



A study on realism in the play “the rose tattoo”

K. Sampooranam¹ and Manimozhi²

Abstract

The play is a symbolic work of Tennessee Williams. The rose tattooed on the body of the husband is the abstraction of love and affection. Serafina and her daughter Rosa stand for the traditional attitude, and the modern one, respectively. Rosario, her husband, is a truck driver, who, in order to earn enough money for material possessions, so sought after by his, Serafina takes to smuggling goods for the Brother Romanio. He has made sufficient money through his trade and the catastrophic moment coincides with the day he is making his last trip on a smuggling run. On the last trip he is shot, and what would have been a sense of achievement in a worldly life of Serafina, is converted into a lonely existence, deprived of her husband, and of material success that would have followed, had he lie d on Serafina cremates her husband in contradiction to the Christian rites of burial. She collects his ashes in a bottle and makes a latish of them trying to deny his death. From this moment on, she gradually goes into a deeper and deeper isolation, and wants to see that her daughter follows her path of life. She herself becomes a symbol of isolation. The most powerful figure of isolation created by Williams, till Alvaro, another truck driver enters her life.

Keywords

Money, achievement, symbol, success.

^{1,2} Department English, Bharath Institute for Higher Education and Research, Selaiyur, Chennai-600073, Tamil Nadu, India.

Article History: Received 01 October 2020; Accepted 10 December 2020

©2020 MJM.

Contents

1	Introduction	3748
2	Conclusion	3749
	References	3749

1. Introduction

It is important to note that Williams in *The Rose Tattoo*, shows not only the function of isolation in one’s life. And the causes responsible for it, but also presents the view that rehabilitation of such isolated character is clearly possible through love, affection and the will to adjust. Serafina is unable to cope with the pace of the world. In the present world, materialistic success has been one of the indispensable parts of life. She finds herself and her family insecure and depressed in today’s materialistic world. Search of materialistic prosperity causes isolation in her life. The glamour and enchantment of the world attract her very much, and she knows that they can be had only through riches.

The factor of money, which the family of Serafina lacks, causes disturbance in the peace of her family and creates the pangs of isolation in her life. Her curious desire for prosperity leads her to the dangerous outcome. The means that he husband used to earn money are anti-social and illegal. She

knows the facts of the risk to her husband’s life. But she is ready to meet any sort of danger. She barely sees one aspect of the materialistic world but does not shut her eyes to the other aspect which is dangerous. The desire of Serafina for materialistic world but does not shut her eyes to the aspect which is dangerous. The desire of Serafina for materialistic possessions sends her into the worlds of isolation, as she is separated from her husband forever.

Her separation from her husband and baby causes her much torment and pushes her to the door, where isolation reigns. Had Serafina not longed for materialistic success, she would not have met with suffering. Another important factor which causes Serafina to be isolated in her attitude towards life. She is unable to adjust with the norms of the society. Serafina finds herself a misfit in the world around her. Like other southern women, Serafina is also a product of the southern states. Although she is a Sicilian woman, she represents the type and characteristics of a southern woman, who lives in her past. Her inability to adjust with the present way of the world alienates her from her neighbors.

Serafina loved her husband very much but his death comes in her life like a storm, which uproots all the trees of joys and pleasure from her life. She is dragged I into the realm of isolation, frustration, and grief. Even the greatest healer, time, is incapable of curing her. She does not like to have any sort

of rapport with the external world. She dwells within the four walls of her house. She does not imitate the norms of society. She openly rejects the laws of society, and of the church. She had her husband cremated after his death, which is against the law of the church, and the Christian, and the Christian faith. But for the sake of her beloved husband she breaks all the barriers of religion and society. Such sort of an inability to accept the rules and laws of society distances her from the real world, and she withdraws into a life of isolation. That disregard for religion is the cause of her isolation is clear when she goes beyond the pole of religion, and is conspicuous in the indignant speech of Father De Leo. After the death of Rosario, she does not wear new clothes and remains barefooted. She has been so isolated that she fears even contact with people and does not intend to enjoy the company of females. Isolated, Serfina, not only suffers physically but mentally also. She lives within her house like a convict, and does not wish to appear before people.

Serafina, like other isolated characters of Williams, lives with her urn of ashes. She has woven her own world of memories and sweet dreams, She finds her love animate in the urn of ashes. Although, on the one hand, her isolation, her isolated life gets on the other hand shelter in a such world. She purposely creates her own world in order to relive her tension and isolation. Externally, she may appear isolated from the real world, but in her own theatre of dreams there is no place for the existence if isolation. To keep her self-chaste and pious, it becomes indispensable for her to withdraw from the world outside. For the sake of love for her dead husband, she is ready to reject the ways of reality and embraces isolation. She had a firm belief in her husband who loved only her, and never had any sort of illicit relationship with other women.

Serafina, gets the fulfillment of her dreams and desires in the life of isolation. When people make any sort of comment upon her lonely existence, and isolated life, she becomes furious and feels irritated. Her own dream woven world is more important to her than the world outside. Another factor for her isolation seems to be the chastity of her daughter, Rosa. She makes the life of her daughter miserable. She is very much confounded about the chastity and innocence of Rosa. Serafina lives in her past and compels her daughter also to dwell in such a predicament.

‘Another powerful symbol in the play, which reveals the isolation of Serfina, is the bleating goat. The bleating goat is a symbol of destruction, that reminds of the isolation in the life of Serfina after the death of her that reminds of the isolation in the life Serfina after the death the death of her husband. Many of the protagonists of the plays of Williams suffer from isolation, but the playwright does not let them stay in their own world of isolation. He strives to dissipate the causes of their isolation. In most of his plays there appears a character who releases the isolation of other characters. Williams creates Hardrain characters to rescue his characters from the grip of isolation. In the Rose Tattoo Alvaro Mangiacavallo comes a new life for her. In his presence Serfina Della Rose from her

isolated life. He creates a new life for her. In his presence Serfina finds a new healthy life.

Alvaros’ statement, “Love and affection! – in a world that is lonely – and cold! Is the panacea to all the isolated characters in the plays of Tennessee Williams. Williams apparently believes that a true human individual can find living palatable only through his faith in idealism, dreams and illusion. He seems to regard the delusions of his characters as pathetic defends against the shipwreck of their lives. Yet he is modern enough to see that the world of illusion in which his hero or heroine would prefer to live is often as corrupt as the physical mundane world in which they are confined.

2. Conclusion

The isolated characters suffer much. They have both physical and mental tortures. All the isolated characters meet the reward of their isolation whether it may be rigid or soft. Many of the characters receive a harsh and callous reward. And a few attain right and profitable result of their isolation. Blanche DuBois received the violent blow of rape on her chastity. Laure and Amanda are left along at the hands of isolation. A high degree of sensitivity is also responsible for the isolation in the characters. They are so sensitive that slight feelings of rebuke and disregard drag them into the world of defection and despair.

References

- [1] Barnes, Mike (2015-04-10). "Vivian Nathan, Original Member of The Actors Studio, Dies at 98". *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved 2015-04-25.
- [2] League, The Broadway. "The Rose Tattoo – Broadway Play – Original — IBDB". www.ibdb.com. Retrieved 2018-10-09.
- [3] Kirby, Walter (July 5, 1953). "Better Radio Programs for the Week". *The Decatur Daily Review*. p. 40. Retrieved July 5, 2015 – via Newspapers.com. The Rose Tattoo 1966 Playbill Vault accessed 11/23/2016
- [4] League, The Broadway. "The Rose Tattoo – Broadway Play – 1966 Revival — IBDB". www.ibdb.com. Retrieved 2018-10-09.

ISSN(P):2319 – 3786

Malaya Journal of Matematik

ISSN(O):2321 – 5666

