

### How Opal lost her sheen?

If only Opal Mehta were to become alive from her book, she would be in extreme discomfiture for all the controversies shrouding her. Poor Opal may have come to life by Kaavya Viswanathan, but she now probably likes to put all the plagiarism charges to RIP. Opal has lost all her sheen because of the fact that her creation had not imparted the quality of a gem to Opal- as the name implies.

The book under controversy ' How Opal Mehta got kissed, Got wild and Got a Life' published by Little Brown and co. and authored by Kaavya Viswanathan in her late teens has evoked sharp reaction from Writers fraternity. Megan Mc Cafferty who has authored famous novels ' Sloppy Firsts' and 'Second Helpings' was at first magnanimous enough to condone the plagiary charges, as the works have reportedly been phrased from Mc Cafferty's novels. The question is all about the charges and countercharges happening in the field of writing. Of late many such reports have started pouring in as far as plagiarism in major woks such as novels is concerned.

Even before the case of ' The Da Vinci Code' code could completely get eclipsed from the media, Kaavya saying that it was an inadvertent error of copying Mc Cafferty's works offers unwelcome scope of debates on writing ethics. While ' Dan Brown' won the case in the UK court against the charge that his idea for ' The Da Vinci Code' was borrowed from Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh's ' The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail', Kaavya appears progressing towards facing legal damages. According to New York Times, a reader had alerted them about Kaavya's similarity in writings to another author other than Megan Mc Cafferty, which means there may be more skeletons in the cupboard. A six-figure dollar contract for her books and movie rights by Dreamworks might have given a feel of joining the group of elite in writing, but the credibility of her writings is unfortunately in jeopardy that may still take long time to set things right.

If Russian President Vladimir Putin could be charged of plagiarizing according to US researchers for his alleged plagiary of economic models from US writings, it only concludes that plagiarism may be inadvertent to some extent and has come to stay in the mainstream of writing.