

Southern Gothic Genre as a Key to Unlock the Post Civil War American South: A Reading of William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily"

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Abstract: *The paper entitled, "Southern Gothic Genre as a Key to Unlock the Post Civil War American South: A Reading of William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily"" attempts to showcase the way in which the story represents the Post Civil War America and explores the psyche of the society as well as its people. As a Southern Gothic short story, it is much different from the Gothic genre and deals with more intense themes than the obvious element of horror. The paper is divided into three sections. The first section deals with the historical background of America, particularly the Civil War which had a lasting impact on the American society. It also differentiates the Southern Gothic genre from its parent Gothic genre. The second section discusses Faulkner's story "A Rose for Emily"; the development of the characters as well as the twisted narrative style. The final section attempts a detailed analysis on how the story, as a Southern Gothic one, represents the Post Civil War American South.*

Keywords: *American Literature, Civil War, Horror, Southern Gothic, William Faulkner*

1. INTRODUCTION

Gothic literature is one of the most celebrated genres in English considering its popularity and reach. Even though it originated in England in the second half of the eighteenth century, it witnessed much acceptance and success in the nineteenth century with the works of Mary Shelley and Edgar Allen Poe. Frankenstein and Dracula are some of the major examples of Gothic Literature. The door of American literature was wide open to this genre which later found much success. But, the Southern Gothic Literature is an exclusive genre that belongs to the repertoire of American Literature. With the works of writers like Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner and Flannery O'Connor, this genre found much acceptance across the world.

Southern Gothic stories are concerned with subjects much beyond the apparent horror. Gothic stories exhibit sinister themes in a grotesque, macabre as well as supernatural setting. Even though the Southern Gothic has adopted much from the Gothic; horror and fear is mostly instigated in the former rather dexterously through the presentation of socially detestable themes and delusional characters. Since the setting is the American south, it tries to explore the social conflicts and issues related to that place. Racial conflict is apparently one of the most unavoidable themes. It exposes the problems of the society through complex characters. Moreover, it unveils the fragile social order following the war which was highly detrimental

to all the institutions of the society. Instead of the gothic castles, Southern Gothic stories present the decay of the southern plantations in the Post Civil War period. Apart from the plantations, the setting could be somewhere peculiar to the South like an old slave quarters or a broken downtown. The history of the South is presented through the setting in the story. Society plays a much bigger role in Southern Gothic stories when compared to its parent genre. In many of these stories, society acts as an antagonist.

It would not be clever to read Southern Gothic literature in isolation from its history. In order to appreciate this genre fully, one must understand the history of the American South and specifically that of the Post Civil War period. The Civil War was the result of the differing ideologies of the South and the North. The southern states were mostly plantations and were agriculture-based; hence most of the slavery was rooted in this part of America. Many of the conscious-stricken northerners despised this practice of slavery and demanded for its abolishment which the southerners were too unwilling to concede. Seven southern states seceded from the union and formed the confederacy which was later joined by four more states. This was the immediate cause behind the outbreak of the Civil War since the Union was not in a position to admit this schism. The northerners had the technological upper hand and also they did enormously outnumber the southerners which made the result quite obvious. The bloody war had a serious devastating effect on the South which literally destroyed it. By 1864 the original northern goal of a limited war to restore the Union had given way to a new strategy of “total war” to destroy the Old South and its basic institution of slavery and to give the restored Union a “a new birth of freedom,” as President Lincoln put it in his address at Gettysburg to dedicate a cemetery for Union soldiers killed in the battle there. The Post Civil War period was a major episode in the history of America which had profound implications on its society, infrastructure, personal life, government, economy and even literature. It led to several racial, personal as well as social issues.

The Civil War was successful in unifying both the parties politically but their ideological and emotional divide was not completely resolved and in some cases further worsened. The northerners were very much into the celebration of their victory which they considered as a noble one but there were many who made use of this situation for their personal benefits. Many of them moved to the South not just for the political purpose of its reconstruction but for their own fortunes. They considered it to be a great opportunity to make a rapid profit since the South was abundant in both need as well as resources. New railroads and factories were built in the South as part of its reconstruction. Building new factories, especially textile, in the South was considered as extremely lucrative for the northern investors since the raw materials were within their close proximity which obviously reduced the excess cost of transportation. As Barnes states:

The destitution of the South after the war was horrendous, leaving many whites from both upper and lower classes suffering in its aftermath. Those few who managed to find a measure of prosperity during this time did so through employment with the Northern owned and operated businesses that were pouring into the South, indicating a shift in social hierarchy from the now non-existent slavocracy to urban industrial interests. (“The Salient Features...”)

But this encroachment of their land as well as the curtailment of their privileges were not pleasantly welcomed by the southerners which led to their constant suspicion of the ‘Yankees’ as the northerners were being addressed. There was always an element of fear and

distrust towards the northerners which also led to a constant insecurity among the southerners. The idea of Xenophobia was quite evident in their approach towards the Yankees.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the South was witnessing the complexities of a changing world order. Many of them, especially the previous slave owning families, had a tough time since their rights were highly restricted and they no more have any legal rights upon the slaves whom they previously bought as mere commodities and were treated as part of their property. Hence, the freeing of slaves was a terrible monetary as well as social loss for the southern aristocracy. Owning slaves was part of their social esteem in which they didn't find any wrong. Most of them couldn't accept this reality of curtailing a privilege that they enjoyed and inherited for generations. It was quite natural that they struggled hard to maintain their previous social status which often resulted in grave disappointment. They considered the new laws as an imposition of the northern morality thrust upon the South.

Race was yet another issue which had a profound implication on the South. Emancipation was a great relief to the slaves who now has, at least, some sort of control over their life. Legally, they were protected from forced labor even though it was not always practiced so. The black people who were emancipated from the clutches of slavery were not completely free of all the chains that strangled them and were obviously in a liminal space where their power and role in the society was always under question. Sharecropping was introduced out of the great necessity to cultivate the lands which no more has the privilege of slave labor. The previous slaves now have the liberty to cultivate any crops according to their wish but most of them were devoid of land. Also, the former masters were in need of someone to cultivate their large masses of lands and hence they made an arrangement with the blacks for a sharecropping facility with an agreement to pay nearly half to two-thirds of the profits in return. But this system essential brought the freed slaves back into the system of slavery since many of them failed to pay the debts to their masters due to various adverse and unfortunate conditions. According to Barnes

Without land, freed slaves were left little choice but to work within the contract system, which left much to be desired in relation to their rights. Rather than enact the massive social and land reform that would be required for the labor intensive cotton crops under a new wage-labor system, an alternative caste labor system resembling peonage was developed, maintaining the status of ex-slaves as wage less workers, chained by debt to the land of their previous masters. ("The Salient Features...")

Even the emancipation laws had several loopholes which permitted the practice of slavery. Convict leasing was yet another problem which brought the blacks to situations almost near to slavery and the hard part was that it was legally approved. The blacks were sent for forced labor even for petty crimes, most of which wouldn't even belong to the category of crime according to any modern standards. Being homeless, or having a house that seemed too expensive, being unemployed, vagrancy etc. were considered as crimes that may end up one facing the punishment of convict leasing. Racial hostility was always an issue and it was not uncommon for a black being addressed as a 'nigger' along with all the other possible derogatory racial references.

Along with all these instances of racial discrimination and injustice, there were many who decided to stay back and serve their old masters, maybe because of their helplessness or due to their social conditioning. Most of these classes of slaves belonged to the category that served their masters not in the plantations but in the households and were obviously much better off than the former ones.

The condition of women were also not very appealing, especially in the South while their northern counterparts were comparatively better off. The irregular fights during the Civil War period forced many southern women to suffer badly since the sole breadwinner of the family was no more in position to earn for their needs. In the Post Civil War period their condition was psychologically depressing. Many of them were in an extremely unprivileged position and had no real command over their lives. They were suppressed by the demonic hands of patriarchy which rendered them passive. It will not be an exaggeration to say that they were silenced by the men folks who didn't take the plight of women into consideration rather acted according to their whims and fancies. They were even denied the rights to make a decision in their own life and had to blindly follow what the male folks in the family as well as the society demands. In this dubious situation it is quite natural that they repressed their feelings and sometimes their sexuality, since the society doesn't approve it. Hence, personal life was a great question which was always under uncertainties. The war led a number of women to spinsterhood and as Anne Firor Scott puts it, there was a war provoked "crisis in gender" (97). Many women came to the political front and took up various roles which were earlier considered to be an exclusive privilege of the male folks. But even among them there was ambiguity in the changing gender role and many were too reluctant to change rather stayed within their cloistered shells.

The Southern Gothic stories are a dexterous representation of the societal as well as personal condition of the South mainly during the Post Civil War period. It discusses the conflicts faced by the fading aristocracy and their reluctance to change. William Faulkner's short story "A Rose for Emily" is one such skillful narrative that vividly presents the condition of the South which was in the process of reconstruction and change. But many characters in this story including the protagonist are too unwilling to accept the changing social order. There are various covert motifs hidden in the story which describe the multi-faceted conflicts faced by the people of South.

"A Rose for Emily" as the Portrait of a 'Fallen Monument'

"A Rose for Emily" is a typical example of narrative brilliance without which the story would have lost its real charm. Faulkner adopted such a narrative style with lots of twists and turns to bring a true effect to the story. Even though the story is divided into five parts there is no linear progression of time and one can experience a masterful usage of narrative techniques like flashback and foreshadowing. Also, the story is narrated from the perspective of the townsfolk which helps in maintaining the mystery in Emily's life.

The story begins with the death of Emily Grierson for whose funeral the people have gathered. They have convened in Miss Emily's house which was not open to any strangers (in fact, all of them were strangers to Emily) for a long time. Taking this into consideration, the people were more excited to be in that forbidden house than being sympathetic about Emily's death. The house was exceptionally majestic and manifested the pomp and grandeur of the

southern aristocracy with the conspicuous signs of its decay as well. Her tax obligation at the city of Jefferson was suspended by Colonel Sartoris after her father's death, claiming that her father had already paid a good sum of money as charity. This story was obviously cooked up by the Colonel which offered Emily a great opportunity to evade paying her dues. But when the new authorities came to power, this fake story was not enough to convince them so they very politely sent her a tax notice only to see that Emily was indifferent to it. When members of the Board of Aldermen pay her a visit, Emily reasserts the fact that she is not required to pay taxes in Jefferson and that the officials should talk to Colonel Sartoris about the matter. However, it has been a decade since Colonel Sartoris died. Emily was headstrong and was not willing to concede to the demands of the Alderman. Then, she asks her servant, Tobe to send them out.

In the second part, the story goes thirty years back when the entire neighbourhood was troubled by a powerful odor emanating from Emily's property. This incident occurred two years after her father's death and a while after her lover, whom the townsfolk thought would marry her, had abandoned her. At first, the people decided to let it go but the smell was too deep and gross so much so that many complaints reached the Mayor. Assuming that it was due to a dead mice or snake that the Negro had killed in the backyard, he decided to speak to him. But when more complaints came up to him, he decided to find an ultimate end to this chaos and arranged four men, who in the dark sneaked into Emily's property and sprinkled lime. While returning, they saw the silhouette of Emily in a window with the light in the background which she turned on a while ago. Eventually, the smell subsided and the people felt sorry for her. The townspeople began to pity the increasingly reclusive Emily, remembering how her great aunt had succumbed to insanity. The Griersons thought too highly of themselves to which Emily's father was no exception and he proudly driven off all the suitors that came up for Emily since he considered them to be of no match for his daughter who belonged to the Grierson family. Due to this relentless nature of her father, Emily remains unmarried even by the time she turns thirty, which was quite unusual at that time. When her father died, the people came to her house to offer their condolences but Emily didn't let them in, saying that her father was not dead and behaved very normally even without a sign of grief on her face. But after three days she had to let them in and they managed to bury his body.

After her father's death, she was rendered sick for a long time. She even cut her hair short which gave her a tragic yet serene angelic look. That summer, a construction company from the north, under the supervision of a Yankee named Homer Baron, came for paving the sidewalks. Homer became a popular figure in the town and was seen taking Emily for buggy rides on Sunday afternoons and it didn't took much time for the townsfolk to start gossiping about their relationship. Some of them were happy to see her transformation but others, especially the old ones, were worried about her relationship with someone much beyond her status. The setting immediately changes to a drugstore where she asks for poison. When asked specifically, she demands for Arsenic, a powerful poison. She is required by law to reveal what she will do with a poison like arsenic. She offers no explanation, and the package arrives at her house labeled "For rats."

The people thought that she will kill herself with the poison that she bought. Her chances of marriage to Homer seemed extremely unlikely, despite their regular buggy rides and the people started to pity her again. Some of them even asked a Baptist minister to have a chat

with her, who, after the meeting, decided not to go back again. The minister's wife wrote to Emily's cousins in Alabama who came up to stay with her for a while and the people presumed that she is certainly going to marry Homer this time. Also, their doubt was further clarified by the fact that she bought an expensive silver toilet set monogrammed with Homer's initial on it. The people became absolutely sure about their marriage when she bought a complete men's outfit with a nightshirt. Again, an element of confusion was left behind since Homer was out of station which they presumed to be a preparation for their shifting to the north after marriage and also to avoid her annoying relatives. But three days later, Homer got back and that was the last time people saw him. Later on, Emily was seen very rarely outside. She started growing plump and her hair started turning grey. She occasionally offered china-painting lessons to some children and once she stopped doing that, her contact with the outside world became almost over. As usual, she never acknowledged the regular tax notices that she got. Except for the occasional glimpse of her in the window, nothing is heard from her until her death at the age of seventy-four. The only connect with Emily's home and the outside world was the Negro who occasionally goes in and out with a market basket. Nobody knew anything about Emily and there was no point in asking the Negro who never reveals anything about her.

The last chapter takes the reader back to the initial setting of Emily's funeral. When Emily died, the Negro let the people in and was not seen any more after that. After her burial, the people were eager to see the room upstairs where no one has been to, in the last forty years. They had to break in to that dusty room to witness the gross mysteries hidden there. They found out that the room was furnished as for a bridal and saw the silver toilet set that she bought for Homer along with the clothing. But what startled them was the sight of a decayed dead body lying on the bed. What surprised them more was the realization that Emily slept with the dead body since they found an indentation of a head on the pillow next to it and a long strand of Emily's iron grey hair.

This story is a typical example of a Southern Gothic genre and the writer covertly as well as overtly discusses various themes concerning the American South mainly during the Post Civil War era. It is a beautiful representation of the nature and vulnerabilities of that place. Faulkner also explores the psyche of his characters which, in fact, reflects the personal as well as the social psyche of the south. The following chapter attempts a deeper analysis on how this story represents the American south.

Delineation of the Post Civil War American South in "A Rose for Emily"

The nature and conditions of the American South, particularly during its reconstruction phase, was extremely peculiar and is always a subject of great interest to scholars and historians. It was marked by their unwillingness to accept the defeat of the confederacy and the change in the laws that curtailed much of their privileges. The personal life and identity was highly ambiguous during this time. Southern Gothic stories present all these rapid torrents and turbulence in the society where the physical, social and legal infrastructure was fragile and was in a process of reconstruction.

Faulkner's short story, "A Rose for Emily" is one such great examples of Southern Gothic genre that reflected the nature and vulnerabilities of the South. It deals with issues like racial conflict, gender disparity, insecurity, fear of strangers, reluctance to change etc. Writers like

Faulkner convey their ideas not just through the content of the story but also through the superficial elements like narrative style, symbols etc. The setting of this story is also very important since it is a typical southern one that would readily offer the required ambience for the story. The setting in this story is an old aristocratic house, somewhere in the Deep South, in a fictitious place called Jefferson in the Yoknapatawpha County. “It was a big, squarish frame house that had once been white, decorated with cupolas and spires and scrolled balconies in the heavily lightsome style of the seventies, set on what had once been our most select street” (1). This setting itself is symbolic of the decaying aristocracy of the south which is further exemplified when it says, “only Miss Emily’s house was left, lifting its stubborn and coquettish decay above the cotton wagons and the gasoline pumps” (1).

Faulkner has adopted a cunning narrative style where the time period is brought back and forth with the effective utilization of flashback technique. The narrative style itself has lot to do with the nature of the South. The society in the Post Civil War South had a great existential problem where their identity was under question. What they desired for and what really happened was highly conflicting. They always had an identity crisis since they no more belong to the ‘esteemed’ slave owning southern aristocracy. Their exclusive southern society was intruded by the northerners to whom they had a bitter contempt for. So they were not truly living in the present and longed for the ‘good’ old days, the memories of which always made them uncomfortable. Faulkner adopted a parallel in his narrative where the line between the past and the present is obscure. It puts forth the idea that past has a tremendous influence on our lives which is explicit in the case of Emily who is unwilling to accept the changes in the present rather prefers to stay committed to her past. The story begins with the funeral of Emily from where it goes back to the past until the flashback ends in the final chapter. The narrative travels back and forth in the dimension of time even within a chapter which intensifies the effect of blurring the line between the past and the present. The point of view of this narrative is also extremely important which helps in generating a fierce curiosity within the reader by maintaining a proper distance from the protagonist, hence developing the element of mystery in the story. The story is narrated from the point of view of the society that speculates and watches the developments of Emily. It also gives the idea that many people in the South, like Emily, during that period considered society as an antagonist to their life and personal liberty. Emily is forced to remain submissive to the male dominant society and locks herself from the society that she despises. Her unwillingness to abide by the rules of the society is an evidence for this inconformity. Also, she keeps her sexually deviant behavior a secret until her death since the society disapproves it. Since it is narrated from the point of view of the society, Emily’s voice is highly silenced throughout the story. It is also argued that Faulkner himself had a role in silencing the character of Emily. As Romdhani asserts, “In “A Rose for Emily,” Miss Emily’s voice is suffocated and her concerns are silenced by a patriarchal narrator” (722).

The American South during the time of reconstruction was extremely patriarchal and hence the idea of gender and its disparity was a subject of great importance. This story could be read as a critique of the skewed gender division and the distorted patriarchal system. Emily was always under the control of her father which renders her extremely passive so much so that she couldn’t live without the oppressor controlling the reins of her life. When her father dies she doesn’t let anyone bury his body and acts as if he is not dead. She was constantly suppressed by her authoritative father and when he dies she couldn’t comprehend the fact that he is no more. She doesn’t have any control over her life and even her sexuality. Like many

other women of her time she was conditioned to passively accept the patriarchal injustices. The story reads, “Miss Emily beneath a mass of bought flowers, with the crayon face of her father musing profoundly above the bier”. Even after her death, metaphorically though, she is not free of her father’s unflagging control. The theme of necrophilia, when read closely, could be understood as her subconscious desire to win over the system of patriarchy and hence assert her identity. In the beginning chapter she says, “See Colonel Sartoris, I have no taxes in Jefferson” (2). As Forough Barani and Wan Yahya argues “It is quite clear that she does not differentiate between the dead and the living, another determining and opposing element in the story, as it is already ten years since Colonel Sartoris died” (157). Like in the case of patriarchy, in necrophilia too there is a clear and distinct division of power. In the former case, the man has dominance over woman while in the latter; the animate has the similar dominance and control over the dead. Here, Emily takes up the dominant position in her relationship with the dead Homer. Mohsin argues, “She killed Homer thinking that she could never get him if he is alive; but killing him with poison and staying with his dead body without knowing anyone could fulfill Emily’s desire”(4). She exhibits a similar deviant behavior after the death of her father which could also be seen as her repressed desire to dominate her father who always had a dominant position in her life.

Race was a major issue during this period of the South. The freed slaves, even though legally free, were not truly so and were, for a long time, under the clutches of racial injustice and submission. The whites treated the blacks as an inferior race and were not given any due respect. They had to experience the bitterness of racial violence and segregation. The whites had deep contempt for the blacks, who were previously under their mercy and command, and their addressing the blacks itself justifies the argument. Derogatory terms like ‘Nigger’ and ‘Negro’ were used to address the blacks. The text reads, “The construction company came with niggers and mules and machinery”. Here, the three terms (niggers, mules and machinery) used together shows the white’s ‘no difference’ logic of treating the three as the same. The major similarity is that all the three are passive, even though some are made so. There have been a number of instances of racial violence and humiliation. The text says, “The little boys would follow in groups to hear him cuss the niggers”. Tobe, was one among those slaves who stayed back with their masters even after emancipation. Most of the slaves who stayed back were the ones working in the households rather than the plantations because life in the latter is obviously laborious. Tobe is an example of a stalk character where he is largely stereotyped. Blacks like Tobe are stereotyped not just in fictions but also in real life as well. Moreover, he is written out of the play immediately after the death of Emily since his only purpose in the story is to cater to the needs of Emily apart from which he has no clear purpose or identity. Many blacks, during that time, spent their entire life solely for the purpose of catering to the needs of the white aristocracy.

Apart from gender and race, the major conflict faced by the people of south was due to the presence of the northerners. There have always been conflicts between the ideologies of the North and the South which only intensified in the Post Civil War era. The South finds it extremely hard to acknowledge the victory of the North and their involvement in the reconstruction of the South was helplessly looked upon by them. The North was always considered as a threat by the southern aristocracy who believed that their authority is replaced by the northerners. In this story too, the insecurity of the South is apparent in various instances. Homer Baron comes to the South for this very purpose of reconstruction. He was assigned with the duty of paving the sidewalks but was looked upon by the townsfolk with

great suspicion, especially when he starts a relationship with Emily. Many northerners considered the war torn south as a wet soil to dig their fortunes. Homer's attitude towards Emily is suggestive of those northerners who came in search for their own fortunes. Homer builds a relationship with Emily only to have some fun time with her and never had the slightest of intentions to marry her. Emily seems to take the relationship seriously but Homer doesn't. There is also a slight reference in the story that Homer could be a gay. The story reads, "Homer himself had remarked- he liked men and it was known that he drank with the younger men in the Elks club- that he was not a marrying man" (4). They pitied Emily for being in a relationship with Homer. The story reads, "But there were still others, older people, who said that even grief could not cause a real lady to forget noblesse oblige" (3). Emily's murder of Homer is symbolic of the South's desire to win over the North. Like in the case of patriarchy, the power division is explicit in the case of the North and the South and the latter always had a hidden desire to alter this power structure.

The defeat of the confederacy as well as the emancipation laws were not an easy realization for the south. Many of them find it extremely hard to get along with the changing world order. Emily is symbolic of those fading aristocracies who couldn't accept the realities of the present and hence decides to hold on to their past. Jack Scherting puts it so well: "unable to confront the realities of life in post bellum America, that element of Southern society continued to cherish the corpse of a beloved but decayed ideal" (405). They couldn't believe that their old days, which they cherished, are no more within their reach. Similar frustration and anxiety is apparent in Faulkner's story as well. Emily's reluctance to pay the taxes as well as to fix the mailbox is an evidence for her unwillingness to compromise with the past and to accept the changing world order. Her conversation with the druggist also exhibits the bossy nature of the aristocracy who considered themselves beyond the law. "Miss Emily just stared at him, her head tilted back in order to look him eye for eye, until he looked away and went and got the arsenic and wrapped it up" (4). This was Emily's response when she was asked by the druggist to explain the reason for buying arsenic since the law demands so. Her cold yet fierce reaction is symbolic of the southern aristocracy's unwillingness to abide by the rules of the state.

This short story is an epitome of the Southern Gothic genre that unveils the conditions of the Post Civil War American South. The ideas are conveyed not just apparently through the content of the story but also through the nuances like character development, narrative style, setting etc. It is also important to note that this story deals with a range of issues from patriarchy to necrophilia. The real spirit of the Post War South is perfectly captured in this story.

2. CONCLUSION

The American Civil War along with the tremendous influence from the Gothic genre gave way to the development of this particular genre called the Southern Gothic with a setting exclusive in the American South. These stories hold the true picture of the war-torn South and expose the endless vulnerabilities faced by the same. Faulkner, being a pioneer in this genre, reveals the fragile social order and personal discontentment of the South. Civil War had a grave impact on the society and resulted in the consequential chasm between the North and the South.

“A Rose for Emily” portrays the picture of an unsettled and insecure South through its protagonist, Emily Grierson. This story speaks through its twisted narrative, character presentation, symbols, setting etc. as much as it does through its content. The element of horror is comparatively much subtle than its parent genre but undeniably powerful. Faulkner was successful in presenting before his readers; a delusional and deeply resentful character with a deviant behavior who is a clear specimen of many Southerners of that time. The society which was repressive in nature was loathed by many even though they failed to express their resentment in the true sense. Like the Edgar Allan Poe story, ‘The Fall of the House of Usher’, the house in Faulkner’s story is also a symbol. Here, it stands for the fading aristocracy who pointlessly contemplates on their lost fortunes and finds it extremely difficult to adjust with the changing scenario. The conflicts illustrated in the story are not merely inter-societal but also intra-societal, personal as well as psychological. Faulkner deals with his subject and characters with utmost care; and grooms it in the best possible manner which, in fact, helps in presenting the clear picture of the Post Civil War South. Even horror is a medium to unveil the horrendous situation of the society, hence making it more of a metaphor. It is significant to note that the Southern Gothic, unlike other genre of its kind, is unique and exclusive in the way it deals with its subject matter and represent the condition of the society it deals with.

3. REFERENCES

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