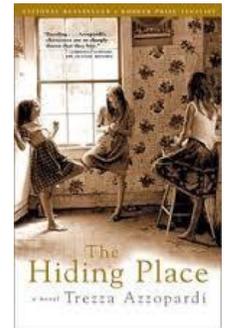




REVISITING SHIRLEY JACKSON'S THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE

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HOLIDAYS, HIDING PLACES AND NO RESOLUTION



Social Science



SHIRLEY JACKSON (1916–1965)

‘fictions used gothic and dystopian motifs to expose the hidden darkness of her society’

Time opened its piece with the line ‘*When busy Housewife Shirley Jackson finds time for a new novel, she instinctively begins to id-lib*’

Denial of the Freudian

But for a psychosocial social scientist – could the psychoanalytic be a starting point to resolve a lack of resolution?



INVITING FREUD AND KLEIN TO HILL HOUSE

Unconscious proper and the repressed unconscious

Only accessible through *dreams, neurotic symptoms* and *free association*

Mechanisms of defence

Sublimation

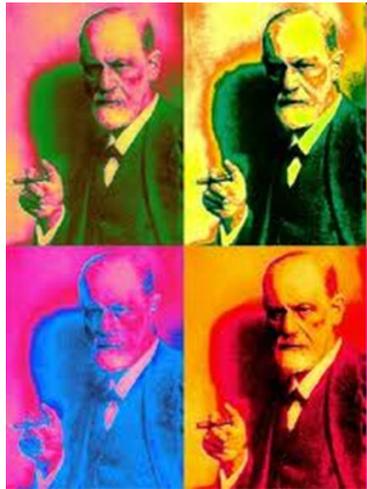
Repression

Suppression

Denial

Projection

Splitting



UNDERSTANDING ELEANOR

Eleanor – *‘I would never have suspected it of myself, she thought laughing still; everything is different, I am a new person, very far from home’*

But the question of ‘who we are is tied to the memory of who we have been and imagination of what we might become’ (Henriques et al. 1998, xviii)

‘I am’ includes all that has made me so. It is more than a statement of immediate fact: it is already biographical’ (Berger 1972, p. 370)

And the future is always haunted by ghosts of the past

If not paranormal, psychological

MISALIGNMENT AND ALIGNMENT

Manic juxtaposition

Bad turned angle

A place of despair

Not a fit place, for people, or love, or hope

Get away from here, get away from here

Projection?

Outward manifestation of inner conflict

How does the house speak of and to Eleanor?



UNACCEPTABLE FEMININITIES

Place, class, culture, age, aesthetics

Ideologies of the Welsh Mam, 'who should do the dishes'

Capacity to care

For Eleanor at 32, in 1950s America...

No husband, child, mother, job, friends

Repressed sexuality

Trapped as 'infant'

'the unacceptable other'



RED, REBELLION, REPRESSION AND HAUNTING

Excited at her daring...

Wanting to wear such things, I never did before...

Mother would be furious

Horrible, wicked, dirty and foolish

My mother....

Dirty dishes...

What would my mother say... would never let me

Repression/Suppression

Haunted by ghosts of the past



FANTASY, PROJECTION, DENIAL AND SPLITTING

Creation of an alternative past and future life

[I] found Theodora and now I will not let her go

I hate her, she sickens me; she is all washed and clean wearing my red sweater

Luke – *pathways of the heart... journeys end in lovers meeting*

Selfish man... grow up by yourself... very lonely person



CHOOSING A HOME

A rational and agentic choice for the defended subject

I want to be some place where I belong

A home – *I haven't a home versus I am home*

A ready made family – widower and two children

A reconciliation – *'Mother, Mother' she whispered 'Mother'*

Reclaiming the fantasy - *everything is different, I am a new person*



AND...



Thank you
for
listening!



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