

## VIRGINA WOOLF'S MRS DALLOWAY AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIETY.

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**Annotation:** Virginia Woolf was a modernist writer. She used a stream-of-consciousness writing style, in which she focused on character development rather than plot development. She also wrote feminist and political essays, letters, and diary entries. Mrs. Dalloway, through its depiction of Clarissa and Septimus, who can be seen as foils for each other, and of the political atmosphere in Britain during the 1920s, explores the fragmented yet fluid nature of time and the interconnectedness of perception and reality across individuals and social spheres.

**Key words:** Trauma, patriarchy, socialist, parliament, feminist, modernist.

Mrs. Dalloway is one of Virginia Woolf's most important works. In it, the writer Trauma Theory. In a patriarchal society, it shows the disadvantaged groups that women and men are subordinate to. In 1916, Virginia Woolf wrote about the identity that covers all true works of art. Some writers' books (he was talking about Charlotte Bronte at that time) change with each reading. The plot is very familiar, but the emotional revelations in it change.

Scenes that were once insignificant begin to take on new meaning, as if time itself were the missing ingredient to make sense of them. Woolf described the works to which she returned again and again:

With each new reading, some change is felt in them, as if the juice of life flows in their leaves, and with the sky and plants, they are able to change their form and color from season to season. To record impressions of Hamlet as he read them year after year would almost be writing his own autobiography, for as we know more of life, so Shakespeare interprets what we know.

For me, Mrs. Dalloway is a book that I've mapped out the twists and turns of my autobiography over the years. I found hits of recognition on the page every time, but they were always new ones, never ones I remembered. Instead, some forgotten side of the story emerges and always feels like a blur of what was right in front of me.

This is because "Mrs. Dalloway is a very broad and strange book. Nothing you can read in the summary plot will prepare you for much of what is in it. In fact, on the surface, it seems suspiciously dull. One day in June 1923. The Great War is over, but its unprecedented devastation remains. A middle-aged woman goes out to get flowers. An almost-married man comes to visit. He remembers the attractive girl he once kissed. In the midst of all this, he learns of the stranger's violent death. In between these simple

plot points, Clarissa Dalloway wanders around London to rest and listen to the clocks ticking over and over again.

But wait, I'll leave everything out. Let me go back to the beginning.

When I first read Virginia Woolf, it was for unusual reasons. I knew he was crazy. I wanted to know exactly how. Some dark wing was passing over me that fall. The middle list of experience suddenly dropped. I guess I didn't need to sleep anymore. My brain buzzed and hissed horribly. Everything seemed to depend on everything else, but I did not dare to explain. I was seventeen, eighteen years old. I worked the early shift at a bakery and rode my bike there until dawn, the hum of the darkness around me soft and inviting. Why are you crying for no reason? Rubbing my hands over my face, I think.

I thought I should tell someone about the whining, whining and whining, but I couldn't bring myself to do it. Instead, I went to the university library one night and checked out books that I thought might hold clues to what was in store for me. "Mrs. Dalloway" was one of these. Before I sat down to read it properly, I happened to open it, and this sentence was occultly given to me: "The world shook and trembled and threatened to burst into flames."

As I read the words, I felt my loneliness recede a little.

I went back to the first presentation of Septimus Smith, the world-bound, shell-shocked soldier on whom Woolf poured out many of her experiences of madness. In the first scene, he is standing in the same street as Mrs. Dalloway. They don't know each other (they never meet), but in a moment they bond briefly, both startled by the sound of gunfire in the back of a car. Here's a first look at it:

Septimus Warren Smith, about thirty years old, pale, with a snub-nosed face, wearing brown shoes and a worn overcoat, with brown eyes that frighten even complete strangers. The world raised a whip; where does it go? Yes, it is. That's what I thought. I started the book from the beginning and found that the darkness that had gathered around Septimus was woven into other story threads that didn't really interest me. All these old people talking about houses and parties and hats - what do they have to do with me? I skimmed through these other stories, noting here and there the wonderful beauty of the language, then ran ahead to find the Septimus chapters. His sad thoughts seemed beautiful to me. I wrapped myself in an old blanket and read all night, hoping that the end would not be bad for him.

Mrs. Dalloway, a novel by Virginia Woolf, was published in 1925. It follows a day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway, an upper-class Londoner who is married to a Member of Parliament. Mrs. Dalloway is essentially plotless; what kind of action happens mainly in the mind of the characters. The novel explores the nature of time in personal experience through multiple intertwining stories, particularly as Clarissa

prepares and hosts a party for Septimus Warren Smith, a traumatized war veteran. The two characters can be seen as foils to each other.

In the 2013 book *London Fiction*, edited by Andrew Whitehead and Jerry White, Heather Reyes writes of Mrs. Dalloway:

"As one of London's great novels, Mrs. Dalloway not only takes us on a delicious tour of the capital's sights, but captures the feeling of being 'alive' better than any major work of fiction I can think of." stimulated by the energy, diversity and complexity of urban life.

Peter hears the ambulance on its way to collect Septimus' body and is shocked at the level of civilization in London. He goes to Clarissa's party, where most of the main characters of the novel are gathered. Clarissa works hard to make her party a success, but is unhappy with her role and is all too aware of Peter's critical eye. All the partygoers, especially Peter and Sally Seton, failed to fulfill their youthful dreams to some extent. Although the social order is undoubtedly changing, Elizabeth and members of her generation are likely to repeat the mistakes of Clarissa's generation. Sir William Bradshaw arrives late and explains that one of his wife's patients, a young veteran (Septimus), has committed suicide. Clarissa retreats to the privacy of a small room to think about Septimus' death. He realizes that he is overwhelmed by life and that people like Sir William make life unbearable. She meets Septimus and admires him for not risking her soul. She feels responsible for his death in her comfortable position as a society hostess. As the guests begin to leave, the party is drawing to a close. Clarissa enters the room and her presence fills Peter with excitement.

In conclusion, the Mrs. Dalloway novel gives an evidence of patriarchal societies which treats women as nobodies. Also, women are denied a chance to express their ideas and feelings towards different issues in their society. The author herself did not attain formal education as it was allowed to males only.

#### **Used literature**

1. <https://www.litcharts.com/lit/mrs-dalloway/summary>
2. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mrs-Dalloway-novel-by-Woolf>
3. <https://www.gradesaver.com/mrs-dalloway/study-guide/summary>
4. <https://ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT1802257.pdf>.