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## **Crumbling Bonds and Shifting Selves: Character Complexity Analysis, Impact of Time And Money In Dr. Sudha Murty's *House of Cards***

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**Abstract:** The objective behind this Research Paper is to study and analyse the complexity of characterization in the fiction novel "House of Cards" written by Dr. Sudha Murty. This novel being one of best creations of Dr. Murty stands tall in showing complex and beautiful characterization as one of the crucial facets portrayed in multifaceted creations of Dr. Sudha Murty. She is a renowned author of many novels which include fiction, non-fiction, travelogues and children books mostly covering the rich and varied tapestry of urban and rural culture of India.

The novel "House of Cards" depicts the clash of the simplicity of village life and the complexity of city life. This is the story of Mridula, an energetic yet simple village girl who moves to Bangalore after her marriage to Sanjay, a doctor. The story is about their family life, and how they rise in status in the city, but begin to find differences in their relationship when Sanjay's insatiable greed starts growing and he resorts to corrupt practices to make more and more money.

This Research Paper shows that in the Novel "House of Cards" sense of self, or identity of all the protagonists is not fixed but constantly changing, influenced by various factors such as: environment,

social situations, cultural factors, experiences, relationships, different stages of life as all these factors shape our understanding of who we are.

This Research Paper is an attempt to analyse that through her complex characterization and depiction of materialistic society, Murty in her novel "House of Cards" has touched the correct vein of Indian society where money plays the pivotal role in creating and maintaining the relationships and with time, as per the current needs and latest trends a person gives up his morals and virtues and runs after money to become its slave. In this race for money the relations get strained and materialism takes over the peace and family time resulting in a house made of materialistic things which eventually crashes down.

**Keywords:** Character Complexity, Multifaceted, Materialism, insatiable greed, sense of self, vein of Indian society, pivotal role

### **Introduction**

Dr. Sudha Murty is a distinguished figure in contemporary Indian literature with over 150 published books, celebrated for her simple narrative style coupled with profound thematic depth. A prolific

Writer, Philanthropist, and Educator, Murty brings to her works a unique blend of empathy, realism, and moral clarity. Her stories often emerge from her direct engagement with diverse sections of society ranging from rural communities to urban middle-class households which lends her writing authenticity and social relevance[1].

Her ability to address complex human emotions and ethical dilemmas using accessible language and relatable settings distinguishes Murty's literary works. Her prose avoids ornamentation, yet it resonates deeply with readers across age groups and backgrounds. Through brief anecdotes or extensive narratives, she captures the essence of Indian life, often highlighting the dignity of the marginalized, the strength of women, and the moral courage of the ordinary.

Her works reflect not only her literary sensibilities but also her lived experiences as a social worker and compassionate observer of life. Murty's characters are not heroic in the traditional sense; rather, they are quietly resilient, navigating the complexities of love, ambition, duty, and loss. In essence, Sudha Murty exemplifies how simplicity in form can coexist with thematic richness, making her a writer of both intellectual depth and emotional reach[1]. Her stories are not merely to be read they are meant to be felt, reflected upon, and lived through, making her contribution to Indian literature both enduring and inspiring.

The two main aspects which Dr. Sudha Murty encompasses in her novel "House of Cards" are **Character Complexities and the consequences of Materialism.**

**Character complexity** in literary works refers to the depth, different shades, multi-dimensionality and unpredictable nature of a character. Complex characters often

display conflicting emotions, evolving motivations, and moral ambiguity, making them more realistic and relatable. They grow, adapt, or struggle internally as the story progresses, revealing layers beyond their superficial actions. Unlike flat or stereotypical figures, complex characters challenge readers' expectations and invite deeper engagement. Their decisions are influenced by personal history, relationships and changing circumstances reflecting the intricacies of human behaviour. Such characters enrich the narrative by embodying emotional, psychological, and ethical depth.

**Materialism** is the excessive emphasis on wealth, possessions, and physical comfort over spiritual, moral, or emotional values. In literature, materialism often appears as a driving force behind character behaviour, influencing choices, relationships, and ethical decisions[2]. It reflects a worldview where success and happiness are measured by material gain rather than personal integrity or human connection. Materialistic characters may prioritize status and luxury, often at the cost of emotional fulfilment or moral responsibility.

The plot of the novel "House of Cards" revolves around Mridula, a village girl who marries a doctor, Sanjay. It explores the meaning of marriage and delves into the depths of corruption while also illustrating the differences in lifestyles. It is a sensitively portrayed story that explores human relationships, self-discovery, and breach of trust in married life due to materialistic desires.

#### **Theme of The "House Of Cards"**

Mridula is a young and enthusiastic woman who hails from a village in Karnataka. She meets Sanjay, an impoverished doctor, who proposes to Mridula, and she agrees despite his disability in one arm and his not-so-good financial background. They decide to marry and settle in Bangalore, Mridula starts to

notice the selfish and materialistic world around her, although their early years were manageable, with both earning well in their respective government jobs. However, Sanjay's rich friend Alex convinces him to leave his job and start a nursing home of his own. Hence, Sanjay decides to leave his current job for a private practice which pays him well and with more money comes the desire for even more. This leads to corrupt practices and problems between the couple, Sanjay starts taking Mridula for granted, additionally some more family members and distant relatives keep adding ghee to the fire with their words and actions, and that forms the core of the story. Mridula eventually decides that she needs to leave her husband and go out on her own[3].

"House of Cards" brings to light some of the struggles a woman faces after marriage. All women like Mridula get to hear is, "At least he doesn't hit you... At least he isn't cheating on you... At least he has money and is providing for you... At least you have staff for all the chores... What are you upset about?" But this novel primarily asks, "Is that all a woman needs? What about love and respect and gratitude? What do I do with all this money when there is no one to ask me what I like?"

So the central theme revolves around how money and the passage of time subtly but powerfully alter character behaviour and interpersonal relationships. Set against a realistic Indian backdrop, the novel traces the emotional and ethical journey of Mridula and Sanjay, a married couple whose values and bond begin to shift as ambition, status, and material success enter their lives.

A relationship rooted in love and mutual respect gradually fades under the weight of financial prosperity and societal expectations. Sanjay's transformation from a humble doctor to a man increasingly driven by wealth and recognition highlights how time and money can reshape identity,

and emotional connections. Mridula, by contrast, remains rooted in simplicity and integrity, making their emotional drift all the more poignant[4].

Murty carefully illustrates that while money brings external comfort, it often also leads to internal discontent and emotional distance, especially when values are compromised. Time, as a quiet witness to this transformation, intensifies the emotional gap between characters. Through this theme, Murty explores the fragility of human bonds and the cost of material ambition, affecting relationships in a changing socio-economic landscape.

### Overview of Major Characters

**Sanjay**, the central male character begins as a dedicated and principled doctor with modest ambitions. Initially loving and grounded, he values simplicity and shares a strong emotional bond with his wife, Mridula. However, as he climbs the professional ladder and gains wealth and social recognition, Sanjay gradually transforms into an ambitious, material-driven individual. His growing attachment to power and prestige leads to emotional detachment and moral compromise, straining his relationship with Mridula. Sanjay's character reflects the subtle yet profound impact of money and ambition on personal values and human relationships.

**Mridula**, the protagonist is portrayed as a compassionate, principled, and emotionally resilient woman. Deeply rooted in values of simplicity and integrity, she supports her husband Sanjay through every phase of life. As his success grows and materialism begins to influence his behaviour, Mridula remains steadfast in her beliefs, becoming increasingly aware of the emotional and moral void created by ambition. Her inner strength and quiet dignity emerge as she confronts the growing distance in their relationship. Mridula embodies the struggles of a

woman torn between love, self-respect, and the changing dynamics of marriage.

**Alex**, Sanjay's close friend serves as a catalyst and contrast in the narrative. Charismatic, influential, and well-connected, Alex plays a key role in introducing Sanjay to the world of private practice and lucrative opportunities. While he appears supportive and helpful, his presence symbolizes the lure of wealth, status, and professional shortcuts. Through Alex, Sanjay is gradually drawn into a materialistic lifestyle, leading to a shift in his values and priorities. Alex's character represents the external influence of ambition and modern success, subtly contributing to the emotional and ethical transformation in Sanjay's life.

**Anita**, the wife of Alex is portrayed as a sophisticated, status-conscious, and socially influential woman. She embodies the urban elite lifestyle and becomes a symbol of material success and societal ambition. Through her interactions with Mridula, Anita subtly reveals the emotional emptiness behind a glamorous exterior. Her character serves as a foil to Mridula, highlighting the contrast between material wealth and emotional depth. Anita's influence, along with Alex's, indirectly contributes to the changing aspirations in Sanjay and the growing disconnect in his marriage. She reflects the superficial charm and silent cost of a materialistic life.

**Shishir**, the son of Sanjay and Mridula in House of Cards, represents innocence, emotional sensitivity, and the silent observer of his parents' changing relationship. As a child growing up amid shifting family dynamics, Shishir is deeply affected by the growing emotional distance between his parents. He shares a close bond with his mother, Mridula, who nurtures him with love and moral values. Though young, Shishir's presence highlights the impact of parental choices and material pursuits on children. His

character adds emotional depth to the narrative, serving as a reminder of the unseen emotional cost of ambition and disconnection.

**Bheemanna and Rukuma**, Mridula's father and mother in House of Cards, represent traditional values, wisdom, and emotional grounding. Bheemanna, a school headmaster, is portrayed as a man of principle, discipline, and quiet strength, deeply respected in his village. Rukuma is a gentle and nurturing presence, embodying simplicity and maternal warmth. Together, they provide Mridula with a strong moral foundation and serve as her emotional anchors throughout her journey. Their grounded lifestyle and contentment with simple living contrast sharply with the materialism Mridula later encounters, emphasizing the theme of value-based living versus modern ambition and societal pressure.

**Ratnamma**, the mother of Sanjay in House of Cards, is portrayed as a simple, affectionate, and traditional woman rooted in rural values and who knows the value of money so believes in saving money for rainy days. She embodies warmth, humility, and a deep emotional understanding, despite her limited education. Ratnamma maintains a close bond with her daughter-in-law, Mridula, and often serves as a quiet observer of the changing dynamics in the family. Her character reflects the contrast between timeless familial values and the modern, materialistic world that gradually consumes her son. Through Ratnamma, Sudha Murty highlights the quiet strength and emotional wisdom of older generations in navigating changing times.

**Lakshmi and Shankar** are Sanjay's sister and brother-in-law, introduced during the arranged marriage visit to Mridula's home. Lakshmi, status-conscious and envious of Mridula's modest living, often measures worth through possessions and social cues,

her envy subtly infuses tension into family dynamics. Shankar, a bank clerk, echoes her material priorities negotiating wedding gifts, pushing for societal recognition, and viewing financial gain as central to life. Their relationship embodies materialism and social ambition, acting as a foil to Mridula's simplicity and helping illuminate the larger thematic conflict between values and ambition in the novel

**Krishna**, Mridula's elder brother, settles in Aladahalli after marriage to **Vatsala**. While Krishna embodies contentment and rural simplicity, Vatsala is restless and envious, comparing her life unfavourably with Mridula's. Her constant complaints and dissatisfaction strain family ties. Vatsala envies material security and status, contrasting sharply with Krishna's grounded nature. Their uneasy relationship serves as a potent foil to Mridula's fulfilling, value-driven life, highlighting the tensions between traditional values and modern expectations within the same family

**Principal Muniyappa**, the head of the government school in Yelahanka where Mridula teaches, is a warmhearted, principled educator who deeply values teaching as a vocation. Originally from Kolar, he encourages Mridula and supports her transition to city life, embodying genuine mentorship and empathy. Meanwhile, **his wife Kantamma** is a kind, supportive presence, welcoming Mridula

into their home and fostering a familial bond. Together, they become surrogate grandparents to Shishir and serve as emotional anchors symbolizing warmth, integrity, and stability amidst changing circumstances.

**Champakka (Champa Bai)**, Mridula's elderly neighbour in Aladahalli, is a generous and wise woman who nurtures a beautiful flower garden. Having raised her nephew, she remains deeply rooted in village life, preferring simplicity over the bustle of Bombay. **Chandrakant (Dr. Jog)**, her medical practitioner nephew in Bombay, symbolizes the success and sophistication that village elders admire yet choose to distance from. When Mridula falls ill during a trip, Champakka's advice to contact Chandrakant leads to her recovery and eventual meeting with Sanjay. Together, they highlight the connection between tradition, care and the pivotal turning point in Mridula's life.

These characters, woven together not only build a rich human tapestry but also illuminate Dr. Sudha Murty's long lasting themes of **values vs. ambitions, the erosion of relationships through materialism, emotional resilience, and the quiet strength of rooted living.**

**Relational Dynamics Thematic Table**

Character Pair/Group	Nature of Relationship	Key Dynamics	Thematic Reflection
<b>Sanjay and Mridula</b>	Husband–Wife	Relationship starts due to blossoming of love, deteriorates due to Sanjay's materialism and emotional neglect	Materialism vs. Values, Emotional Drift
<b>Mridula and Bhemanna and</b>	Daughter–Parents	Mridula inherits values of simplicity and moral clarity	Rootedness, Family Ethics

<b>Rukuma</b>			
<b>Mridula and Shishir</b>	Mother–Son	Strong emotional bond, Shishir provides solace amid marital tension	Emotional Strength, Generational Impact
<b>Sanjay and Ratnamma</b>	Son–Mother	Traditional maternal care, subtle disapproval of Sanjay’s choices	Generational Value Shift
<b>Sanjay and Alex</b>	Friends/Colleagues	Initially close, value differences cause emotional distancing	Loyalty vs. Ethical Divergence
<b>Mridula and Anita (Alex’s Wife)</b>	Friends	Supportive and kind friendship	Female Solidarity, Emotional Empathy
<b>Principal Muniyappa and Kantamma</b>	Mentor-like Couple	Kind hosts and informal guides to Mridula in Bangalore	Support System, Emotional Anchor
<b>Champakka and Chandrakant</b>	Caregiver–Mentor Figures	Provide healing space and moral clarity to Mridula	Restoration, Simplicity and Wisdom
<b>Dr.Kamla and Dr.Saroja</b>	Contrasting Professionals	Kamla =Compassion, Care Saroja = Power, Prestige	Authority vs. Empathy; Feminine Duality
<b>Lakshmi and Shankar</b>	Relatives of Sanjay	Appear glamorous but superficial, symbolic of material illusions	Illusion of Wealth; Comparison Culture
<b>Krishna and Vatsala</b>	Relatives of Mridula	Relationship shows subtle jealousy and insecurity	Inner Conflict; Impact of Social Pressure

This table helps visualize the **emotional, familial, and social ties** among characters reflecting the broader themes of **value erosion, resilience, materialism, and emotional neglect**.

In *House of Cards*, Dr. Sudha Murty intricately traces the evolution of her characters through the impact of ambition, time, and shifting values[5]. The novel's protagonist, **Sanjay**, begins as a sincere village doctor committed to public service. However, exposure to the urban healthcare system and influences like Dr. Kamla and Dr. Saroja along with bureaucratic rewards alter his priorities. Over time, Sanjay becomes increasingly absorbed in wealth, status, and recognition, leading to

emotional detachment from his family and moral disintegration.

**Mridula**, his wife, undergoes a contrasting transformation. Rooted in simplicity and guided by strong ethical values inherited from her parents, she initially supports Sanjay's dreams. As she witnesses his growing materialism and emotional neglect, Mridula evolves from a supportive spouse to a self-aware woman seeking peace and authenticity. Her journey is one of quiet resilience, culminating in her

decision to reclaim her dignity and inner peace away from the toxicity of ambition.

Secondary characters like **Alex** and **Anita** remain steady symbols of grounded living, while mentors like **Champakka** and **Chandrakant** reinforce Mridula's moral compass. **Dr. Kamla** exemplifies the human face of professionalism, contrasting with **Dr. Saroja's** power-centric approach.

Overall, the characters evolve in ways that reflect the novel's core themes, how **money and time** can either corrupt or clarify one's values, how **relationships change with shifting priorities**, and how inner strength often emerges in adversity.

### **Mridula's inner conflict and resilience**

Mridula, the emotional core of *House of Cards*, is a character defined by her inner conflict and quiet resilience. Rooted in a value-based upbringing by her parents, Bheemanna and Rukuma, she enters her marriage with Sanjay with hope, love, and a shared dream of meaningful service. However, as Sanjay's ambition grows and he succumbs to materialistic pursuits, Mridula finds herself emotionally alienated. Her inner turmoil deepens as she watches the man she once admired drift into moral ambiguity, compromising the very ideals they once cherished.

Despite this emotional upheaval, Mridula does not crumble. Her strength lies in her silence, her clarity of thought, and her unwavering adherence to personal ethics. While she silently suffers neglect and disillusionment, she refuses to let bitterness erode her identity. Mridula's resilience is not loud or confrontational, it is dignified and inward. She emerges not as a victim but as a woman who chooses peace over facade, values over pride, and self-respect over social appearance.

### **Sanjay's transformation, rise in status and slow moral decline**

Sanjay's character in *House of Cards* exemplifies the classic arc of transformation driven by ambition, societal pressure, and the lure of material success. Initially portrayed as an idealistic village doctor with a deep commitment to public welfare, Sanjay aspires to bring change through honest service. However, his move to Bangalore marks a turning point. Influenced by urban life, professional competition, and figures like Dr. Saroja, Sanjay begins to equate success with status, wealth, and recognition.

As he climbs the professional ladder, Sanjay becomes increasingly consumed by financial gain and external validation. His ethical compass slowly blurs, he makes compromises, indulges in manipulation, and prioritizes prestige over principles. This shift not only distances him from his humble beginnings but also strains his personal relationships, especially with Mridula. His emotional withdrawal and moral erosion reflect the cost of unchecked ambition.

Despite his rise in stature, Sanjay's internal world becomes hollow. He gains admiration in professional circles but loses the emotional bond with his wife and the quiet contentment of a value-based life. His story is a cautionary portrayal of how success, when driven by ego and materialism, can lead to spiritual emptiness and the crumbling of once-strong relationships.

### **Money becomes both a tool and a trap**

In *House of Cards*, money emerges as a double-edged sword, empowering characters with success while simultaneously entangling them in emotional isolation. For Sanjay, wealth begins as a means to uplift his career and improve family life. Initially, his financial growth appears justified and even admirable. However, as he begins to equate money with respect, power, and

self-worth, it transforms from a tool of progress into a trap of obsession[2].

Sanjay's increasing affluence leads to lifestyle upgrades, social recognition, and professional influence, yet it comes at the cost of emotional warmth and ethical grounding. His relationship with Mridula begins to erode as he grows indifferent to her emotional needs and the values they once shared. Money begins to dictate choices, conversations, and priorities, gradually pushing love, simplicity, and trust to the margins.

For Mridula, money offers no comfort, instead it amplifies her loneliness in a home filled with material luxuries but emotional emptiness. The novel poignantly shows how material gain without emotional balance can create invisible walls between loved ones. Thus, money in the novel is not demonized, but its unchecked pursuit is shown as dangerous. It becomes a silent disruptor enabling worldly success while quietly dismantling the bonds that truly matter.

### **Success ≠ Happiness and Time as a corrosive agent on intimacy and values**

In *House of Cards*, Dr. Sudha Murty skilfully illustrates how the passage of time, when coupled with ambition, acts as a corrosive force on intimacy and core values. The temporal progression in the novel highlights a widening emotional gap between Sanjay and Mridula, once united by shared dreams and mutual respect. As time moves forward, Sanjay's growing success distances him emotionally from his wife. The very achievements that once symbolized promise begin to fracture the emotional foundation of their relationship.

The novel underscores that success does not equate to happiness. Sanjay, while rising professionally and materially,

experiences an emotional disconnect not just from Mridula, but also from his own earlier ideals. Time subtly erodes his sensitivity, turning him into a figure driven by ego and image rather than affection and ethics. Mridula, on the other hand, grows increasingly introspective and disillusioned as she witnesses the man she loved becoming unrecognizable.

This emotional drift is not caused by a single event but by the slow, corrosive wear of time, where repeated neglect, shifting priorities, and the absence of shared emotional experiences transform closeness into estrangement. Ultimately, the novel portrays time as a powerful force either deepening relationships through understanding or dissolving them when values fade[6].

### **Literature Review**

[1]“**Sudha Murty: The Simple Septuagenarian**”: Sudha Murty is celebrated as a compassionate philanthropist, prolific writer, and trailblazing role model whose life embodies resilience, humility, and service. The profile highlights how her down-to-earth simplicity hides extraordinary achievements in literature, education, and social empowerment.

[2]“**The Supremacy of Love and Trust Over Material Gains in Sudha Murthy’s *House of Cards*”** by Maitri Atulkumar Limbachiya and Ansuya N. Chaudhari examines how *House of Cards* portrays the corrosive effects of wealth and societal inequality, revealing the superficial nature of material success. Through the narrative of Mridula and Sanjay, the study highlights how financial ambition leads to moral compromise and relational collapse.

[3]“**Patriarchal Dubiousness in Sudha Murthy’s *House of Cards: An Overview*”** by Dr. Jabeen R. Siddiqui critiques the fragile institutional structures of patriarchy depicted in *House of Cards*, focusing on

how Mridula's marriage collapses due to Sanjay's betrayal and manipulation of trust. The paper underscores how patriarchal power dynamics, combined with selfish ambition and deceit, erode marital equilibrium.

[4] Paper titled **“From Silent Suffering to Emancipation: An Analysis of Sudha Murthy's House of Cards”** by Shipra and Dr. Monika Bhatnagar examines the journey of Mridula, the protagonist of *House of Cards*, who transitions from silent suffering under patriarchal and marital constraints to achieving emotional independence and self-respect.

[5] Research paper **“Humanitarian Perspectives and Materialism in Sudha Murthy's Dollar Bahu and House of Cards”**, as discussed by Kesur & Vispute (2022) examines Sudha Murthy's reflection of humanitarian values through characters in *Dollar Bahu* and *House of Cards*, highlighting themes of compassion, selfless love, and ethical integrity. It contrasts these with the corrosive effects of materialism and self-satisfaction, showing how wealth distorts relationships and moral priorities.

[6] **“India through Sudha Murthy's House of Cards”** by Akshra Dutt Pandey examines how *House of Cards* reflects contemporary Indian societal changes including corruption, greed, shifting family structures, and patriarchal values. It follows Sanjay's moral decline and Mridula's unwavering integrity, highlighting the clash between ambition and ethics.

[7] Paper titled **“Patriarchal Undercurrents in Sudha Murthy's House of Cards”** by Mohammed Zainab investigates the patriarchal dynamics embedded in *House of Cards*, focusing on the subtle yet pervasive power structures that shape character behaviour and

relationships. It examines how Sanjay's ethical decline and dominance reflect systemic male authority, marginalizing his wife Mridula. Symbolic elements such as material wealth and family hierarchy are used to critique gender inequality.

### Conclusion

In *House of Cards*, Dr. Sudha Murthy employs subtle yet impactful narrative strategies to reveal that material success and social stability do not guarantee emotional fulfilment. Through simple, unembellished prose, she constructs a layered narrative where the contrast between outer achievement and inner emptiness is quietly but powerfully conveyed. Sanjay's ascent from a modest doctor to a powerful medical administrator is depicted without glorification. Instead, Murthy draws attention to the emotional void growing within his home, particularly through Mridula's silent suffering.

Rather than dramatic confrontations, the emotional distance between characters is shown through everyday silences, overlooked gestures, and shifting priorities. Mridula's growing isolation is mirrored in her withdrawal from social life and her increasing reliance on emotionally attuned characters like Anita and Champakka. Sudha Murthy's restraint in narration allows readers to sense the growing hollowness beneath Sanjay's polished exterior.

Dialogue is used cautiously and thoughtfully to reflect detachment, while inner thoughts and reflections, especially those of Mridula, highlight a longing for authenticity over prosperity. By letting ordinary moments carry emotional weight, Murthy emphasizes that success built on compromised values can be lonely and unfulfilling. Her narrative quietly affirms that emotional connection, not wealth, forms the true foundation of a meaningful life.

### Material gain and the passage of time reveal the fragility of human bonds and the complexity of character development

In *House of Cards*, Dr. Sudha Murty masterfully explores how material gain and the passage of time expose the fragility of human bonds and the layered complexities of character development. The novel reveals that the pursuit of wealth and status, while socially rewarding, often comes at the cost of personal values and intimate relationships. Sanjay's transformation from a humble doctor to a powerful, affluent figure showcases not just external success, but internal moral decline. As his ambition grows, his emotional connection with his wife Mridula deteriorates, highlighting how time can silently erode the foundations of love, trust, and shared ideals[7].

Mridula's journey, in contrast, is marked by emotional endurance and ethical clarity. Her quiet resistance and eventual self-realization embody the tension between material comfort and emotional well-being. Through her and other supporting characters, Murty presents a tapestry of human emotions, ambition, disillusionment, resilience, and hope, unfolding across time.

Eventually, the novel reinforces that while success may offer comfort and recognition, it cannot replace the richness of emotional intimacy or the strength of values. Time, when combined with unchecked desire, becomes a silent force that tests relationships and reveals the true nature of individuals, making the characters' evolution both poignant and profoundly human.

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