

The stone angel essay



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Margaret Laurence's novel entitled "The Stone Angel" showed the different kinds of relationship that can be seen in the society.

Laurence depicts certain characters that are connected to one another to justify the different levels of relationship that emerged in our environment. One of the most significant kinds of relationship that has disturbing influence to me as a reader was Hagar and Lottie's relationship. In the beginning of the novel, Hagar does not want Lottie at all for many reasons that she continues to discuss as she reminisces her life in the past. However, this kind of relationship develops into a more complicated and uncontrollable situation that both Hagar and Lottie could not resist. "We never called Lottie "No-Name," though – only the boys did that.

But we tittered at it, knowing it was means, feeling a half-ashamed excitement..." (Laurence 11). This is how Hagar illustrated Lottie during their childhood. She hated her the way boys did for she was an unusual person with different kind of aura that frustrates both boys and girls in their school. Lottie on the other hand stays calm and accepts the "No-Name" term that people used to describe her. She ignores all those things and made her own way of creating a world for her own sake.

"Lottie Dreiser was not invited to our parties, when she'd grown a doll-like prettiness and a bosom, Dan sneaked her in once and father raised Cain about it," (22). Hagar remembered how Lottie bloomed into a pretty rose that people recognized. Even the boys who used to torture Lottie's personality turned out to become her friend but still, Hagar hated her not because of Lottie's childhood distress but because she was turned into an

icon in their place, which was Hagar could not accept. Every development that Lottie used to have even the smallest detail of her skin, hair, and complexion, Hagar wanted to know and observe. That is why cruelty within Hagar's heart against Lottie started to emerge like a time bomb.

“ The Simmons' plot is just across the way. ” I said, “ and Lottie comes here every Sunday to put flowers on Telford's mother's grave, I know for a fact. Do you think I'd have her poking her nose in here and telling everyone? ” Hagar's hatred grew much better than people would think about. Until the time when Hagar became old and found out that Lottie became prettier and richer, she became more aware to every Lottie's actions and situation to prepare a step that would make Lottie nervous that led her to a more nervous situation.

As time passes by, Hagar unintentionally described her fear towards Lottie. She became more nervous, prepared, and aware to every single thing that might happen once they met. She feared that Lottie would be much better than she is. She could not accept the fact that Lottie is much grateful in her lifestyle today than what she has.

Hagar perceived Lottie as the old girl who seemed to be the low-class person that she and her best friend Charlotte used to laugh about. That is why after knowing that her son John wants to marry Arlene, Lottie's daughter, she disapproved and wanted John to find someone better than Arlene though Arlene is beautiful and intelligent lady. However, John did not obey his mother that led Hagar to become more nervous and full of anxiety towards Lottie and its daughter Arlene. Because Hagar is a resentful person, she used

to put every single thing that happened to her during her childhood, teenage years, until she became old. Through these things that she continues to penetrate as time goes by, she did not learn how to love people around her.

For her, Lottie ruined her life as well as her son's life. Acceptance was hard for her state especially after realizing that Lottie has a better life than her who used to budget every single penny that she has. In this case, Hagar embarrassed herself though she was the only perceiver of her actions and the results of it. Because she does not want Lottie to become part of her family, she wants to run her son's life to the extent of widening her limit, which she does not usually do during her son's teenage years. Lottie became Hagar's mortal enemy that emerged into a mortal sin. Though Lottie did not always exist physically to Hagar's sight, she used to live in Hagar's mind and soul.

This became Hagar's main problem that she could not obtain to solve even at the end of the novel because she just learned to face her illness and death but not to kneel on Lottie's body. At the end of the story, Hagar did not solve her conflict against Lottie because she did not communicate to her and tell her all her thoughts and perspectives against Lottie. She just learned to forget all the things that are connected to Lottie and died because for her, it was the only way to get out of Lottie's shadow and life.