

Review of Arundhati Roy's Novels "The God of Small Things" and Azadi

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Abstract

Arundhati Roy is an influential Indian writer and public intellectual whose literary and political writings engage with questions of social inequality, identity, power, caste, gender, nationalism, and individual freedom. This study reviews *The God of Small Things* and *Azadi*, examining the ways in which Roy critiques dominant social, political, and cultural structures. *The God of Small Things*, her debut novel, presents the experiences of a family in Kerala and explores caste discrimination, gender inequality, social conventions, forbidden relationships, and the consequences of violating established social boundaries. Through fragmented narration, symbolism, and distinctive linguistic expression, the novel foregrounds the experiences of marginalized individuals and challenges conventional notions of family and social order. *Azadi*, a collection of essays, extends Roy's engagement with contemporary India and addresses themes including democracy, nationalism, religious polarization, majoritarian politics, civil liberties, and the rights of marginalized communities. The study considers the different literary forms employed in the two works while examining their shared concern with power and resistance. It also explores Roy's use of language, narrative perspective, irony, and political commentary to question structures that shape individual and collective identities. A comparative reading of the works reveals continuities between Roy's fictional representation of social exclusion and her nonfictional engagement with contemporary political realities. Overall, the study highlights the significance of Roy's writing in discussions of social justice, freedom, inequality, and resistance in modern India.

Keywords: Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*, *Azadi*, Caste, Gender, Social Inequality, Nationalism, Democracy, Identity, Resistance, Social Justice.

