Synopsis of Shame

Shame centers on three well-to-do Pakistani families; The Shakil, The Hyder and The Harappa family. The story begins with the strange birth of Omar Khayyam Shakil. After the death of the old Mr. Shakil, the three sisters; Chhunni, Munnee and Bunny held a wild party to celebrate their freedom from their authoritative father. That night one of them becomes pregnant. However, nobody knows who is pregnant because the three of them not only develop the same pregnancy symptoms but also breast feeding the baby. Omar Khayyam Shakil, who is born with the shame as an illegitimate baby has grown up as a shameless person. He won a scholarship at the best medical college in Karachi. He successfully becomes a doctor yet has a bad habit of drinking and gambling. At the age of 50, he marries Sufiya Zinobya, who is 31 younger than he is and is being mentally disabled by the brain fever. Sufiya’s father had killed his younger brother.

General Raza Hyder always wanted to have a son; however his first son died when he was born and Hyder’s second child is a girl, Sufiya Zinobiya, the wrong miracle. Her mental illness gives her the emblem of ‘the family shame’. From this shame, unlike Omar Khayyam who becomes shameless, a beast grows inside her.
This beast, later on, transforms her into a white panther, which killed and raped people. Her sister Naveed Hyder, always wants to be married; still, her marriage doesn’t give happiness. Her husband only comes to her at a certain time in the year to have a sexual intercourse with her, after which she always becomes pregnant. The first pregnancy gives her twin babies, the second she produced triplets, and so on every year. Until on the fifth year she has twenty-seven children. This makes her feel like a vegetable patch and makes her commit suicide. Feeling disappointed with her disability of giving a son, has an idiot daughter and her favorite daughter died by suicide, Bilquis Hyder, Raza’s wife decided to wear veil from top to toe.

Iskander Harappa is a playboy who turns to be a successful politician; however, his civil government is overpowered by Hyder, his cousin by marriage. His wife embroiders a shawl to cope with the humiliation of being abandoned by his playboy husband, it is also her way of getting revenge on him, and it documents his political wrongdoings.

Raza’s secret of having a beast daughter is revealed. It destroys his power. Arjumand Harrappa and Haroun Harrappa overpower his government. Raza, Bilquis and Omar have to runaway from the capital city. Omar decides to take them to a safe ‘place’, his old house. At the end of the story, the three mothers killed Raza Hyder as revenge of their son, Barbar Shakil’s death. In addition, they put slice of Raza’s moustache, eyeballs and teeth into Omar Khayyam’s pocket. Omar is found guilty of Hyder’s death and is burned. Yet, he does not die; when he wakes up, he is sitting in his room in his mother’s house. He is gray all over and ashen from head to foot.
Moreover, Sufiya Zinobia, who is possessed by the beast inside her, comes from the street. Omar who knows who is coming is waiting for her like he is waiting for his bride at his wedding night. She approaches her husband and beheaded him with her bare hands. Then she explodes along with the house.
Biography of Salman Rushdie

Salman Rushdie is an anglo-indian novelist. He was born in Bombay on 19 June 1947, to a middle-class Moslem family. In 1964 his parents moved to Karachi, Pakistan, joining reluctantly the Muslim exodus- during these years there was a war between India and Pakistan. Rushdie continued his studies at King’s College, Cambridge. After graduating in 1968 he worked for a time in television in Pakistan.

His works tales from various genres-fantasies, mythology, religion, oral tradition. Rushdie’s narrative technique has connected his books to magic realism. His first debut in novel is Grimus in 1975 a fantastical science fiction, which draws on the 12th-century sufi poem The Conference of Birds. His next novel, Midnight Children (1981) won the Booker Prize and brought him international fame. It is the comic allegory of Indian history which revolves around the lives of the narrator Saleem Sinai and the 1000 children born after the Declaration of Independence.

Shame (1983) his third novel is seen as an allegory of the political situation in Pakistan. It won the Prix du Meilleur Livre Etanger and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction. His fourth novel The Satanic Verse was accused by Islamist groups in India and Pakistan as an insult to Muhammad SAW the Prophet. He was condemned to death by the former Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on February 14, 1989.