

Willa's Lucy in Willa: A Brief Psychoanalysis on *Lucy Gay Heart*

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Abstract

My agog and realm of Willa Cather make me to reread and review her writings. This novel *Lucy Gay Heart*, which is usually placed in her later period of her career, attracts the researcher a lot. Willa and Lucy are sailing in the journey of depression. Lucy is a romantic girl wit lot of dreams. But unlike Thea, Lucy is not working hard to reach her dreams. Lucy stops to dream and begins to live a silent life. For Cather, silent speaks more than words. Willa Cather novels attract the readers by its title. *Lucy Gay Heart* also does the same. Every one falls on Lucy and her romance. Harry is dormant, but his silence is remarked in the last part of the story. Both Lucy and Harry are bounded with depressed feelings. This paper is an attempt to bring out psycho analysis on *Lucy Gay heart*

Key Words: Lucy, Harry, Psycho analysis, downheartedness, meaningless.

Introduction

Lucy in *Lucy Gay Heart* remains in the heart of the readers. Willa Cather portrays Lucy as an emotionally packed character. *Lucy Gay Heart* is in Cather's later works. *Lucy Gay Heart* is published in 1931, after the death of her mother. Lucy is introduced as a lovable, cute, romantic girl. Lucy has a strong career goal and she wishes to be a musical girl, she becomes a piano accompanist to Clement Sebastian. Cather creates Thea and Lucy with the same interest and activities. But Thea is the representation of Cather who fights bravely and strongly in achieving her goal. Lucy is also the representation of Cather but in depressed mood. As it is the last

period in Willa's career, Cather cannot proceed with her career, she is emotionally drowned and Lucy also with all lovable qualities is drowned and she dies.

Willa's Lucy in Willa

Willa Cather in most of her novels consummates heroines with great strength both mentally and physically. Alexandra in *O Pioneers!* Antonia in *My Antonia*, Thea in *The Song of the Lark*, is the examples of the strongest women. Lucy is also strong in her passion and her little heart breaks down when she understands that Harry is her lover, she cannot marry him because Harry marries a plain heiress. Lucy has a great depression. Generally nature shapes Cather's novels. In *Lucy Gay Heart*, Lucy's depression and her death construct the novel. The shift in the mind of Cather is clearly depicted by the character of Lucy. Cather cannot digest the death of her mother and in her following years she falls in depressed mood. Lucy is also the same cannot digest the death of her love, so she becomes tired of his life. She soon wishes to forget everything and tries to overcome this sorrow. But the fate follows her and she is drowned in ice skating.

From Lucy's life, reader can find Cather's mind that she is willing to overcome the death of her mother, but soon she is affected by the deaths of her favourite brother Douglass and her friend Mc Clung. Her healthy mind is ruined by these great losses. She died on April 24, 1947. From 1931 to 1947, she lives in a terrific mood that cannot be explained. While viewing her later works, one can have knowledge of Cather's mind and its capacity. In those periods Cather begins to understand the quality of God. Our thinking may be big or small, god wins over the planning and reconciles according to him. He has the full power in changing our plans, goals and mission.

Cather begins to understand God; anyone can plan and drive their life. But God only can twist and dissolve the plan. Lucy plans that she will shine in her musical field and Harry also plans and wishes to marry Lucy. Both the plans are vanished by the wrong decision of Lucy's love with Clement Sebastian. This decision breaks the heart of Harry and his plan is vanished. Sebastian is drowned into an Italian and Lucy swoons. After this incident, she returns to Harvard with the thought that she could marry Harry. She realized her mistake and wishes to rectify her mistake by marrying Harry. Her Plan is vanished and she stuns to know that Harry marries

a plain heiress. With this depressed mood, Lucy returns to Chicago, but unfortunately she takes on skate on the Platte where the ice is thin, she drowns and dies.

Lucy's death creates catastrophic mood to Harry. Harry spends his remaining life in mourning the death of Lucy. Lucy's death enables us to understand how love enters the deep lovable heart and vanishes the strong spirit of living. Harry loses his interest in living. The remembrance of Lucy and his hard heartedness of refusal to help her at the last moment disturb him a lot and he cannot proceed with his present living. He can realize his love for Lucy after her death. Harry's life after some happy events, takes a turn and it leads the readers to come across subverting turns in Cather's life. Cather in her dark period, writes this novel with downheartedness. This melancholy tone is reflected in the character of Lucy and Harry. Thea in *The Song of the Lark* after the death of Ray Kennedy, she continues to struggle in her life and shines at the end. Lucy with the same quality of Thea cannot survive after the death of her heart. She is pictured as a barren effete lady. She cannot think over her life and rise from her present level. Cather with her deep cheerful heart writes this fiction and visualize herself along with Lucy and also with Harry.

Harry has a great emotional sense for his life. He is a cheerful guy and he wishes to start his marriage life with Lucy. When he comes to know from her words that she does not love him, and she falls in love with Sebastian. His heart is broken and with that inactive mind, he has taken an emotional decision for marrying a woman, whom he does not want to spend his minute. Cather yields Lucy and Harry with her distress in life. On looking her life, Cather cannot conflict with her thoughts. Both Lucy and Harry are the creators of Cather to show off her dark life through her writings.

Lucy Gay Heart is a psychological novel of Cather. This work is mostly emphasizing on Cather's mind and her emotional reactions. The circumstances of Cather's life are influenced as characters. The internal flow of mind creates strong external actions which is not able to state their present life. After the death of Cather's mother, Cather thinks that life is meaningless. This meaningless and nothingness are demonstrated by the characters of Lucy and Harry.

Lucy cannot prove her talents; she thinks of her nothingness in her life and moves on silently. Lucy cannot admire her decision. She recollects her happy life and she stops to figure out her future. Her faded mentality kills the flow of thought and this concludes her life. This psychological approach helps the author to discuss the probability of mingling of Cather's mind with Lucy's mentality. The opening of the novel itself proves her depression. It opens twenty five after Lucy's death, but she is remembered by the residents of Harvard. The researcher can see Cather in Lucy.

Willa usually represents the characters who work hard to survive and teach others to survive. In Lucy Gay Heart, Lucy cannot live for others, for she is the representation of the dark period of Willa Cather. From the beginning of the career, Cather learns everything interestingly and struggles for her own life and reaches to her destination. Cather starts Lucy Gay heart in her seventh decade which is considered as the last phase of her career. Cather has a deep trauma and it is reflected in her writings.

Conclusion

The effects of trauma on the author can manifest itself in their writing. Say for instance we learned that Emily Dickinson's mother had killed herself in front of her, this traumatic experience would be influential on her writing and we could interpret her poems with this in mind. (Trauma does not stand so much on its own as it is linked to psychoanalysis. The Unconscious desires, perhaps influenced by trauma, of an author are the true meanings underlying all of their work. (Monde D' alin)

Cather handles language as a tool to display her painful heart. She has pleasant and awful remembrances. Her writings help her to reduce and her heal her inner wounds. Her last days which are filled with trauma collapses her mind. 'A Friend in need is a friend indeed' apt for this saying, Cather uses her writings to get energy and remain peacefully. Literature never leaves her alone and it really helps her in her bad times. Cather feels that she is having a sorrowful mind and she originates Lucy to sing her blues. Lucy's feature affects all the readers.

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