts the roller coaster journey of Kevin and about his despondent and abnormal relationships. He is also shown as a man of 'existential catastrophe'. His creativity and talent lies in putting off a girl. But he is unable to impress them for a longer period. Therefore he realizes the fact that he can be anyone's best friend but worst nightmare of every girl. His friends and family members mock and jeer at him. Finally he decides to make his career as a standup comedian.
- c. The story delineates Kevin's struggle, his identity crisis and anxiety, his humiliating and painful experiences and engulfed with societal pressures.

### **Conclusion:**

Through this research, the researcher delineates the catastrophic experiences in Kevin's life. He is the torch bearer of human sufferings, pain, humiliation, passion, determination, love, guilt, quest for knowledge and existential crisis. Bhavik Sarkhedi and Suhana Bhambhani have showcased Kevin's introvert and perplexed nature before the readers. Even though several ups and downs came in Kevin's life but he faced everything courageously. Several failures in love relations didn't create any kind of barrier to him. Later, we witness the transformation of Kevin as a matured person.

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