

**Misogyny, Misdirection, Love and Forgiveness from the select novels of
Judith Mcnaught's *Whitney, My Love and Once and Always*.**

S.Shalini, Ph.D., Department of English,
Morappur kongu college of arts and science, Morappur
shalinisurajmani@gmail.com

Judith Spaeth Mcnaught Smith is shortly named as Judith Mcnaught (May 10, 1944) born in Sencuis Obispo California, United States of America is one of the prominent American romance novelist, for over thirty years she has written seventeen romances of historical and contemporary from (1985-2005) all of them bear the stamp of her artifice. The research paper analyzes the Misogyny, Misdirection, Love and Forgiveness in the historical romance fiction. Mcnaught's *Whitney, My Love and Once and Always* are beautifully written love story that stretch over than a decemvirate in the lives of its Star-crossed lovers. Variant and most reunited romances which gives only a divulge elaborate look of the hero and heroine pioneer meeting and falling in love before being inhumanly or brutally torn separate due to mistrust and misunderstanding. Mcnaught reflects the women pathetic situation through women protagonist.

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Mcnaught is an expert in writing on romance and suspense topic. She is active since 1978, An American best-selling author of contemporary and historical novels. And also, she received dozens of best-selling and top-rated novels so far. Mcnaught's first manuscript is '*Whitney; My Love*', which she written in between 1978 to 1982. After having difficulty in selling that novel she written '*Tender Triumph*'. Mcnaught started her career in 1982.

She is one of a very few authors for writing Historical Romance market in 1985. However, over 50 new historical Romances the genres have blower up and are being published each month by Judith. Many of them are in full-length and Mcnaught se in the historical Regency period. Even though switched on to write contemporary

Romances in 1990, hopeful that she would have a better opportunity to distinguish her, work in a less-saturated market her career is continued to mature. McNaught have gradually introduced elements of suspense into her writing. Her works are regardless however her books are tending to be fast paced and feature strong, loyal, compassionate, intelligent female characters.

In 1990's Coors Brewing, in the beginning asked McNaught to write a book that would address to women and it could be used by the company to promote it in women literacy program. Appocited at the discovery that one five women is functionally illiterate. McNaught accord to rewrite her almost completed manuscript 'Perfect' to insert the literacy theme. The change took her an additional six week to incorporate. McNaught chose to announce a portion of her remuneration from the book to women's literacy programs are ordered and expected that each book of her contain a card given to readers' information on how to donate to literacy programs or to become tutors. She is the keynote speaker in 1996 and 1997 for the Romance writers of American conference. McNaught have also been awarded a 'Romantic time career Achievement Award; and had a 'Number one New York Time Best seller with romantic suspense.

Judith is the authors of fourteen novels and two short stories, United States of America once said "when it comes to writing McNaught is a class by her". In fact, McNaught takes us on such a roller coaster excitement, feeling, ecstasy and joy with full of emotions, and in select novels of her speaks about many misunderstandings in love and marriage. In this some readers may question whether assertive characters and distrust issues are truly over when the novel ends. She is master of reading the mind of

the readers also expert in actualizing vigorous, active, bold, spirited root able heroines and annihilating calamitous, mortifying heroes.

The truth is that everyone can assume or believe plainly by the word 'romances and the romance novels are about responsiveness, awareness, delicacy, sensitivity, traditional values, love and sympathy. There is a soft sentimentality owned with all these things and also it is associated evokes the cavalier and disbeliever. Judith thinks nearly everyone is secretly sentimental and they are comfortable, confidential. But to actually comes out and admit it to subject oneself to potential contemptuous laughter at someone. That is frightened to most men and to some women. It is endangered.

Whitney, My Love, Once and Always, with a view to underline the verge among gender discrimination, marriage dilemma, misunderstanding in love, mistrust in chastity and misogyny in these fictional female characters. Mcnaught raises her voice against the issues confined to the position of women within the family or their rights to equality with men in different aspects of social life. Mcnaught makes a cult figure that fights against tradition followed in American society.

The heroines of Mcnaught undergoes lot of sufferings and pain in the beginning of the marriage after a struggle misunderstanding and big emotions and mistrust they happily re-join and blessed with baby is the ultimate theme followed by her. The researcher's approach will consist of detailed study of primary sources, with references to the study of secondary sources by various critics, books and general studies.

Mcnaught initial novel *Whitney, My Love* is about Whitney stone grew from a saucy hoyden into a ravishingly sensual woman caught to the Duke of claymore, under the dark, languorous eyes, Fresh from her triumphs in Paris Society. She returned to

England to win the heart of her childhood love and get hold the hands of Paul, she had bargained away by her bankrupt father to the misogynist, handsome, arrogant duke, outraged, she defies her new lord. Clayton smoldering feelings seduce her into a gathering storm of desire; Whitney and her dream of perfect love will not and cannot relinquish. This novel is enriched with emotions, brimming with laughter and tears.

Whitney my love is the romance of misogyny and misdirection that will leave the readers breathless until the last page of the novel because it is the one thing that keeps Whitney and Clayton from coming together sooner than they do. Clayton begins this theme by refusing to allow Whitney to know either who he is or that they are betrothed. Clayton is fascinated by Whitney and believes she will make him a good wife and a wonderful mother to his future children.

However, Clayton does not believe in love and does not fancy himself in love with Whitney. Clayton and Whitney begin a conditional love making filled with feelings. The opening of the interrelationship is confused with an apex being argumentative rape and violence against Whitney. The way of the Western civilization and patriarchal society leads to misogynistic world. She sarcastically reveals the mask of the patriarchal society. The women characters are innocent, idealistic and young. Judith brings out the truth and identity of women and their portrayal in family and society and the real face of women's suppression. Disesteem of women is widely spoken through male characters of Mcnaught.

Mcnaught second novel, *once and Always* Victoria Seaton the heroine, a fiercely independent orphan and blithe, leaves her residence in America to claim her long lost inheritance for that she started to travel across the broad and vast Atlantic: a

labyrinthine English estate named Wakefield. There she encounters her distant cousin, the misogynist, notorious, proud and mysterious Lord Jason Fielding Drawn to his magnetic charisma. Victoria cannot help but suspect, he harbors a dark and painful past. Neither Victoria nor Jason is able to resist the other's charm, but in a moment of blinded anguish, Victoria discovers the shocking truth lies at the heart of their love. A love she had dreamed would triumph.

In *Once and Always* Mcnaught brings lot of twist and turn, misunderstanding between Victoria Seaton and Jason fielding in marriage and love. How tragic that must have been to marry someone and yet her love and heart is with another. Victoria, arriving upon to her uncle Charles fielding mansion, did not know that her uncle already took the freedom of announcing her betrothal to her cousin Jason fielding. Victoria and Jason are very much opposite each other always there will be a quarrel between them. Victoria is very much naïve about everything even the bees and birds.

She was so fun loving and downright just cared about the servants and maids in the mansion. Victoria married him with hatred. Victoria had thought him to trust and now all the wrong belief about a woman; He gave himself completely his body, mind, heart and soul to her. He withheld nothing given her everything his love, his attention and every conceivable gift as token of love. Jason came to realize the love of Victoria and finally said the word he had never said before to any women with whole-hearted 'I love you'.

Feminist Ambivalence

“Misogunia” is an ancient Greek word later it termed as “misogyny” which means hatred towards women. Misogyny has taken multiple shape and dimension from

such a privilege of male, patriarchy, gender discrimination, molestation, harassment, belittling a woman, domestic violence against women and objectification sexually. The roots of misogyny are tracked from the mythologies of Greek. Misogyny for many years has been evolved as a dogma which has overwhelmed the society as smog which fades their site to aurora. Philosophers of Great, socialist and thinkers who lived in golden era were domesticated by roars of male dominant society narrowed their mind, perception and made them a supporter of the society filled with patriarchy. An ancient Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle, was also a misogynist. He thought women are all as deforms, an incomplete male. He teaches that men should always command and superior, women should follow as they are the inferior than all creatures created by God. Misogyny was first supported by male, but over years, few females also supported the dogma.

In both the fiction the distinctive rights affirmed in contrast to tradition, the enfranchisement of women and the disappearance of the patriarchal in as much as it is tied up properly and are bound to lead by reason to a virtuous union based on “love” alone. If only the marriages are moral in which love continues”. This vision leads to suppressing the indissolubility of marriage and nearly announces the lawlessness which we see today. From the primitive behaviour, we might believe strongly that it does not improve when it comes to the stag of sexual development of their relationship, sadly, we would not be fallacious. In the particular usage, Mcnaught characterize ‘sensuality’ as an attitude towards another bolster or reproduced the first who makes love relation. In the beginning of the story where sexual pleasure is not finds between the protagonists. Independently it ripens on the later stage when feelings flash into the eyes

of the lover or impulse of self-preservation. This purely sexual and egoistic interpretation of love underlines the distinction between 'true love' and 'profane' purely sexual desire.

Mcnaught once in an interview she said when Rape is used as a plot device or background to make a girl in 'fixing 'to need. Mcnaught hates at the start, but it is nothing in comparison she had no idea. The core of what we call love is produced naturally by her is commonly recognized as love and about to tell, it is projected by sexual love. The ultimate goal of Jason and Clayton is sexual union and the passionate of loves are only illusion on other hand. Mcnaught won't endorse that wicked belief that pardon and condones Violence under the disguise of a hard life more generally, in the novels of Mcnaught the women's are portrayed as sluts who throw themselves Victoria in *Once and Always* and Whitney in *Whitney, my love*. The heroes are bitches that too greedy bitches who only want to take advantage of his wealth or to take revenge as well. For an instance Victoria is pure and perfect virgin who knows everything from shooting to playing Plano. Whitney is pure and perfect virgin who knows perfect horse riding.

These novels are highly a revenge novel not a romance and only a satisfying way. As we read this as a romance, the violence happened to Victoria and Whitney is unforgivable. The heroes of both the fictions are bitch and brutal beast who mishandle the women and he uses her only to satisfy his own desire. Mcnaught have no problems with the composition all the personification here are some well-known and even a developed encouraging. It is the reason that is why people who likes to read romance, periodically this is all we want to turn our lucidity off and be deprived of our self in a

familiar, yet not entirely the same story. The predicament we have is that the main heroes are not withstanding.

Eloisa James, romance novelist and professor cites *Whitney, my love* as an introducing fiction of Mcnaught. James calls Mcnaught a “Brilliant tutor” in the artistry of Romance, particularly through delay hangs from above the reality and creating romantic relationship in all her novels. Employing the genre of romance, Mcnaught is able to develop in mind to create a link between the society and the heroine. Through this kinship, a reader feels as if they are the ones bringing in the attention and desire from the male protagonist. Moreover, the codes and language procreate a community of female participating in constant emotions and wisdom.

Mcnaught in *once and always* and *Whitney, my love* provides special focus on the trait typical feature of the post-feminist movement before delve into the social climate of 1980 it may have shaped the historical novels. However, is a different one: In emotional life there is a variance in kind, with remarked to sexuality that in humans has become misogyny makes woman to suppress and hate. In the novels of Mcnaught, the passion becomes more diluted, too eloquent out pouring of ‘sentiment’ the style of tragic revolved in mourning, oppression and this is uncluttered form of cortege modesty concealed without disquieting.

In *Whitney, my love*, the whole era is brought to light through the character of Clayton Westmorland, the society which lives on these Matrimonial conventions, born to the forces, and connected with marriage. Also, it is destined to safeguard their equilibrium, she writes as though marriages are only an affair of love, and love an affair of feeling. An illusion is to money or to sex is rigorously forbidden at the table of a

people like family members and are respected each other, but when it is comes to a wife or to ladylove whom they intend to deny.

In an intimate Journals it is written like this “The sole and supreme pleasure in love lies in the absolute knowledge of doing evil, and man and women know, from birth that in evil is to be found all voluptuousness. (Intimate journals,-34])In every Mcnaught novel there is abundance of sizzling lovemaking scenes. Where the characters allow themselves continue to drive by passion and sexual desire and that makes hot and bothered multiple times.

Shafaz Fathima criticizer of Historical Romance genre acclaim that ‘Books written by men are often deemed more prestigious and worthier that those written by women’. But that is not true in *Whitney, my love*. She personally feels women writers’ gets critical acclaim or recognition. Now-a-days female authors given more consideration than male authors ‘Harlequin Romances’ like *Mills and Boon*; are widely popular and immediately hailed but after Reading Mcnaught’s Romance genre. It is hardly considered these novels are spoken for women and portrayal of women and her novels are of ‘serious of literature’.

Thus Mcnaught historical fictions are the narration of love and Romance, Misogyny and Erotic, misunderstanding and mistrust of the protagonist in courtship and married life reveals the truth that women are under the control of male dominated society. This chapter seeks to contextualize these romance novels. *Whitney, My Love* within the time period of the 1980s and the birth of the post-feminist movement that the historical setting of Mcnaught romance novels allows her readers to feel empowered as women without feeling the pressures and demands of the second wave feminist movement to

abandon marriage and motherhood. *Once and Always* it is another romance where the rape scene glossed over as an understandable mistake by the hero about the mistrust of the character of the heroine. Judith made an interesting contrast of America and socially elite the rules and tradition of England. The plot, conflict, and motives of character better fit together for the tradition of America.

The characters of Mcnaught mirror the feminist movement and how the end of the novel envisions the reformed society where women advocate for their rights for sex while also participating in loving relationships. Mcnaught breaks the patriarchal at the end of the two fictions. Jason came to realize the love of Victoria and finally said the word he had never said before to any women with whole-hearted 'I love you'. Due to the terrible childhood upbringing, he never cried. At one point in this story he cried aloud, everyone thought Victoria drowned in the lake and Jason finally cried! Because of loving his wife Victoria .The reunion of Jason and Victoria is an optimistic happy ending of the novel. Judith makes you laugh, cry and makes you to fall in love once again.

Mcnaught novels are stories of dream that comes true in loving relationships. The love she had dreamed at last succeeded, she gives an optimistic happy ending with progenies for the couples. Naturally, her novels are based on lot of big emotions, misunderstanding and mistrust on the love of hero and heroine, she narrates how they redeem from the flaws, they committed in their martial life and courtships. Mcnaught finds solution for their misunderstanding and separation. Finally, the parted couples reunited with Joy and happiness through all her novels she makes everyone cry and fill with happy tears at the end.

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