

INTERPRETATION OF LONELINESS IN "WIDE SARGASSO SEA" BY JEAN RHYS

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Abstract

English literature makes use of the concept of solitude to develop the main characters and offer a unique perspective on certain important facets of their personalities. "Wide Sargasso Sea" presents notions of isolation as a direct outcome of characters' long-standing loneliness; as a result, the author applies both social and interior isolation. These people live in such a horrible reality that they cut themselves off from the outside world. Such estrangement is a sophisticated psychological condition that affects how characters develop their identities. The author is of the opinion that a woman's madness is not something that comes naturally to her; rather, it is the result of an injured self that is formed in a person as a result of isolation and oppression. In this way, characters see isolation as a kind of rescue that seems to save them for a while, but in reality, it slowly destroys these protagonists. The truth of the matter is that the character of an individual is made through specific social and social connections with individuals, however confinement denies him/her of getting the fulfillment of personality.

Keywords: loneliness, isolation, madness, character, psychology

"Wide Sargasso Sea"'s main female character, Antoinette Cosway, is depicted as a completely isolated individual who, despite having a different upbringing and different living conditions, experiences similar feelings of loneliness and despair. Antoinette's identity is impacted by her isolation, which begins at home and continues in the nunnery. Despite the fact that she behaves quite normally, close friends think she is insane because she spends almost all of her time in the room.

Antoinette's mental devastation and madness escalate as a result of this extended isolation. As she guarantees toward the start of the portrayal:

"nobody approached us. I became acclimated to a single life" (Rhys 18).

She and her family are not noticed at all; instead, people violate her hopes and trust. Antoinette's seclusion in youth shapes her character, adversely impacting her grown-up life and relations with individuals. This woman, who is emotionally damaged and vulnerable, lives in her own created world. When Rochester, the person she loves, leaves her, she can no longer bear to be alone. Antoinette wants to be loved and cared for, but her husband doesn't get it.

Rhys uncovers that Rochester's seclusion can't be made sense of by his seriousness; rather he is depicted as an obliterated character who is compelled to wed an individual picked by his family and who needs to reside in a spot outsider to him. Antoinette sees Rochester's estrangement as his failure to acknowledge something unique in relation to his all around arranged life and propensities. Rhys disagrees with Rochester's view that Antoinette inherits her mother's madness, but Rochester's attitude toward Antoinette is sometimes negative as a result of Rochester's alienation. Gradually, Antoinette becomes a mad woman like her own mother. Instead, she emphasizes throughout the narration that a woman's psychological disorder is unavoidably brought on by isolation. Antoinette's

mind splits and she flees into the past, isolating herself from her current life as well as the outside world. According to Coral Howells:

"Antoinette's moment of authenticity is also the moment of her destruction," and such isolation appears to be extremely risky for such a sensitive woman.

The wives of Rochester have extremely traumatic histories, which are made worse by their isolation, but their responses to it vary. Despite the fact that Jane loses her folks and is continually overlooked by society, her seclusion assists her with fostering a few abilities that furnish her with important strength and permit her to beat pessimistic sentiments. She matures into a young woman with her own opinions and the ability to elicit strong emotions in others. Antoinette lives with her mother at the beginning, but she is alienated from her, because her mother is attached only to her brother, and when she loses him, she is destroyed.

As a credulous and desolate young lady, Antoinette tracks down solace in her confinement, yet somewhere inside she makes progress toward consideration and love. Given that he is her closest friend, she believes and trusts him when she marries Rochester. However, when he shifts his attitude toward her, she withdraws from him, ending their relationship. As indicated by Schapiro:

"The two characters are enraged at being unrealised by the other" (99).

Antoinette is still a young child who cannot think for herself and is heavily dependent on others. In this way, Rochester's alienation is made worse by Antoinette's madness, which makes him even more alone after his failed marriage. Rochester can't love a woman who is forced on him, and when he starts calling her "Bertha," he shows how far away he is from her. Rochester is immediately drawn to Jane, but he has trouble trusting a woman again after meeting her. He keeps trying to distance himself from her, but he can't help but feel what she feels. Hence, Antoinette's confinement from the real world and from close individuals marginally varies from segregation of Rochester. They are socially isolated individuals, and their isolation is of a different kind. At the point when she weds Rochester, an individual from the high society, she actually moves away from others. Antoinette, who occasionally engages in provocative behavior in order to draw attention to herself. However, in contrast to Antoinette, she does not shut herself off from reality and tries to overcome obstacles with her strong spirit and moral principles.

It is human nature to want to feel included and to have relationships with others. Thus, mental isolation is a force that can quickly drive a person to his or her own downfall. Jean Rhys's, *Wide Sargasso Sea*, exemplifies this point through its protagonist, Antoinette. The novel demonstrates that her unhealthy marriage to a man who does not truly love her leads to her physical isolation. However, Antoinette's mental isolation stems from her early life. Her long lasting years of mental isolation slowly push her towards insanity and eventually cause her to reach a mental state of madness. Antoinette is born into a life of isolation. In her early life, her mother mentally isolates her. Antoinette's mother paid little to no attention to her because of Antoinette's sickly little brother Pierre. This lack of attention leads to Antoinette's isolation from her family. Antoinette herself states:

"She wanted to sit with Pierre/ I was old enough to look after myself." (Rhys,7).

Since her mother focused solely on Pierre, Antoinette learns that she needs to be independent. Sadly, we never discover what kind of mother Antoinette would become. She is so restricted (emotionally and later physically) by Rochester and by the confines of her identity, which developed in an environment painfully lacking in love or security that she desires only to leap to her death.

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