

## **Judith Mcnaught's Whitney, My Love is the Theme of Mistrust and Misdirection**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Misdirection and Misunderstanding in love and life was always the central theme of Judith Mcnaught's novels. Hatred of woman, mistrust, misogyny, feminist nightmare is the themes which are highlighted in the novel. She is expanding equality and rights for sex which necessarily demand new class arrangement in the society. In the novel *Whitney, My Love* the rendering of the sad social condition that existed in the patriarchal society is very expressive. There was no better theme for her the inequality between spouse and loving relationship, the greatest social dispute common in both histories and contemporary in entire world. The theme of misunderstanding and mistrust is very realistic and fit for naturalistic literary work. The novel *Whitney, My Love* is apt to express societies the existing truth happen till now in entire families. The awareness about treatment of inequality is created only by literature. Because the elite person come to realize their own flaws done towards the loving person whom they always suspect and misunderstands ready to accept them as equal in all aspects. Then only humanism and love spreads towards the society.

**KEYWORDS:** Hatred of woman (misogyny), suspect, conflict, love and forgiveness, reunion and Ambivalence

### **1.1 Introduction**

“Misogunia” is an ancient Greek word later it termed as “misogyny” which means hatred towards women. Misogyny has taken multiple shape and dimension from such a privilege of male, patriarchy, gender discrimination, molestation, harassment, belittling a woman, domestic violence against women and objectification sexually. The roots of misogyny are tracked from the mythologies of Greek. Misogyny for many years has been evolved as a dogma which has overwhelmed the society as smog which fades their site to aurora., Philosophers of Great, socialist and thinkers who lived in golden era were domesticated by roars of male dominant society narrowed their mind, perception and made them a supporter of the society filled with patriarchy. An ancient Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle, was also a misogynist. He thought women are all as deforms, an incomplete male. He teaches that men should always command and superior, women should follow as they are the inferior than all creatures created

by God. Misogyny was first supported by male, but over years, few females also supported the dogma.

In the United States, specifically women's literature section of bookstore one finds work by a third wave of feminist on activity that usually refers to young woman in 20s and 30s who have grown up their period in history are broadly agreed on social equality. Third wave feminist feels abundantly empowered to offer priority for the individuals of choices. Women are always often associated in the popular mind with a return to tradition and child recording, lipstick and 'feminine styles' these young women have reclaimed the word; girl'... some decline to call themselves feminist what's often called 'chick lit' is flourishing offshoot.

The aim of this article is to transform the established literary tradition and examine how women articulate and respond for these ideologies from variously constitute subject position and quite a few anthologies have been published on post-feminism, patriarch society, misogyny, misunderstanding and mistrust of a man about a woman in domestic life. In this point of view or dimension I would like to explore McNaught's *Whitney, my love* in varied representation of the innocent women from middle class faces a familial problem especially nostalgia in love and all about suspect in chastity.

Judith Spaeth McNaught Smith is shortly named as Judith McNaught (May 10, 1944) born in Sausalito California, United States of America. Her historical fictions portray the woman's experiences and their affection towards Misogynist husband along with patriarchy norms and societal pressures. The analysis of present research paper analyses the Misogyny and Feminist Ambivalence with special reference to McNaught's *Whitney, My Love*. It also highlighted a new development of writing from her historical romance fiction and short stories and also it is focused on feminist nightmare where her heroine forgets and forgives the Misogynist husband and reunites. Nostalgia for true love and struggle for rights to sex are also well expressed.

## **1.2 Misdirection and Mistrust in *Whitney, My Love***

Misdirection is a theme of this novel because it is the one thing that keeps Whitney and Clayton from coming together sooner than they do. Clayton begins this theme by refusing to allow Whitney to know either who he is or that they are betrothed. Clayton is fascinated by Whitney and believes she will make him a good wife and a wonderful mother to his future children. However, Clayton does not believe in love and does not fancy him in love with Whitney.

Clayton does not believe in love, but Whitney does. In fact, Whitney has believed herself to be in love with a neighbor, Paul, since she was very young. Whitney wants to marry Paul which causes her to turn down every marriage proposal made to her from the moment of her public debut. Whitney wants nothing more than to return to England and to convince Paul that she has changed from the scandalous child she once was into a sophisticated beauty. When she

does return to England, Whitney is already promised to Clayton Westmoreland, although she is unaware of this betrothal. Clayton handles this engagement as a business arrangement, paying Whitney's father for the pleasure of becoming her husband. Clayton does not want Whitney to know about this arrangement or the truth about his title because he wants Whitney to come to the marriage willingly. Clayton believes that if Whitney knows the truth about their arrangement, she will refuse to marry him, bringing embarrassment to both Clayton and her own father.

Whitney turns her charms on Paul, quickly pulling him under her spell, causing him to propose within weeks of their reunion. However, Whitney soon learns that Paul's motivation for proposing was not love, but the money he imagined Whitney would provide through her dowry. Finally Whitney realizes the love she thought she felt for Paul was really only her desire to recover her pride after a childhood filled with tragedy and scandal.

At the same time, Clayton has gotten to know Whitney better, and the more he knows her, the more he admires her strength. Clayton becomes jealous at the thought of Whitney and Paul betrothed, causing him to act in ways that go against the honor that normally rules his behavior. Soon after, Clayton realizes his actions are the direct result of his feelings for Whitney. Whitney eventually learns the truth of Paul, but by this time she has begun to have feelings for Clayton.

Unfortunately, Clayton hears a rumor that causes him to misunderstand Whitney's actions and the emotions she claims to feel for him. Clayton has fallen in love with Whitney, but now that he has hurt her, he believes it is too late for their budding relationship. Clayton does not realize that Whitney, too, has come to love him. The couple remains estranged for a while until Whitney is able to convince Clayton of her love for him.

Clayton believes not only that Whitney is engaged to another man but that she has given her virginity to several other men. Clayton has a dark temper, and while operating under this misunderstanding, he steals Whitney away to his private estate and robs her of her virtue. Whitney is humiliated; a humiliation that is deepened when she discovers belatedly that Clayton has decided to back out of their betrothal contract.

At this point, Whitney begins to believe that Clayton has made a fool out of her and that this was his intention all along. It takes several weeks and the support of a good friend to help her see that Clayton's actions were those of a man in love who thought he had done an unforgivable thing (i.e., robbing her of her virtue) to his beloved.

Finally, Whitney and Clayton discuss all these misunderstandings and discover that they have both developed affection for one another. Clayton and Whitney become engaged and are married quickly. After six months of blissful marriage, their relationship is endangered once again; Whitney tries to surprise Clayton with the news that she is expecting their child. When Clayton finds a note Whitney wrote to him, claiming to be with child.

Since their one union before their marriage was not completed, he believes Whitney has written to another man, and that Whitney tricked him into marriage while convinced she was pregnant by another man, but soon Clayton is able to look past his feelings of betrayal and see that Whitney would never betray him. Others declare their love for these two enigmatic people. Whitney is followed throughout Europe by Nicolas Du Ville, a young French man who has refused the affections of all the eligible ladies who have chased after him.

Nicolas finds Whitney as irresistible as Clayton but cannot convince her of his honest intentions. Whitney refuses Nicolas' marriage proposal, ending their friendship and leaving Nicolas brokenhearted. At the same time, Clayton is chased after by several women, including his ex-mistress, the singer Marie St. Allermaine. Clayton entertains the thought of renewing his relationship with St. Allermaine when he believes that Whitney has betrayed him but decides against it in an effort to protect his wife's social reputation.

Clayton does not stop to consider the facts or to discuss this possibility with Whitney. Clayton ends his connections with Whitney, removing her from his life in every way except for their public appearances. In time, Whitney discovers the reason for her husband's anger and decides to allow him to work out the situation on his own, believing he will eventually see the truth without her help, which he finally does as the love blossoms between Whitney and Clayton once again. Whitney has gone into labor two months early after taking a fall down some stairs. Everyone waits anxiously for word. Soon they learn that Whitney has given birth to a healthy son and is doing well. Clayton rushes to be with his wife. Clayton's mother brings Whitney a wooden chest. In that chest there are letters and portraits of previous Duchesses of Claymore written upon the birth of their first born sons and heirs to their father's titles. Whitney reads through them, amused to find the path to love has not been smooth for any of them. Whitney then writes out hers and Clayton's story, adding it to the chest along with a portrait Clayton gives her of herself on her wedding night, inscribed with the words: Whitney, my wife and my love.

### **1.3 Conclusion**

Thus this article is a transform of the established literary tradition and examines how women articulate and respond for the ideologies of patriarchy and societal pressures. McNaught clearly pictures the inequality of man and woman, hatred towards woman, suppression, misunderstanding and mistrust, suspect, chastity and gender discrepancies in this novel. As a woman everyone has nightmare about their life McNaught has beautifully written the nostalgic ideas of women and their dream. *Whitney, My Love* is not a story of fictional character Whitney it is an untold story of many woman who fights for their vary life and the feminist nightmare of many woman.

### **WORKCITED**

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