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**The Vortex of Violence and the Aftermath in Anuradha Roy's**  
***Sleeping on Jupiter***

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**Abstract**

This paper aims at a critical view about violence and sexual abuse which results as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Nomi's connect is dark, she searches for her mother in the sea, she finds the sea with reference to blood, that talks of her inner trauma and rage. Badal wanders near the sea whenever he feels sad or happy; he feels he shares everything with sea. This paper focuses how Nomi undergoes sexual abuse and violence in her past and how that incident cause trauma, which is reflected later. A note of violence and sexual abuse faced by other characters were also discussed in this paper. Does she fight with the demon in her mind? Or is the demon still retained in her?

## Introduction

*Sleeping on Jupiter*, published in 2015, is seen as, a luminous story with scenery of war and conflict in India. This story has a dualism which juxtaposes the pleasant and pleasing scene with horrific act which resulted in unpleasant effect. This novel deals with many themes like power of memory, religious hypocrisy, friendship, dualism, culture in India, broken relationship, theme of loss, war, and violence sexual abuse, fighting their own demon in their minds, misogyny, everyone in this novel will undergoes a change when they visit Jarmuli. Anuradha Roy writes the novel with backdrop of nature. It is set near the sea, it is a complex novel make the readers travel to their past and make them to feel their inner self, and helps to realize their inner trauma, it's an awakening novel for the readers. All the stories of Roy set's up in a small town and have a pleasing description about the nature. This novel *Sleeping on Jupiter* set in a fictional town Jarmuli located nearby Bay of Bengal, India.

## Violence

Violence will change a person's psychological state in many ways. This novel has events which dealt with violence. The novel opens with Nomi living in an exceedingly hut with her family, there's a war happening in their village. All of a sudden, the family's happiness was haunted by a man who came and killed Nomi's father. Nomi was six. Her father's death was raw for her. The sound of her father's death made Nomi feels haunted. A father's death will disturb even a standard person and when it involves to child that too seeing his death, he was slaughtered was even more horrific for a child to accept it. The child doesn't even understand how to talk about its feelings, those acts will make them traumatized, and not only trauma it will lead them into anxiety, depression and fear over people.

"In my sleep I heard the sound of pigs at slaughter, the sound my father made" (Roy 10) were registered in Nomi's subconscious mind which is why she dreamt of his sound. This illness will follow throughout her life, until a treatment is taken. She couldn't recover from his death and she doesn't know what's happening around her "she saw smoke from nearby place it made the blue sky black and stilled the bird's" (Roy 10). She couldn't make guesses that her colorful life is slowly becoming dark.

Badal has faced lots of violence in his life and even at present he was getting scolded by his uncle "After my father died my uncle used to clobber me till my teeth ran around in my mouth like dice. With anything at hand- his shoes, his belt, even with the 12 stick the bastard killed the rats with" (Roy 65) even Raghu shows his wounds made by Johnny Toppo. Johnny always scolds Raghu with offensive words which make him feel very low and irritated. Johnny once

beats Raghu severely thinking that he has stolen the phone from Suraj but later everyone came to know it wasn't he who stole the phone.

Another violence faced by Nomi is that she will get caught by Bhola while standing near the boundary line, Nomi and Piku were made to stand in hot scorching sun to meet guruji, they both waited in sun for a long time. Not only in ashram at many places even at home children were treated ill and worse by their parents, which upset and affect the children's mind. The ashram shown in this novel is said to be place of hell rather a heavenly place, it's filled with violence, physical and sexual abuse.

### **Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse is one of the major themes in this novel. Badal, a local guide in the town who has a soft corner on a young boy Raghu, who works in a tea stall. Badal would buy a phone to present Raghu, he's in love with Raghu. "He neither used his name, nor Babu, or Sahib, or Dada" (Roy 65). Sexual abuser will take a normal behaviour as a sign to have sex or to have a relationship. As Raghu didn't call him by name or anything, Badal thought Raghu doesn't want to distance himself and took it a positive sign.

Nomi was caught by guruji while climbing a tree, he gave her a fruit to eat and share with others, he was so kind, especially with Nomi, she won't eat the fruit instead she kept them near her pillow. "In the morning the fruit's pulp was like blood on her sheets. Dark red" (Roy 81), this shows something horrific is going to happen. Sexual abuser will initiate a talk; they will be so kind and pleasing, don't ever reveal another harsh animalistic face. They will be good till their mission completes. Guruji first tries to be good to the person whom he thinks to abuse.

Sexual abusers or an offender who have sex with children has only two reasons, they are harmless and at the same time, they wanted to have sex only with children. By this sexual act Nomi lost her innocent part in her childhood, she will regret for her whole life thinking about this and this incident will be retained in her mind.

"My body felt as if it would tear into two when he forced my legs apart, then wide apart. He stuffed cloth into my mouth to stop me shouting for help. I remember my screams made no sound. There was blood. A burning between my legs. The sense that my body was being split open" (Roy 173). After Nomi got her first period, guruji went to her room, seduced her brutally and told it's a ritual. She couldn't understand what is actually happening to her but she was able to guess something worse is happening. A child who doesn't even know what sex is, is forced into it, sudden unexplained act throws her into fear.

Badal and Guruji were the sexual offenders in this novel, sexual transgression discussed in this

novel is termed a Pedophile, which is having sex with children who are under the age of 13 or below. Comparing Badal and Guruji, Badal takes the sympathetic side whereas guruji is more horrific. Badal has deep love towards Raghu his intention was not to have sex but to express his love, but he used the situation which ended with a physical contact. Predators like guruji will know how a child will be harmed but he still wanted to have sex with child. There are some who wanted to have the bodily relationship only with children. Nomi and Raghu were two sides of same coin. They both faced a same situation in very young age, this incident will retain in their mind forever and which will hold them from whatever they do. Child who experiences abuse or molestation would have no faith on anyone also that will become a barrier which stops them doing many things.

### **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**

Nomi undergoes Post-traumatic stress disorder in this novel, all her past memories will retain in her nervous system and later someday it would burst out. In this case the victim of PTSD doesn't know that they actually suffering from a mental illness. "I'm looking for my mother. She's here somewhere. I lost her by the sea. This sea, I think. This sea" (Roy 76). Nomi's mother would leave Nomi nearby the sea and she left the place. That was the last time Nomi saw her mother, Nomi was taken to ashram. And later after so many years, Nomi returns to that sea, searching for her mother. Nomi saw people's face through her camera lens she's searching someone, probably her mother. Nomi had imagined how Jarmuli is from her past memory, as she arrived everything seems strange and new.

She did not know who or what she hoped to find. Since the day before, everything seemed so familiar and so alien that she could not tell the remembered from the imagined. Like the time she got lost in a bitch forest in Norway, trying to find her way back, starting up paths that looked right, realizing they were wrong after she had walked a long way. Turning back again. (Roy 77)

When she was peeking through camera, she focused a monk in the sea. All of a sudden Nomi was shocked; the monk looked straight into her camera that look of the monk made Nomi fear. She doesn't know what is happening to her. She feels like running past everything around her she wanted to run to her past where she's crying for her brother. Monk resembles Guruji and which made Nomi fear that he could harm her. She was feared because her past was still haunted in her memory. Her body and mind wanted to go back to her past when she was with her family. The fear in her nervous system made her to travel to her childhood, she can't accept the reality nor she can't escape from her past.

Nomi is suffering from PTSD which she isn't aware what is happening to her, she doesn't know that she's suffering from mental illness. PTSD can be treated; research says that having a proper treatment will cure this disorder. "she closed her eyes, opened them again, saw that the sun had gone and the sea had turned to foaming blood" (Roy 82). Nomi was called out loudly by Johnny Toppo, she then realizes where she is, she saw the sun setting, the demon in her life is leaving her, she tries to forget the demon, and there's something she rages. Though her minds were controlled by demon she tries to get out of it. Nomi after taken to Oslo, tries to have connect with her foster mother but she can't. She couldn't accept her as her mother all her friendly connect made Nomi oppressed, but Nomi tries hard to connect but she fails. Trauma in her mind has controlled Nomi, the trauma affected Nomi from everything she does mainly to get into relationship.

I don't know why I became a sullen, monosyllabic lump around her. She persisted in begin friendly, but her efforts only oppressed me. I felt trapped and restless; I would try to put up with her talk, try and try. (Roy 83) Nomi says for not being able to get connect with her foster mother

Nomi travels alone with a taxi driver to the suburbs of Jarmuli to find the ashram. It's a two hours journey, finally she found a building that looks like the ashram, but it was abandoned, driver urges Nomi to leave soon. "It's a godforsaken place", "they say... bad things happened here long ago" (Roy 163). Nomi's mind was fighting the demon. She has a rage, wants to do nothing, she's searching for something about the ashram. Nomi while being with Suraj would end up having a physical contact, but the trauma in her mind to made her to realize about her past experience, in fear she would hit Suraj and would spray mosquito spray into his eyes and would cut using his small carving knife. She was aware while getting into physical contact but the fear alarm her and which ended in a violent way, its trauma made her to feel fear.

Badal too suffering from trauma, his inner conflict is killing him; he wanted to know why Raghu haven't shown any interest towards him. "He reworked every second of their togetherness into separate images, as in a slide show, as though this would keep him from losing them. He wanted to throw himself into a thorn bush, cut himself with a razor, smash his toes with a stone- anything to fight pain with pain" (Roy 211). Most of the characters in this novel were suffering from PTSD but were unaware of it and they can be divided into two categorizes Nomi, Johnny Toppo was suffering from PTSD which is a long-term outcome, they get to know the symptoms only after 6 months or more after they experienced the traumatic act, another is onset PTSD the victim will show the symptoms very soon after incident

happened like the characters Badal and Suraj in this novel.

### Conclusion

Roy's characters suffering from religious reverence, poverty, broken relationship, fighting their own battle and finally there will be an awakening in them with a hope. The characters try to come out of their past memories with a hope that everything will be good the other day. Each character's life will have some change after they travel to Jarmuli, it's a place to fight and overcome their entire trauma. In a conflict between past and present, victim chooses the present with a hope that everything will be fine someday. Their life goes on like how the train goes on in the novel.

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