SINGH SONG!

Daljit Nagra



WHAT HAPPENS? A shopkeeper celebrates marriage while customers complain about the shop.

BIG IDEA **Private tenderness and cultural self-expression challenge the idea that commercial duty should define a life.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

“bride”

Recurring noun

The speaker keeps returning from business demands to the new relationship.

“Tartan sari”

Juxtaposition

The clothing image brings cultural influences together with playful confidence.

“moon”

Romantic image

The ordinary shop setting opens onto a shared imaginative world.

“priceless”

Double meaning

The final judgement uses commercial language to move beyond a financial valuation.

FORM

A dramatic monologue in free verse with recurring complaints and a final call-and-response exchange.

CONTEXT

Nagra’s crafted British Asian voice uses phonetic spellings and mixed cultural references to assert identity, humour and belonging.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Love’s Philosophy: desire. Before You Were Mine: identity beyond an expected role.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Shop and marriage

ENERGETIC AND COMIC

The speaker’s desire interrupts the expected routine of running a shop.

Wife and complaints

DEFIANT AND PLAYFUL

Public dissatisfaction contrasts with admiration for the bride’s independent identity.

Night-time exchange

INTIMATE

The commercial setting becomes a space where affection exceeds monetary value.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.