

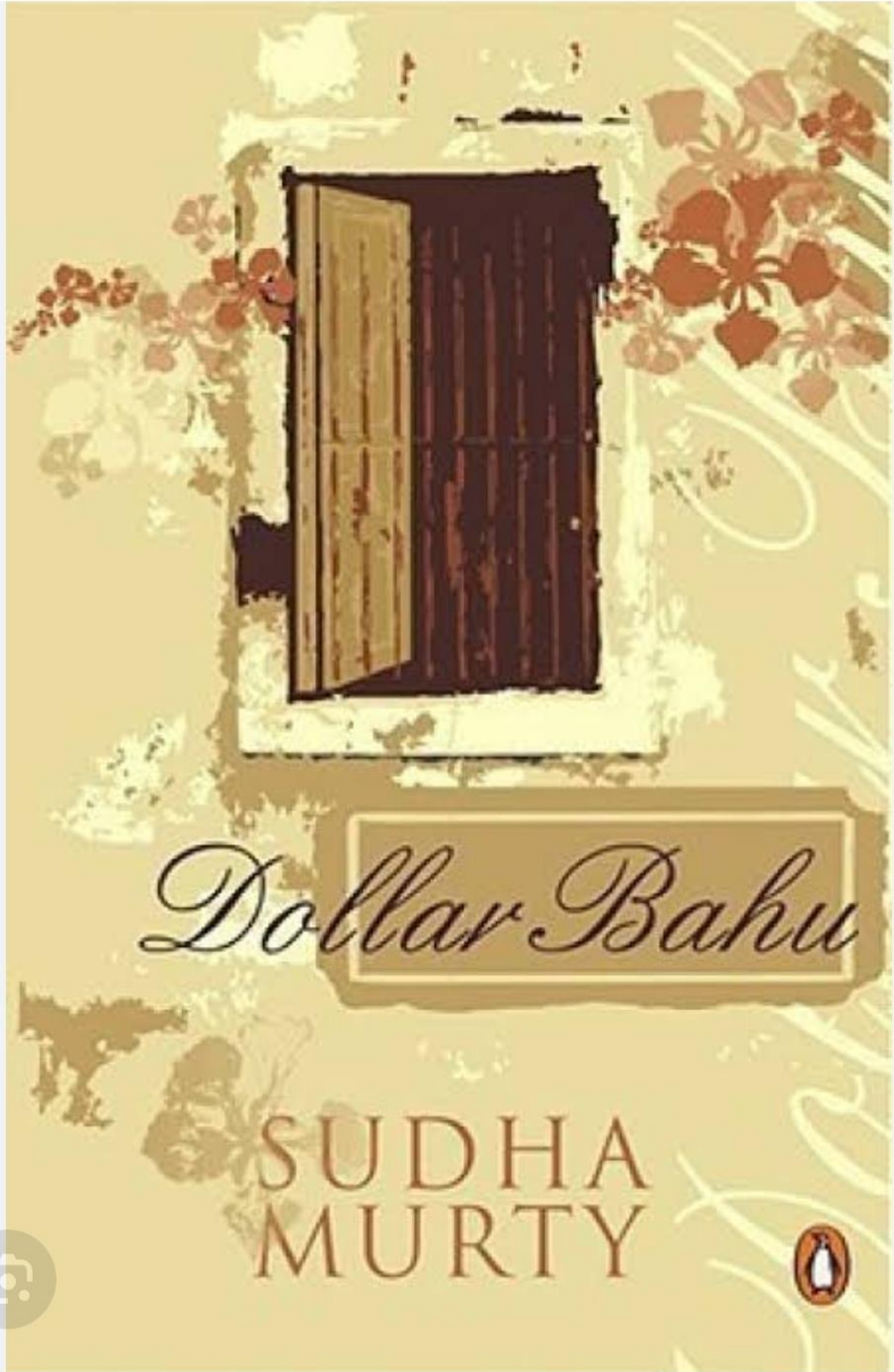
BOOK REVIEW
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Title of the Book : Dollar Bahu ; **Author:** Sudha Murty ; **Publication:** Penguin India; **Year:** 2007

The novel explores the themes of family, relationships and the clash between traditional and modern values. The novel examines the relationship between two women, their families and the contrasting values they embody. Dollar Bahu is the story of how money can wreak havoc in the life of any family, if things spin out of control. Vinuta is a young woman, who marries Girish, who is a bank clerk. Vinuta then begins to live in Bangalore, with Girish's family and starts to get accustomed to her new family. She gets used to this new change quite well and spends her life looking after her in-laws and her husband. She even tries her level best to ignore the taunts of her mother-in-law, Gouramma. Things take a turn for the worse, when Chandru, Girish's elder brother, gets married. Chandru is based in the US, with his wife, the 'Dollar Bahu' and they live quite an extravagant life, because of the fact that Chandru earns well. Vinuta now faces constant comparisons between her and her new sister-in-law, much to Vinuta's dismay. Now Gouramma, Vinuta's mother-in-law, decides to pay Chandru a visit in the US, which turns things around. Gouramma now looks at the other side of life in the US, where she realizes that she will never get the respect there, which she gets in India. Even though middle-class life in India is difficult and bound by rules, it is one that is full of love and respect. Can this enlightening trip bring about a change in Vinuta and Gouramma's relationship?

Key features The story is one that middle-class Indian people can easily relate to. The novel portrays the delicate relationships that exist in every family in a heart-touching way. Murthy has the knack of creeping upon you unawares with an imagery that draws you right into the middle of the scene. When she talks of the protagonist Chandru leaving for US, “who felt joy laced with streaks of fear like a new bride who leaves her parents home to start a new life with her husband”; we know exactly what she means. She strikes a right chord in us when she talks of the deep bond developed with Dharwad, the subtle humour in the lines “the deep red Earth created a bond with all the shoes that walked on it”. Best line of the book is “ you should not keep talking about America ,its wealth and your Dollar Bahu”. This book is very short. The other characters of the book was given less attention. The book ‘Dollar Bahu’ impressed me with its simplicity and narrative style. The significance of Indian values are explicated by Sudha Murty through the characters in ‘Dollar Bahu’ with an appeal to the Indian people to respect and cherish the rich Indian values.



Dollar Bahu

SUDHA
MURTY

