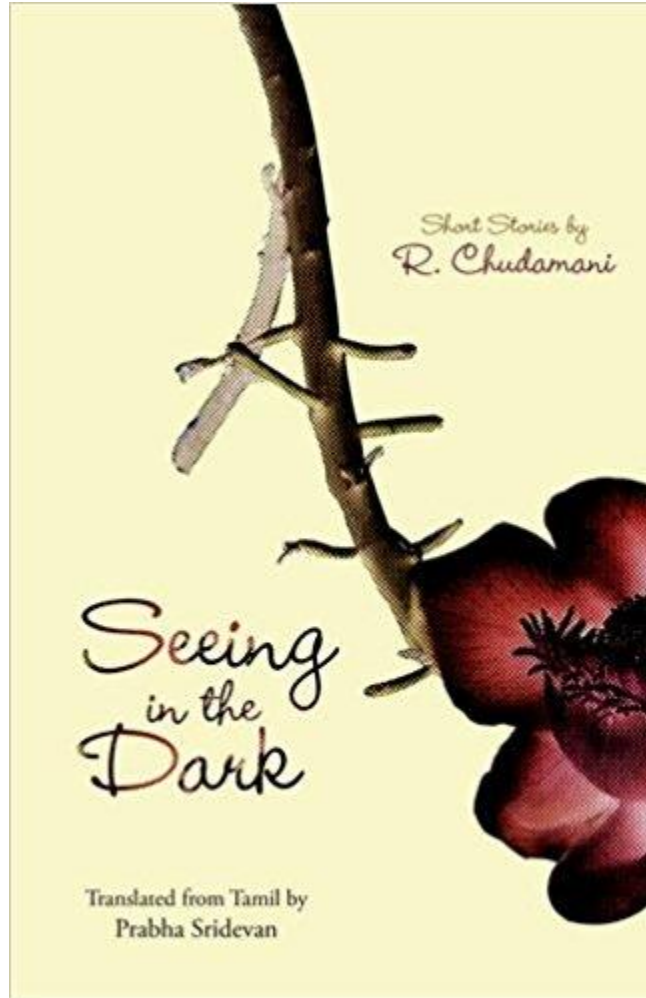


**Reinventing the Self in Chudamani's *Two Women on an Evening***  
**S. Arunkumar**



**Abstract**

This paper examines Chudamani's short story titled 'Two women on an Evening'. In this story, Hema the protagonist, constructional identity and as a married women's position in her home are discussed. She breaks away the bondage and shackles of her husband and she becomes a successful journalist. In this story, Hema tries to differ from the norm and leads a life of spinster though it seems strange, but for Hema, she thinks it is a time to assert her and acquire an individual identity, there are a thousand protests that she wishes to register. First, she is against the society and its violence. The second is her personal protest against her husband and she comes out successfully as a journalist only to relieve the carefree days of her childhood.



**R. Choodamani**

**Photo credit: S. Rajesh**

Courtesy: <http://www.thehindu.com/books/books-authors/writer-par-excellence/article19593518.ece>

### ***Two Women on an Evening***

In ‘Two women on an Evening’, R. Chudamani talks of her economic liberty that women need to keep herself from the strangles of her husband. The story is about Hema, who is being an journalist is unable to tolerate the coaxing attitude of her husband and finally out of frustration divorces him and comes out as a successful journalist. Hema, the protagonist, and Tulasi her ex-husband’s sister happens to meet in a garment’s shop and is caught short of money. Tulasi comes in aid. Hema was indeed surprised for her and Tulasi, had no relationship between them. They were not sisters or related in any manner by blood. Tulasi was no friend. Neither a school nor college mate. The relationship between them came into existence only when Hema married Damodran. Their acquaintance and friendship started only from that time. They were then supposed to be ex-sisters-in-law. Tulasi herself pointed out, “Damu is my brother and so I have a bond of blood with him. But I have bond with you too, Hema! Infact a much more basic bond” and what is that? “We are both women” (144).

### **Hema’s Life with Damodharan**

Hema’s life with Damodhran started as an ideal marriage. Initially Damodharan was quite proud of her writing, especially when she changed her maiden name of HemaNagarajan to Hema Damodharan. He felt pleased and proud when his friends at the office told him about his wife’s articles as fantastic and guests complimented her with something like “you have excelled yourself this time Mrs. Damodharan your pen is very powerful” (145)

Then, gradually, the pleasure and the pride waned and Damodharan began to lose his temper on her getting to popular, whenever she sat typing an article he would snap and ask her to

stop the tap-tap in the house to escape this comment Hema around sit down quietly at night when pen and paper and still he would shout at her from bed for burning the midnight oil. He complained about her for not performing her duties as a wife. He also held responsible position as an officer in a prosperous private firm, He had a considerable salary high status, he had them all but problem crept in because hers was a field, where appreciation for merit was long-lasting and so she was over shading him. This thought obviously fanned his jealousy. The jealousy took a diverse root, when the final onslaught came:

“A woman has got to make some charges after she is married”

“In which way have I let my writing affect you”

“No more argument will you give up your writing or not?”

“I won’t it”

“Then you will have to give up your marriage”

“As you wish.” (146)

### **Damodharan Marrying Second Time**

The story come to an end when where Tulasi informs Hema that Damodharan is getting married the second time. Hema with magnanimity wishes her ex-husband a good life. Hema tells Tulasi she is turning 34. The following month and marriage is not necessary for her. She tells Tulasi that she has to support her parents and has no intention to getting married. Tulasi replies that in her case she has to get named for it would demonstrated a basic justice. She also concludes her talk saying thus “If a divorced man can find re-marriage so easy, why not divorced women as well?” (Chudamani 147)

### **To Conclude**

The decision of Hema to stay single can be best expressed in the words of Bhatnagar, “Predictably enough the ways out suggested subtly or propagated more avowedly; some targeted from mild protest, seeking accommodation though moderation, love and persuasion to carving at of a self-sufficient exclusivist self.”

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