Analysis of Gothic Novels

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Introduction

The essay discusses the concept of parents and parenthood about Gathic ambivalence. The discussion aimed at comparing and contrasting three key texts in the literature. The texts include Frankenstein, the Sicilian Romance, and the Twilight. The period of Gothic literature gave rise to many timeless exploitations concepts that have since have relevance till the modern literature\(^1\). The concept deeply assessed the ambivalence of parents and parenthood. The literature explores feelings and attitudes that contradict each other. For instance, According to Frankenstein, the parent are viewed as the creator of children, and therefore they owe them something. The notion is a gothic perspective that reflects opposing and complex sentiments surrounding parenthood\(^2\). The purpose of this essay will then give a detailed discussion of the three text to get the understanding of their contradicting views on parents and parenthood. In the text of Frankenstein, the essay will talk about the death of Victors mother, Sicilian romance will give a view on single parentage and how it affected Julia and finally, twilight will explain how absence of motherly love affected Mina.

The Novel by Frankenstein

The novel talks about the modern Prometheus. The book was written by an English author and literature of science expert known as Merry Shelly. [The story talks about Victor Frankenstein who is being introduced as a young scientist\(^3\). Victor creates a grotesque in the form of the

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1. Dear, Nick. Frankenstein, based on the novel by Mary Shelley. Faber & Faber, 2011
sapient creature through his scientific unorthodox of experience. The first will be on grief. The second point of reference will be on companionship and finally adoption.

Grief is introduced in the whole context in victor’s life. He lives in a wealthy family with the love of his parents. His parent encouraged him and the brothers to seek the better understanding of science in throughout the world⁴. Victor left the university of Ingolstadt when his mother had already died leaving him with a lot of grief. The absence of her mother made him to take much time with the scientific experimental to bury himself from the grief that he faced by his mother's death. The little science that Victor developed in the university makes him create a creature of human kind. Victor then abandons the monster to the forest where it stay alone with no motherly love and full of rejection and grief.⁵ It is evident that Victor could have also created the human creature so as to pay back the love that he had for his mother. The creation brings the meaning of gothic understanding that Victor owed his mother a life and needed to create one to replace it. Also, victor could have abandoned the creature to leave alone since he also had no mother.

The novel talks about the companion. The monster created by Victor needs love and therefore tells Victor to create for him a female companion. The monster sees Victor as his parent and believes that he is surely the creator who can bring him a new companion⁶. The monster needs love that he sees from Victor and Caroline who are like his parents. This is a parental influence.

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⁵ Milbank, Alison. Gothic femininities. na, 2007

to the children even on the modern world. The monster ordered for Victor to give her a companion, or else he punished all his friends and ruin him. He hates the life that Victor abandoned him to live. He needed parental love, care, and happiness.

Adoption is the third concept in the novel, Victor's parents adopted two children to provide parental care for them this made them feel human and happy that Caroline ended up falling in love with Victor. The adopted kids show the concept of ambivalence parents as the adopted kids missed the motherly love. The monster was abandoned by Victor whom he viewed as his giver of life and the only parental figure in the whole life. In the forest far away that nobody gave him love, making him turn into a deadly creature. From the novel, It is essential for every creature to have a motherly love and parental care to grow happily with others.

**The Sicilian Romance**

The gothic novel written by Ann Radcliffe was first published in 1790. It talks about the young woman known as Julia. She is being pressurized to get into an engagement by her tyrannical father who is referred to as the Marquis of Mezzini. Julia then flees to convert into an escape.

The novel addresses three major points. The first point will be on abusive parents, the second point will be on damsels in distress and arranged marriage.

Abusive parents came in the novel at the part where Julia’s father, Marquis is very severe and treating all her three children badly. The absence of Julia’s mother greatly affects her life. She did not have anyone to protect her interest. The father even imprisoned one child in the dungeon.

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7 Milbank, Alison. *Gothic femininities*. na, 2007

for a long period. The father wishes to readily sacrifice his children's happiness and freedom at all cost. The novel represents how absence of mothers can be of influence to children. Julia did not have her mother to defend her from the father harassment. He forced them to do everything. Even in the modern world, children with no mothers suffer a lot from their father who do not understand all their needs. The idea is common to the modern worlds where parents forces their kids to go to their undesired schools and even do some courses unwillingly. The children have always forced to forego their happiness to make their parent happy. This is poor parentage that does not lead to a happy stay in the family.

The second concept is about the Damsel in Distress. Julia is subjected to a lot of trouble when over the whole course of the novel. Her mother is not around to stop the intentions of her father to force her into unplanned marriage. She is forced her to make a decision of escaping. The servant helped her to escape the castle. The distress followed when she bumped into bandits who wanted to rape her. The presence of her mother into the family would have stopped her from all distress. She could have somebody to defend her from the wrath of her father. This is an evidence of parents who think that the own everything from their children. The father thinks that being that he gave birth to Julia, he has the power to control all her actions and make them do whatever he wanted. In the modern societies, parents still know that they are the final decision makers to their children.

Arranged marriage is their concept in the novel. Julia's father knows that he owns Julia since he gave her life. Therefore her went ahead to arrange a marriage for her in thinking that he is

Comment [5]: summary.

Comment [6]: Your focus should have been the undead mother not the tyrannical father

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making the right choice for her daughter. This is the right choice according to Marquis, but Julia sees it as lack of freedom. The kind of parentage being shown in the context is parent deserve the powers of decision making. They want to take control of all that happens to their children.

According to Sicilian Romance, the novel shows that mother are very significant in the family. Julia’s mother was absent in the family making her father to take all control. Absence of her mother makes her to have no shoulder to lean on and no body to take care of her and the siblings. They are abandoned to the hands of the dad who is so cruel. Motherly love is very important for the wellbeing of the children.

**The Twilight**

The Twilight is a gothic horror movie of four vampires and novel that was written by Meyer 2005. The novel introduced a famous character Bella, and it creates several convictions of subsequent vampire fantasy. The Twilight story is told when Bella moves to forks to stay with her father when her mother decided to move on with a young baseball player. The novel addresses, fight for love, romance, and unity.

Bella is abandoned by her mother in Arizona where they were staying together. As a result, she is forced to move to a seek for the love of her father who stay in forks. In forks, even though she finds peace by falling in love with Edward, she faced a lot of distress from other vampires who

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hunted for her. A group of sadistic vampires are after Bella and want to kill her. She leads a dangerous life immediately after she separates from her mother. If her mother could have taken Bella with her, she could have led a peaceful life entirely.

Romance comes in the novel when Bella falls in love with Edward. Her mother abandoned her but she later finds a man who cares for her and loves her very much. Edward does everything to protect Bella from Coven who hunts her all through. Edwards acts as the parental figure and husband to Bella since he takes all the concerns of Bella. He takes care for her, protects her and offer her the love she needed.

Unity is evident when Edward and other Cullen comes out to defend Bella. The four Vampires follows Bella even when she escapes back to phoenix where she falls in hands of James who wanted to kill her. Edward through his friend takes care of Bella and kills James. This is what a parent can do to his or her kid. Edward took all responsibilities of Bella after she was abandoned by her mother.

**Conclusion**

In summary, the essay discussed the three conceptual frameworks of literature in parent and parenthood. From the views on the text, the understanding of absence of motherly love and care of different families has been discussed and how they affect the lives of their children in their daily life. It is right to assume that, existence of mothers in the family is necessary for the wellbeing of children. Also, as much as the parents are the main givers of life, they should understand their children and create a free relationship between them. They are the giver of life

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and therefore to keep the life happy, they must help in maintain the love and care that is needed by their children they should not take the advantage of being the givers of life to mistreat their children. Maintaining good parentage with all the parents available to care for their children leads to happy and unity in families.

Reference


Dear, Nick. *Frankenstein, based on the novel by Mary Shelley*. Faber & Faber, 2011.


