

Feminist Nightmare With Reference to Judith Mcnaught's *Whitney My Love*

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ABSTRACT

Judith McNaught (May 10, 1944) born in Sancis Obispo California, United States of America. Her writings are based on traditional, historical and contemporary romance fiction of western culture. Historical fictions of her portray the woman's experiences and their affection towards Misogynist husband along with patriarchy norms and societal pressures. This article analyzes about feminist nightmare with special reference to Mcnaught's *Whitney, My Love*. The extensive analysis of this fiction addresses issues in marriage life and courtship, though she herself has undergone the traumatic process of assimilation and acculturation, McNaught has not allowed her prejudices to spoil her writings. This work also aims at the exploration and envisions the reformed society where women advocate for their rights for sex while also participating in loving relationships. Mcnaught raises her voice against the issues confined to the position of women within the family and their rights to equality with men in different aspects of social life.

Keywords: Love, Misogyny, Mistrust, Ambivalence, Feminist Nightmare

Introduction

Judith Mcnaught is an emerging writer in traditional and historical romance genre whose novels deal with Women's problem in courtship and marriage life. Mcnaught was born in 1944 at Sancis Obispo California United States of America. In the early days Mcnaught lives in Saint Louis, Missouri and later she moved to Texas .She is active since 1978, An American best-selling author of contemporary and historical novels. And also, she received dozens of best-selling and top-rated novels so far. Mcnaught's first manuscript is '*Whitney; My Love*', which she written in between 1978 to 1982. In 1990's Coors Brewing, in the beginning asked Mcnaught to write a book that would address to women and it could be used by the company to promote it in women literacy program. All her novel starts with the sole ideas.

In historical culture and heritage of western society, love and relationship, protests and concepts of rebelliousness in marital life have often remained alien ideas, as far as women were concerned. Women were not supposed to raise voices, protest against hatred of women, injustice or question the already existing beliefs, customs and rituals. They have to merely exist subjected to the patriarchal system. Women have to be chastise, loyal, obedient, quiet, submissive, and passive not claiming any of their rights neither as women not as human beings.

In this article I would like to explore McNaught's varied representations of the innocent women from middle class married to patriarchal upper class faces a familial problem especially possessive in love and all about suspect in virginity. *Whitney, My Love* is a view to underline the verge among gender discrimination, marriage dilemma, misunderstanding and misdirection in love, mistrust in chastity, misogyny and separation in through the fictional female characters. She raises the voice against the issues confined to the position of women within the family or their rights to equality with men in different aspects of social life. McNaught makes the women to fight against taboos, social and family restrictions and constraints laid by patriarchy in the tradition of western society.

In this research article feministic nightmare is applied to evaluate and bring out the pathetic situation of a woman in courtships and pathetic condition in the patriarchal society. Even though women are educated, progressed in various field still most of the women are ill-treated in domestic life. So many male- chauvinists they play with the life and emotions of females. There is no recognition for females and they are not appreciated properly in courtships and also in all walks of life. They are subjugated in male- dominated society. In this modern world also they are treated as slaves not as a human being in some of the families.

The novel *Whitney, My Love*

This novel is about Whitney stone grew from a saucy hoyden into a ravishingly sensual woman caught to the Duke of claymore, under the dark, languorous eyes, Fresh from her triumphs in Paris Society. She returned to England to win the heart of her childhood love and get hold the hands of Paul, She had bargained away by her bankrupt father to the misogynist, handsome, arrogant duke, outraged, she defies her new lord. Clayton smoldering feelings seduce her into a gathering storm of desire; Whitney and her dream of perfect love will not and cannot relinquish.

Passion of Love, Laugh and Tears

This novel is also enriched with passions, brimming with laughter and tears. Whitney is an untamed girl who often indulges her in crazy stunts, like riding a horse standing up while wearing men's trousers. As a result, Whitney's father sends her to France to live together with her aunt and uncle. Whitney is heartbroken, not because she is going to miss her selfish, unemotional father, but because she is going to be leaving her childhood crush, Paul Severin. In Paris, Whitney becomes a young mature woman, making her debut into society and garnering marriage proposals from many men of all walks of life.

However, Whitney refuses all proposals, determined to return to England and convince her childhood love Paul to marry her. Eventually Whitney is called back to home but not for the reasons she believes. When Whitney returns home from France, she finds her father has come into some capital. Whitney also wade through they have a new neighbor, a man named Clayton

Westland. Whitney is incurious and inattentive in this new neighbor even though her father is clearly attempting to throw them together.

Instead, Whitney badgers Paul. In the end, Paul does come up with, overwhelmed by Whitney's new grace, manners and sophistication. However, when Whitney announces this joyful news to her father, she informed that she is already betrothed to Clayton Westland. Not only this, the name Clayton Westland is not his original name Clayton Westland is really the Duke of Claymore, Clayton Westmoreland.

Whitney also acquired information that Clayton paid her father a capital of amount for the betrothal and that if she refuses to marry him, her father will most likely go to debtor's prison. Whitney decides she can elope with Paul. Whitney painstakingly awaits Paul's return from a business trip. When he had return, Paul is violated at the idea of an elopement and what it will mean to his family. Paul is also bothered that Whitney will not have a dowry because he has just spent in business. What he anticipated is to receive in a dowry from Whitney or her horses because his home is in foreclosure. Whitney is shocked by Paul's behaviour and calls off the betrothal.

Misogyny and Misunderstanding

Whitney at that incident decides to go to London to surprise Clayton and to tell him that she is willing to marry him now. Clayton is overwrought to see Whitney so, instead of going to London upon returning from a trip to his ancestral home Claymore; he chooses to go straight to Whitney's home. However, Clayton hears a rumor that Whitney is in London picking out her wardrobe or weeds for her wedding with Paul.

Clayton rushes to Whitney's town where he hears another rumor that Whitney is not a virgin. Clayton grab away her from a party and drags her to his native Claymore. Once there, misogynist Clayton forces himself upon and loses her virginity. Whitney humiliates Clayton at the wedding reception and leaves him with little doubt that she not wants to marry him. Weeks travel and Whitney finds herself unable to forestall puzzling over Clayton. Whitney confesses everything to her friend Emily, Emily helps her see that Clayton's actions weren't that of an individual trying to wound his love but expressing his regret.

Whitney decides she must see Clayton. Whitney writes a note claiming to be pregnant but decides that note won't repair the rift between them but might make it worse. Instead, Whitney writes a note posing for permission to determine Clayton at Claymore. When Whitney arrives the subsequent day, she discovers that Clayton has not arrived, but his brother and mother are there. Awake to Clayton's feelings for Whitney, Clayton's brother Stephen encourages Whitney to remain. Stephen tells Whitney she should anger Clayton; force him to get rid of her from the space so that they can speak alone. Whitney does just that and convinces Clayton that she loves him. Clayton asks her to marry him.

"For the first time since he had met her, Clayton didn't know what to say to her. He felt as if he were in a dream, and he was afraid to speak lest he say the wrong thing and break the spell. He thought of apologizing for ravaging her, but in view of the crime he had committed against her an apology was ludicrously inadequate. What he really wanted to see was, 'Marry me tomorrow,' but having already deprived her of her wedding night, Clayton was resolutely determined that she would have a spectacular wedding, complete with all the splendor and trappings, all the glittering pomp and circumstance, that she was entitled to enjoy as the bride of a duke." (389)

Clayton and Whitney are married two months later. They board marital bliss for five months before Whitney finds she is pregnant. Whitney is reluctant to inform Clayton at first; concerned he won't be pleased with the pregnancy. However, Whitney knows she cannot hide her condition for long. Whitney buys many baby outfits and embroiders a W into the collar of 1 outfit. Whitney then leaves the little outfit in her stationary drawer and sends Clayton to seek out a letter for her. When Clayton opens the drawer, rather than finding the limited outfit, he finds the letter claiming a pregnancy.

Clayton believes the letter written by her was intended for an additional man and becomes enraged with jealousy. Clayton moves out of their bedroom and begins treating Whitney like she may be a stranger. Whitney endures Clayton's annoy after discovering the cause for it, hoping he will soon come to determine the reality. Afterward Clayton's treatment of Whitney becomes unbearable, she leaves their home. Clayton gradually begins to understand that the note wrote by Whitney couldn't be meant for an additional man and he began to see the error in his anger. Clayton looks for Whitney but fails to search out her anywhere. Clayton finally learns that Whitney is staying along with his mother.

"In answer, Clayton opened the top drawer of the night table and with a tender smile, he handed her a small portrait of herself on her wedding day. It was framed in solid gold. On the back of the frame was an inscription from him that read, 'Whitney—my wife and my love.'" (577)

Clayton begs Whitney for forgiveness and finds that she forgave him the instant she learned the source of his anger. a brief time later, Whitney suffers a fall and provides birth to a son prematurely. However, they both survive. Whitney is then given a chest that's crammed with the stories of affection by many generations of Claymore dukes and their duchesses, to which she adds her own romance.

Conclusion

The power of love and passion of love reclaiming their own and it provoke collective unhealthy and anarchic favor, endemic violation, and religious folly these virtues and powers

are also be wasted in excited and delirious idealism. Finally, these same powers of love can fall in their counter-offensive and the conclusion will be any idea of love that goes beyond sex will be judge's even unyielding idea. This article seeks to contextualize this romance novel within the time period of the 1980s and the birth of the post-feminist movement. As women this novel allows her readership to be empowered ignoring the feeling of the pressures and demands of the second wave feminist movement to abandon marriage and motherhood. The characters in *Whitney, my love* mirror the feminist movement and how in the end of the novel envisions the reformed society where women advocate for their rights for sex while also participating in loving relationships.

WORKCITED

Mcnaught, Judith. *Whitney, My Love*, New York: Simon & Schuster, Inc. Free pocket publishing. 1985. Print.

Www. all about romance. Interview of Judith Mcnaught, 2009