

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSIONS

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSIONS

Rose Tremain is an outstanding example of the way in which a fine 'literary' writer can sometimes develop into a popular one. Her novels are both sophisticated and entertaining. They can captivate readers with sensuous – and at times sensual-pleasures in return for the demands she makes. Her body of work is diverse, eight novels to date, several volumes of short stories, a children's book, as well as award winning radio and television plays. Really her work is noteworthy. Tremain habitually sets several thematic threads running throughout a book; they criss-cross in certain incidents, their resolution having to be 'earned' as much as contrived. Such facility with modern fictional technique is easily explainable. Being a female author ever she doesn't attach more importance to female characters. She is giving more importance to male characters than female. She doesn't portray her characters with bias or prejudice. She depicts characters in her three novels **The Way I Found Her**, **The Colour**, **The Road Home**, according to the situations and surroundings.

The Way I Found Her is at once a mystery story, psychological exploration and a novel of ideas engaging as any precocious adolescent's. Rose Tremain's superlative gift **The Way I Found Her** is a knowing mixture of coming-of-age story and romantic mystery. Tremain is a

novelist who can lavish a rich and sensuous prose on the physical world, her adolescent hero is beginning to appreciate in new and disturbing ways. Lewis Little in Parish with his mother who has been summoned to work on the English translation of a new book by the best-selling Russian émigré novelist Valentina Gavrilovich. Valentina, exotically alluring and more than twenty-five years his senior becomes the focus of Lewis's burgeoning erotic fantasies and dreams of love. The book is told in the voice of Lewis himself struggling between the precocious knowledge that things happen in ways you never expect and confused attempts to analyze himself and interpret others.

Lewis is the protagonist in the novel **The Way I Found Her**. Though he is small his work is noteworthy. Rose Tremain gives weightage to the middle class society. Her protagonists are male like Lewis, Joseph, Lev etc. In the novel **The Way I Found Her** we come across that she shows the lifestyle of the middle class person, their, dreams and struggle for survival. The main thing behind all these is that she belongs to the middle class family and she spends school days at boarding. Her hero Lewis is very ordinary common boy but she makes him extra-ordinary. She is female but she never gives importance to female in this novel. She uses male as well as female characters according to the situation. She is totally impartial towards her characters. Her characters are lively and very sophisticated. Tremain's novels are

notable mainly for their usual settings and unconventional leading characters. Her writing attains an impressive peak.

Tremain's most recent novel **The Colour** is also given an historical setting but one very different from the hedonistic courts of Charles II and Christian IV. The Central characters in the novel **The Colour** Harriet and Joseph Blackstone are English emigrants to New Zealand in the mid-nineteenth century whose dreams of a better life are confronted by the harsh realities of landscape and circumstances. The promise of gold offers another diffusive chance of riches and an easier life as Joseph sets off for the goldfields and Harriet is forced eventually to follow him. Tremain's rich prose is used to great effect in describing the unforgiving terrain amidst which the Blackstone's hopes are slowly worn down. Tremain has said in her fiction that she wins to seek out the strange the unfamiliar, even the unknowable, and **The Colour** is a further example of her ability, best seen in her historical novels to use the strange and the unfamiliar to illuminate the more mundane.

Rose Tremain says, "I suspect that many writers deceive themselves about why they write. My self-deception is that I create in order to understand and that the final end of it all might be wisdom. This means that I deliberately seek out the strange, the unfamiliar, even the unknowable, as subjects for my novels and trust my imagination to illuminate them to the point where both I and the reader can see them

with a new clarity. The writers I admire most seem to have this kind of goal : to comprehend experience distance from their own in nature place and time and to let the extraordinary cast new light on the quotidian". (Dr. Jules Smith, 2002).

The Colour as the title refers to the gold dust that as the nineteenth century goldminers obsessively search. Joseph is entirely convincing. In fact, the most real and vivid characters in **The Colour** are the landscape and the weather of New Zealand. A series of descriptions of anal sex seems gratuitous and the plot seems to meander along without any clear knowledge of where it was to end up. A sub plot involving a Maori nanny, Pave and her young charge, Edward, adds a mystical, magical realist element to the book but without development is abruptly ended in a brutal manner. "Ms. Tremain uses imaginative specifics to portray the hardship of settled life for those who botch it.... Harriet's testing is splendidly eventful the story swells...." (**The New York Times**).

Again and again characters in **The Colour** make attempts to try speaking but through subtlers. More intimate gestures are such attempt handled in a variety of fashions in sex. The story is told from alternating point of view with chapters narrated by Harriet, Joseph and a couple of other characters who weave nicely into the storyline. "A magical storyteller.... It is rare these days to find a modern novel by which one feels enlarged as to the duty, sorrow, subtlety and joy of the world. The **Colour** is such a treasure" (**The New Statesmen London**)

The Road Home, is another fine work of fiction. Lev is a main character. Lev arrives after a fifty hour bus journey disorientated and dirty, within days he is sleeping rough, earning two p per leaflet he delivers for a kebab shop. Slowly with the help of another immigrant, he finds a room in a kindly Irish drunk's flat and a job in the kitchen of a celebrity chef, and begins to piece together a fragile existence that brings humiliations and loneliness but also enough money to sent homes twenty p a week to his mother and his daughter that sounds rather bleak but in fact the road home is extremely funny for the touching integrity of Lev's soviet solemnity provides a rich seam of social satire on contemporary British life. It is not politically didactic but she feels very strongly that it is hard for people to respond in an empathetic way when we think about a group of a people in a collective way. And she thinks that fraction can do something very important here which is that if he is able to tell the story of one person then suddenly it is not a faceless group which he can go away and forget.

She becomes successful in her character sketching. Because people don't see a group but they see Lev. And that's exactly what she hopes that might happen. Some reviewers have suggested that Lev is perhaps a little too noble, a little too blameless, and raised an eyebrow when halfway through the novel he takes up the reading of Hamlet Tremain counters that she also makes him prone to dark and violent rags but

admits that she 'deliberately make him rather charming and handsome and loveable'.

It is easy to feel generous towards immigrants when they present no challenge to one's personal comfort. Eastern European labourers are not exactly threatening the world of literary fiction. Tremain feels strongly that fiction should not be confined to the experiences of the author she prefers to tell her stories through narrators drawn from the margins of life and Lev seems to reveal quite a lot about what Tremain thinks of modern British culture. She spends a year reading mostly about Eastern Europe and interviewing immigrant workers in Suffolk and then a year writing. She says, 'I feel that we as a group are the British, the Host, have a slightly sort of-well, our anxiety about number like Lev is slightly bipolar we have thus manic anxiety which is to do with numbers, and housing, and resources. But also thus depressive anxiety that disturbs our vision of ourselves as a benign, welcoming multi-cultural, liberal society.'

Lev has dark angry side too. Rose Tremain wants to explore her melancholy. It is a conscious decision to make him attractive towards women it would present a satisfactory set of complications in his life. But he is not a loser. Lev is a tiny part of the vast diaspora that is changing British society. The book may not be overtly political. But it delivers a harsh commentary on city life-the exploitation and petty bureaucracy.

One of her correspondents wants to know how the resident in an old people's home would copy when Lev stops making beautiful meals to them. "Wise, timely, and emotionally satisfying, Rose Tremain's characters are immediately recognizable as is her London seen through the eyes of her Eastern European migrant." (Judges' citation, the 2008 Costa Book Awards)

His discovery of women can lead to desperation but his thrust towards life and love should sustain him further. This book is very original, it has a real spark and Lewis is an interesting character as is Valentines. The book is full of unexpected twists and revelations, it also gives a good picture of Paris when reading one really feels transported. The character of Lewis seems to be inconsistently developed and bit too precocious to be convincing.

Rose Tremain's tale is absorbing and through-provoking. Lewis is protagonist of the novel **The Way I Found Her** but reader cannot identify with any of the central characters of the story, not even sympathize with them Lewis theory of beauty is to prove surprisingly prophetic. **The Way I Found Her** turns into a curious hybrid-both a coming-of-age story and a thriller and perhaps Tremain strengthens a lie more with the former. This book is an edgy exploration of responsibility, attraction and betrayal. It is equally a loving evocation of literary power. Lewis is so real, intelligent and brave that we will almost be unable to

leave him at the end of the book, knowing that he is sadder, wiser, older and forever changed by what he's undergone.

Rose Tremain shows character from both opposite and different directions and show both their dark side and their generous natures. Her relation with all her characters is to make the reader care about them. Her character must be accessible to people in different shapes she disguises. Tremain's characters are fascinating.

Tremain masterfully creates the persona of an extremely bright boy as we observe and learns from the world around him including a special African maid and various French and Russian acquaintances who enlivens the novel. Narrator West both enhances the well drawn character and the first person narrations. Because of west's fine ability, the listener enters the very character of a special yet typical late-twentieth century boy. This is an excellent choice for teens and adults Lewis's encounters with Moine, Valentina's neighbour with violette, the maid and with Gregory. Valentina's Russian boyfriend adds much to the story and also Valentina herself is quite an enigma so as Lewis gets to know her as well as what he learns from others. We come to know her humanity and his love for her. If a dog can be a character in a story, then Tremain has done it very effectively through Sergei. The workings of Lewis's mind, his humor, his quirky opinions, his choice of words and vision of the world will give readers of this novel an experience which is utterly out of the

ordinary. Tremain comes across as very contented much more than her menageries of struggling, searching characters though she admits that her books are exploring darker territory. Her characters are hungry for power, money, sex but susceptible too to love and loneliness.

Tremain's characters with all their faults and aspirations, connected to the reader through their complex emotional lives. Her characters are so vivid and so delightfully crafted. We never feel like an outside observer but we feel as a part of the story itself.

Her work is undoubtedly a well-written with strong characterizations, setting and story-telling. She shows the strong female character who throws himself into a completely foreign lifestyle. Tremain shows the growing tensions between the couple. Joseph gets gold rush fever. Tremain gives us a real sense of the emotional life of her characters. The characters are realistic, the story gripping and suspenseful. Rose Tremain's novel **The Colour** is really enjoyable with brilliant characterization and descriptions of location and relation. It is about hope and the death and rebirth of hope about obsession, the strength or weakness of sharing life. The minor character Pare the Maori woman found somewhat tiresome.

Tremain shows how the quest for gold took its toll on the land and destroys both individuals and communities. As gold is discovered the lives of the most characters in the novel are changed forever. Tremain

does an excellent job with character development, spending a lot of time on both major and minor character. “Rose Tremain is one of contemporary literatures' most mature and sympathetic artists.... she writes some of them most musical and elegant sentences in modern English”. (**The Washington Post Book World**)

The Final chapter where the writing about the relationship of Harriet and Pao Yi is well conveyed. Joseph is hard-working and he is rather secretive by nature. On the other hand Harriet is patient, diligent and long-suffering. She is innovative, strong and honest. Lilian, who has accompanied them to their new lives and to her neighbours whose little son becomes especially important in her own childless life. Joseph's mother, meanwhile, will never settle in these unfamiliar surroundings and there are tensions to overcome. The tale and its characters are all beautifully drawn, but the historical perspective, the feeling for landscape and the crossing of culture all fall a little short. Tremain's characters from then onwards typically indulge in their sexual weakness, but one views with a kind of inclusive sympathy, the persistence of love in all its forms is an ongoing theme in her books.

Harriet and Lilian are committed to making their farm a success. Joseph and Harriet are interesting characters. Joseph is hard working but unconfident. Harriet is smart and practical. The story is told from alternating point of view with chapters narrated by Harriet. Joseph and a

couple of other characters who weave nicely into the storyline. Joseph turns out to be an arrogant and unable to relate to women and desperate to please his mother by accumulating wealth. Really her three novels are best for characterization.

Rose Tremain also gives a lot of space for minor characters. Not only major but also minor characters play significant role in her novels. The main male characters in her novels are Lewis, Joseph and Lev. The main female characters are Valentina, Harriet and Maria. Each character is appropriate in their place. Rose Tremain gives proper shapes to every character. Her characters are realistic which portrayed the picture of real society.

In short, Rose Tremain's characters are noteworthy. She portrays her characters effectively. Almost in all these three novels and the rest of other novels even, Rose Tremain has expressed her approach towards the middle and lower-middle. Lower-middle class society is distinctly reflected. Characterization is a major part of Rose Tremain's fictional works. In all these three novels Tremain has concentrated upon the elaborate portraying of male and female character. **The Way I Found Her** is an outcome of Lev's personal experiences throughout her life. Her suppressed feelings from her childhood are presented in this novel. The themes of these novels are different and independent but they are entirely concentrated upon the same idea of 'family'. Tremain's entire attempt is to make it possible to understand positive and negative side of characters.

All major and minor characters, both male and female as well, are part of contemporary life. Tremain has maintained balance by trying to focus on the negative and positive side of characters. In all the three novels the protagonist belongs to the middle class. It means that she never gives the scope for imagination but always presents the reality of society.