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Human Relationships In Selected Short Stories By Eudora Welty

A Thesis submitted to
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In Fulfilment of the Requirements for
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In
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\$25. F.Kh By Fatma Khalil El Diwany

Under the Supervision of Dr. Aida Abdel Moneim Ragheb Professor of English Literature

To the memory of Eudora Welty

"As you have seen,I am a writer who came of a sheltered life.A sheltered life can be a daring life as well-for all serious daring starts from within".

Eudora Welty: One Writer's Beginnings

" Miss Welty écrivait sans vacarme.

Elle et décédéé de la même maniere".

Olivier Delcroix.

Le Figaro, 25/7/2001

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Acknowledgement

In a world where a lot of people are cutting corners, and taking the easy way out, working with such an efficient and conscientious supervisor seemed for me hard to find. But after working with her, I found out that the supervisor is the most important part in the thesis. I have been extremely lucky to have **Prof. Dr. Aida Abdel Moneim Ragheb** as my supervisor, and before this, as my professor for four years. Throughout working in this thesis, I have passed through many phases, where she was always beside me, pushing and encouraging me; not in a professional way, but rather in a motherly one. Actually, finishing this work is not the only achievement; but getting to know Dr. Aida, and learning from her knowledge and dedication, are the real golden apples that I plucked.

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Last but not least, I dedicate this work to my son, Abdel Monem, who suffered most with me. I thank him very much for his endurance.

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Abstract

This study aims at discussing the theme of human relationships in selected short stories by Eudora Welty, and her use of everything she has been able to put her hands upon in order to express the real essence of human beings. Eudora Welty has nurtured in the American South, specifically in Mississippi. Welty has been famous for her love of this region, which has confronted many experiences and changes. However, she has not been concerned with depicting the political and racial themes characterizing the South, and that attracted most of other Southern writers. On the contrary, Welty has chosen to deal with man in general regardless of his color or nationality. She has aimed at diagnosing the modern man's predicaments and exposing the human heart to help her readers in understanding their sufferings and solving them. In doing this, she has used many methods, as flashbacks, dreams and ,most importantly, mythology. Her use of mythology proves her belief in the universality of the human characteristics and predicaments, which do not alter despite the numerous differences in color and nationalities.

The thesis is divided into three chapters and a conclusion. The first chapter entitled "Eudora Welty in Perspective", places Welty among her fellow Southern American writers, underlining the differences between their concern and her own. It also deals with the most prominent characteristics and themes found in her fiction.

Chapter Two is entitled: "The Onlooker". It tackles this important theme, which is quite prominent in the writings of the American South. This chapter aims at revealing Welty's different view of the Onlooker, who she believes to be inside most of us.

As for Chapter Three " Medusa and The Modern Man", it deals with the writer's manipulation of the myth of Perseus and Medusa, to express all the hindering circumstances that face the modern man.

The Conclusion discusses how Welty's characters are a mirror of her own self. It also shows Welty's concern with women's initiating power, and the different conditions that face women preventing them from changing. This is in addition to tracing Welty's ability to make use of all the Southern elements with which she is in love, but at the same time freeing herself from the stereotypes chaining the writings of the other Southern writers.

Finally, this study shows that the main aim of Eudora Welty has been to prove that man is in a constant quest to pluck the golden apples from the tree of life. Thus, it is found that Welty, her characters, as well as ourselves are in an endless search for something: Either a certain position in life, or for love, or most importantly, for our own identity.

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List of Abbreviations

" A.C.O.G."

" A Curtain of Green"

"A.M."

"A Memory"

" A.P.O.N."

" A Piece of News"

" A.S.O.G."

" A shower of Gold"

" A.S. M."

" A Still Moment"

" A.W.P."

" A Worn Path"

"C."

"Clytie"

"D.O.A.T.S."

" Death of a Traveling Salesman"

" F.F.M."

" Flowers for Marjorie"

"F. L."

" First Love"

" J.R."

" June Recital"

" L."

" Levvie"

" M.L."

" Moon Lake"

O.W.B.

One Writer's Beginnings

" T.B.O.I."

"The Bride of the Innisfallen"

T.G.A.

The Golden Apples

"T.H.H."

"The Hitch-Hikers"

"T.K."

"The Key"

" T.W."

"The Wanderers"

"W.I.L.A.T.P.O."

" Why I Live at the P.O."