CHAPTERWISE SUMMARY
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Chapter I: Alienation and its Dimensions

Alienation is a phenomena of human situation in which man's relationships are broken with the outside world or with one's ownself. Such a situation arises because of the bridge between the promised state of the present or future and man's expectations, from the society and the world outside. The inner alienation is caused by the bridge created between man's inability to belong to either world, i.e. of the past and the present the ideal and the real.

In India people had high hopes that after independence it will emerge as society of high and cherished ideals and conduct, but soon it was observed that the country was gripped by greed, sense of possession, selfishness, corruption and immortality. Neither the old sanctities remained nor the new ones were created. Such a situation led to a kind of alienation amongst the sensitive classes of people. This situation has been noted by the death with by the novelists like Raja Ram in "The Serpent and The Rope" and Anita Desai in almost all her novels. The theme of alienation dominated the novels of Arun Joshi in a special way.

Chapter II: Alienation in "The Foreigner"

This deals with the life of one young man Sindi Oberoi, in search of his roots and the meaning of life. Sindi is a rootless wanderer without a sense belonging anywhere. He felt as if he were a foreigner in Kenya, London, America and India. But he had not found room for himself. All the while he was seeking for the inner rest for his mind. He feels lonely even in a crowded room. His
restlessness alienates him from the so called civilized world. His experience in love affairs is also bitter. Jane's tragedy had made him rootless and lonely. His experience with Mr. Khemka about income tax accounts frustrates him much. Sindi is not only lonely and alienated but he is supported by people who themselves are lonely and alienated. Sindi finds life in America too as lonely ..... "much too clean and optimistic and empty".

The way out of alienation for Sindi is not detachment but commitment, involvement and action.

Chapter III : Alienation in "The Strange Case of Billy Biswas"

Billy Biswas is alienated from the civilized world. He is also alienated from own family. Billy bids good-bye to the so-called civilized world, because of its false glittering. His detachment with the world outside, is a clear alienation of Billy in this novel. Finally, he finds the essence of life in Bilasia in her unadultered form.

Billy suffers alienation because he finds society hung up on the "peg of money", hypocrisy and shallowness. He overcomes his alienation in the sensuality of Bilasia and the fullness of sensual life in Malkala Hill. In this way, Billy finds his fulfillment in living with the tribals in the Malkala Hills.

Chapter IV : Alienation in "The Apprentice"

The hero of this novel Ratan Rathor presents the case of a man who had lost his identity in becoming one with the society. He is caught between his loyalties for his father and Himmat Singh. The Apprentice brings out the anxiety, rootlessness and isolation suffered by Ratan Rathor, which very much leads to his alienation from himself.
Ratan Rathor learns to keep up appearances and discard decency and friendship under the guidance of his mother. But soon he sees into his degradation and realizes that the approach to life need not be negative. Instead, being of use to others and their good may resolve the inner sense of futility and alienation.

Chapter V : Alienation in "The Last Labyrinth"

This novel probes into the turbulent inner world of an industrialist, Som Bhaskar, who becomes an millionaire at the age of thirty. His troubles get multiplied not only because of the terrible loneliness of his heart but also because of his awareness of the lack of relevance in life. He is alienated from life and seeks his fulfillment in love from Anuradha and Gargi where gradually leads him to alienation from the relatives of the business world and makes him grope into the labyrinths of self and awareness. The novel shows that the causes of alienation do not lie outside of man but the world within which is the fountain spring of human despair and anxiety ..... the alienation of being man.

Chapter VI : Conclusion

The heroes of the novels of Arun Joshi are alienated from life and society and self for one reason or the other. The type and nature of alienation of Sindi and Billy Biswas the is the same, within they are alienated from the outside world following breach between their expectations and the corrupt society they inhabit. The alienation of Ratan Rathor and Som Bhaskar on with their own self. Their prosperity and success in the outside world has created a vacuity within themselves, which they try to overcome by adhering to some moral values and principle transcending suffering, labour and knowledge.