

The Failure of Love Theme in Selected Works of Edith Wharton

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Abstract

Edith Wharton's works focus on the internal moral struggles of well-bred characters. She studies how these struggles play out in the everyday lives of people, looking at how the choices people make affect their own morality and the morality of those around them. Her stories often take place in high-class social circles in New York City. Her characters are often expected to behave in a particular way, following the conventions of their culture, even if they do not agree with some of them. *The House of Mirth* is a novel that tells the story of Lily Bart and Lawrence Selden. Their love for each other was intense, but it was also born out of a difficult life. The pressures of poverty and social isolation caused Lily to feel desperate and unable to cope. In addition, *Ethan Frome* is a story about love that never fully flourished. It is a sad story because the people in it never managed to find lasting happiness together. There is a triangle situation in which one person is stuck in a marriage where there is a lot of anger and resentment. Ethan's moral obligation to take care of his sickly, complaining wife prevents him from having any chance of happiness with Mattie Silver. He knows that if he abandons his wife, she would likely end up in poverty and without the care she needs. Ethan was constantly stressed out and did not have any free time to himself. He was missing out on important experiences that could have made him happier. Again, the love triangle between Archer Newland, May

Welland, and Ellen Olenska, in *The Age of Innocence*, is tragic because it caused a lot of hurt and sadness to both, Archer and Ellen. The social constraints of their time, which limited their happiness, were to blame. Newland Archer and Ellen Olenska had a deep, love relationship, but Archer was sadly trapped in a marriage to Ellen's cousin, May Welland. He could not break free from his obligations to her. Therefore, the reality of the situation was too overwhelming to bear; the only thing that seemed to make any sense was to keep dreaming. This thesis provides in-depth feminist and psychological analysis of the individuals' struggles, both within themselves and in relation to society, as well as their failure to achieve their happiness in love. It also utilizes the historical approach to shed light on the ways in which sexism, classism, and other forms of discrimination impact the way individuals experience love and relationships. The thesis provides valuable insights into the complexities of love and relationships, and provides a useful resource for researchers and students interested in this area.

Key Words: Constraints, Failure, Love, Society, Struggle.