

**Representing The Women Freedom In Confinement In Emma
Donoghue's The Mask And The Sealed Letter**

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Abstract

The paper aims at questioning the conventionally established sexuality of woman in Emma Donoghue's The Mask and The Sealed Letter. Plausibly, it lays bare female protagonists subversion of gender roles, her transgression of boundaries for the reclamation of their dreams and dignity, and the demand for reparation from disallowing them. The female characters subvert the identity imposed upon them by patriarchy, which is conflated with capitalism that identifies them as sacrificial, feeble, and acquiescent. Some of the female characters of Emma redefine prostitution as a weapon for acquiring a subject from a treaty of object. To reclaim an autonomous identity, they use their innate intelligence and quick-wittedness, with parody, hysteria, and sexuality to assert their uniqueness and to subvert patriarchy. Reparation is posited with trial and hanging, which uncover the embedded biases and injustices in English society of the Enlightenment. The end enforces upon society the need to restructure itself and make reparations for the unjustness that subjected female characters, as vulnerable women were and still are, to homelessness, sexual assault, poverty, desperation, and murder; all merely for their wish to have a better life.

Keywords: *Dreams, Dignity, Homelessness, Prostitution, Sexual Assault.*

Introduction

Emma Donoghue is an Irish–Canadian literary historian, novelist, screenwriter and playwright. She was born on 24 October 1969 in Ireland. She was born to Frances and academic and literary critic Denis Donoghue. She is the youngest of eight children. She obtained first class in Bachelor of Arts in University College Dublin. Further, she completed Ph.D in English in Girton College Cambridge. She got inspiration for her short story *The Welcome*, when she was staying at Cambridge in a women’s co-op. Her Ph.D thesis explored the relationship between men and women in the name of friendship. She met her life partner in Cambridge. His name is Christine Roulston. He is a Canadian. He is working as Professor in University of Western Ontario. The couple settled in Canada in 1998 and Emma Donoghue got Canadian citizenship in 2004. At present, she is living with her husband and two children in London, Ontario.

Freedom in Confinement

The Sealed Letter is the famous work by Emma Donoghue. It was published in 1864. It is the story of the biography of secrets and scandal of Helan. It presents Codrington's divorce from her older husband, the Admiral. It is superimposed intrigue provided by the unwitting involvement in events of Emily 'Fido' Faithfull. She is the Victorian spinster. The readers get a true sense of the scandal that a divorce trial had on society. At that point, the amount of divorces is low. The husband of Helan did not allow her to enter into the home and not allowed to touch her own children after encountering her lesbian relationship with her friend. *The Sealed Letter* is completely different from Donoghue's popular works. In fact, it had been written before she published her famous work 'Room' and originally published in Canada in 2008. The success of a book like is clearly smart for sales. It is usually troublesome to match expectations with famous books. Like *Room*, it is an extremely legible story based on real events. However, there are the similarities when it is

compared with her other novels. It shows Emma Donoghue's writing techniques. The three protagonists are well drawn. The story mainly focused the lives of Helen and Fido.

She takes some creative licence with real events. Fido comes over as a well. She is always thinking of her beauty and relationship with her friend. She tells about her beauty as:

Fido opens her mouth to tell her that she is no less beautiful than she ever was, then shuts it.

Helen's always needed male attention-in the old days, Fido thought of this as a minor weakness, like a craving for sweets-but there's a new, unnerving fierceness in her voice today. 'Oh, Madre,' she says, 'you have got yourself in a scrape!' (The Sealed Letter, 40).

Ultimately, she gets employed by each side. The Military officer is somewhat uninteresting towards his younger partner, Helen. However, whereas one has some sympathy together with his wife, it is tougher to make a case for her inconsiderate behaviour. With some of affairs below her belt, it's her treatment of Fido's relationship that's fully inexcusable. Some characters in books evoke sympathy within the reader's mind as a result they are gloriously wicked. Helen is simply plain unlikable. This turns the main focus of the reader's attention to Fido.

The Sealed Letter is long listed for the Orange Prize. It is a historic fiction, with a robust narrative and illuminating the problems of the day, and notably the first days of the, what was then known as, woman-'ist' movement. Harry was always thinking of her wife's behaviours. The event that he had seen disturbed him a lot. So, he decided to inform her wife's relationship to his friend. Lesbian relationship is not accepted in the world in those days. It was the rare one in Canada. The Lesbian thought themselves that they inspired towards the same sex which gives them the mental relaxation. The society suppresses them not to come out of the house.

I find myself in a position of peculiar discomfort and could do with your sound I could do with your sympathetic yet objective counsel. Something seems to have (Love) something has occurred which has led me to form a suspicion of my wife behaving in a way. I suspect my wife (The Sealed Letter, 100).

It is a sensation novel, with different aspects. "Fido" is a faithful lady of twenty nine. She runs a progressive women's magazine. One day, she accidentally bumps into her once-adored friend, Helen Codrington, whom she has not seen for seven years. Helen incorporates a young officer in tow, Captain Anderson. They are having an adulterous affair. Once Helen's older husband discovers the reality, he begins divorce proceedings, and bars Helen from seeing their kids. Fido is dragged into the sordid court case, where she is named upon either to avoid wasting, or savage, her friend's name.

The story is a real-life event that forms up early feminist history as social scandal. Emily Davies is one of the minor characters at Fido's magazine. She too was forced to stay within the brick walls which the male community created. However, Donoghue expands this collision of feminist history and a chunk of ill fame to require a broader and additional essential check up on the character of feminine relationship. Emma presented Fido's "sisters" as a feminist business woman. She does not stand by her throughout the trial, fearing that the negative promotion hooked up to her. Helen reveals herself to be a double-dealing reasonable lady in addition than her relationship along with her husband. It is not a fairly image of feminine commonality. Helan's speech shows that some what women are trying to cross the borders by imitating men's activities. Emma shows to the society that women too need freedom to do whatever they like.

'Give me a cigarette,' stretching out her hand. 'Have I shocked you?' she asks, when he doesn't move. 'Do you think me fast' the absurdity strikes him too, and

they both smile. He lights a cigarette and she draws on it without coughing; the smoke leaves a bitter scrape in her throat (The Sealed Letter, 161).

The action starts with the comeback from a posting to Malta of Fido. Before Malta, Fido had lived with Helen and her older, prim husband Harry. Fido had been the pretext for Helen to depart the marital status chamber and bend in her friend's bed every night. What confidences did the two girls exchange? Harry, at last, in a well mannered way rejected Fido from his family, and also the relationship. Harry becomes a Vice-Admiral, but, gelded by the celebrity of his father, a hero of Trafalgar, yet as by Helen's more and more egregious behaviour, he snaps, and files for divorce. In 1864 this is often a rare and mussy procedure. Fido, the crucial witness, is sucked into mire that isolates her from her feminist friends and threatens her career.

Helen's lurid emerald and magenta frocks, her siren's red hair and sapphire eyes, stand sickly distinction during this dark brown world. The Codringtons' two very little daughters, accommodatigly construct a symbolic house of cards just like the ladies in Augustus Egg's 1858. Donoghue captures the mid-Victorian atmosphere with success. Poor Fido virtually gasps for breath. However, she doesn't avoid all the pitfalls of writing historical fiction. The plot hinges on Helen's ability to enter in each men and girls. However, to the reader she simply appears ugly, and unreal, along from too several Victorian scraps. She even utters Queen Victoria's finding of fact on the luridness of newborn babies with their 'terrible frog-like action' as if it were her own'.

Harry and Fido are the stronger recreations. Donoghue's use of the sealed letter of the title (a real document, its contents never disclosed) is clever. The author is wonderful on the means truth and loyalty communicate quick and once the system gets to figure wonderful, in different words, once she permits herself to be a author, not a

social historiographer.

The Sealed Letter is not extremely the follow-up to Donoghue's vastly roaring space. However, even additional grating is her habit of her characters' voices to produce jerky historical info. George Eliot is 'famous not just for her novels except for engaged on the very best principle'.

Harry Codrington has no sooner knocked on the door of Langham Place than he is told all concerning the scientific discipline. It is the results of the primary feminine. The Langham Place girls were a stimulating lot. The author felt that she has to satisfy the readers through her novel. Fido's feminist associates enough houses to become far more than a listing of names. Pop culture's fascination with Hollywood divorces — Tom and Nicole, Denise and Charlie, Pamela and also the man of the instant. Thus, it is Emma Donoghue's cosily lurid new novel. Helen Codrington is the contrary partner. Harry the strait-laced older husband to whom she is long refused sexual "rights." Returning to London once a stint abroad, Helen renews her acquaintance with Emily Faithfull, referred to as Fido, and hopes to use her previous friend's house for illicit trysts.

The ladies share a love of sensational novels. Idealistic purpose of quality, homely Fido believes ardently in women's rights and has opened a printing look that employs feminine type setters. However, she doesn't essentially believe extramarital sex. Once she hears Helen and a officer going on her seat — the springs emit a "frantic squeak". She is fascinated and repulsed, reluctant to be drawn into this tawdry affair. One nice lesson of "The Sealed Letter" is that "every friend one makes in life may be a liability: One should keep her as a devotee forever or she'll become enemy." within the season of 1864, as letters fly back and forth between Fido, Helen and Helen's lover, Harry instigates divorce proceedings. As of 1857, the comfort of sure laws considerably

Eliza meets Derby's friend Anne and also the two strikes up a detailed, platonic relationship. She denies them vehemently. Rumours of homoeroticism haunt Anne Damer and endanger the reputations of everybody around her. Spanning the last decade from 1787 to 1797, the novel follows this forged of characters through their sophisticated romantic and political entanglements. Eliza supports the liberal party, hoping to topple mad King. The mounting wave of European democracy threatens to extinguish their lifetime of indolent leisure. Donoghue, has written a historical events of 18th-century British lesbian culture. Passions Between girls, have an unprecedented talent for turning thorough analysis. She presents a spirited world agitated with pent-up feeling and sophistication tensions.

When Horace Walpole died in 1797, he bequeathed his beautifully odd neo-Gothic villa, Strawberry Hill, to his relative and associate, the Hon. Mrs. Anne Damer, a lady whose life, like his, united formidable accomplishments with bracing eccentricity. Well-born unmarried young once her spendthrift husband shot himself in an exceedingly edifice, Anne queen Conway Damer turned her hand to (of all unrefined pursuits) the assembly of sculpture, and created a fine job of it. Her name has come back down among the primary feminine sculptors of note.

For over a decade, the Irish-born author Emma Donoghue what she calls "an obsession" with Anne Damer and her circle. "Life Mask," a sprawling, leisurely and gratifying novel that attracts on Donoghue's own varied accomplishments as a skilful investigator of literary and lesbian history because the author of many well-received works of fiction ("Slammerkin," Donoghue's writing technique is tightly controlled: all her major characters are historical individuals, and their activity area amply enough documented in extant papers (though Mrs. Damer had hers destroyed) to reconstruct a feast or a collection of amateur theatricals with guest list. The dialogue, naturally, is fabricated. However, it arises from the

news or far-famed conversation of the day. Donoghue does not build it simple to inform wherever reality leaves off and fiction begins, which is able to frustrate some readers however additionally bears witness to her talent.

Conclusion

However, these characters do give an opportunity to explore in satisfying detail the interlocking worlds of London at the time: Drury Lane, with its actors, managers and playwrights. The Whig political forces gathered around Charles James Fox, scheming while not success to oust the unloved conservative incumbent, Pitt, because the violence of the French Revolution threatens to bring liberal ideas into disrepute. Derby's beloved sporting pursuits, including cockfights yet because the horse races that brought his name lasting renown.

Even though, *The Sealed Letter* presents the story of the lesbian relationship, it made great impact on the society. It is difficult for the women to break the tradition of the society. Emma Donoghue presented the real situation of the women in the society in her works.

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