

The Never Never Nest

Cedric Mount

This is a modern one act play by a modern dramatist called Cedric Mount. It depicts the lifestyle of a naïve couple called Jack and Jill. The couple bought each and every luxury of life on instalments and live cheerfully without being aware of the fact that they would be struggling under the burden of debt in the near future.

The title of the play – “The Never Never Nest” has two negatives in it. i.e., the word ‘never’ is repeated twice ensuring that the nest would be never built. The double negative emphasis the impossibility of realizing a dream home of theirs.

The word ‘Nest’ in the title literally refers to the home of birds. In the natural world birds make their home by collecting straws and twigs of various trees. It can be temporary structure since birds live in them temporarily with respect to changing weather conditions. The nest lacks stability since they can be attacked by other animals. In the play, Jack and Jill conceive a home which is cosy and stable. But their dream home they cannot realize because of their temporary nature of residence in their home. They have not only purchased the ‘house’ on instalments but everything of the house- such as the furniture, piano, radiogram and the car. At the end of the play we get to know that the couple had their baby on instalments.

Since every opulence of their life is based on buy-now-pay-later marketing system, they were not secure at all. The family’s income is low as compared to the total instalments which is to be paid every week. This situation tells that if anytime they’d be unable to pay the instalments, they may have to leave their house, which simply shows the insecurity of the couple’s life.

The title of the play is appropriate since it connotes the theme- the pathetic condition of the couple.