

**ETHNIC REMOTENESS AND SANDWICH CULTURE IN AMULYAMALLADI'S  
*THE MANGO SEASON***

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ABSTRACT

Diasporic literature, in general deals with alienation, displacement, nostalgia and quest for identity. In an endeavor to integrate the adopted culture while maintaining the inheritance, the dispersal fraternities develop a dual identity, and their culture becomes a sandwich culture. All these universal places of cultural displacement are on exhibit in *The Mango Season*, the novel by AmulyaMalladi. *The Mango Season* is very realistic in its presentation of dilemmas experienced by Priya, the protagonist. The novel describes the home coming event of the female teenager, Priya who hides her engagement to a black American man from her traditional Brahmin family. The conflict is between satisfying the claims of the Indian Priya and the American Priya. This paper endeavors to portray the psychological push and pull of the cultural clashes, dilemmas and remoteness faced by the foreign returned Priya in her homeland. The characters depicted in this novel are well drawn and the clashes of cultures portrayed are not only genuine, but tear-jerking, as well.

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**Key words:** Diaspora, cultural displacement, dilemma, patriarchal society, dual identity

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Diasporic writer AmulyaMalladi explores especially the cultural dilemmas, displacement and cultural clashes suffered by immigrants in the various parts of the world. The experience of being caught between two cultures with cultural dilemmas and clashes has remained a prominent theme of her writings. *The Mango Season* is a panorama of Indian tradition. It deals with an Indian who moves to America and lives a multi-cultural existence, which goes against the ideology of her extended family. It is about an Indian woman who hides her engagement to a black American man from her traditional Brahmin family. Malladi artfully places Priya in a situation between two opposite worlds. She has to go with either dogmatic tradition of her family or her heartfelt emotion. AmulyaMalladi demonstrates all the commonplaces of cultural conflicts in this novel. For instance, ideological conflicts, clash of an olden way of life with the western ideas, diverse caste system, patriarchal norms, arranged