What happens?

A shopkeeper celebrates marriage while customers complain about the shop.

The main idea

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

1. “bride”

Method: Recurring noun

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

2. “Tartan sari”

Method: Juxtaposition

The clothing image brings cultural influences together with playful confidence.

3. “moon”

Method: Romantic image

The ordinary shop setting opens onto a shared imaginative world.

4. “priceless”

Method: Double meaning

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

Form and structure

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

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Development, voice and tone

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.

Context

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

Comparison links

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

Recall question

How does the poem balance public demands and private happiness?