

NOMITA

Nomita in the story Matchbox written by Ashapurna Debi is a typical Indian housewife who is bound to sacrifice many of her ambitions and hopes and be enslaved in the kitchen. Ashapurna Debi portrays her colourless –without the hues of a happy life. Her widowed mother thinks that she is successful in consigning her daughter to a rich family which is not on the merit of finance but by looks alone. Nomita expects a minimum freedom of reading the letters addressed to her. Her husband seems to be dubious about the letters when he tries to read it without her consent. It is true what Ashapurna Debi says about Nomita and women in general that they are like matchboxes settled at the corners of the house with their hidden power to explode at any time. Nomita follows the example of a matchbox and she burns with anger when she is helpless. To break the shackles of marital slavery she is ready to kill herself. Again she is depicted as a meek innocent woman who smiles in front of others when a volcano is burning inside her. She can tear off the mask of her husband's large heartedness, but she doesn't. Thus she proves to be a prototype of an Indian woman who is meek as a lamb.

