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## A Study of Githa Hariharan's *The Remains of the Feast* from the Feminist Perspective

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### Abstract

This research paper focuses upon the 'feminist discourse' in Githa Hariharan's short story *The Remains of the Feast* which was published in 1993 and yet, continues to arouse the reader's interest even today. This short story remains as an important one, for in academia, we generally deal with notions of western liberal feminism. In this paper we consider how Hariharan, an Indian author has chosen as her focal character, Rukmini, who is a 90 year old Indian widowed woman in a South Indian Brahminical family. The tale is told by her great-granddaughter Ratna, who is studying to become a doctor. This is a brilliant and unconventional tale of how the dying Rukmini, triumphantly tries to assert her identity, though she is hedged in by the oppressive norms of patriarchy in traditional Indian society: functioning as it does along the lines of gender, caste and creed. Her sister in arms is her much younger grand-daughter, Ratna. This research paper dwells upon how Feminism is often a construct of Patriarchy. It also offers a critique of social, economic, cultural norms which restricts the freedom of women.

**Keywords:** Feminism, Feminist Discourses, Indian Elderly Female, Marginalized, Identities.