

THE MONSTER OF THE ATTIC LEAVES HER MARK

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ABSTRACT

The literary partition of women into “angels” and “monsters” which the male authors have generated for her is demonstrated in the works of several woman writers including Charlotte Bronte, Mary Wollstonecraft, Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath and Kate Chopin. In factual life as well as in case of literary woman characters, their lives are a persistent, unwavering sequence of the balancing act between self-doubt and guilt. Their deeds are directed not just at becoming the “angels of the house” but also trying not to become the “monsters of the attic”. The real depth of a woman’s torment is when she realizes that all that is expected out of this angel-woman which she strives to be is selfless love, sacrifice and graciousness. The saint like figure, as Gilbert and Gubar points out in *The Mad Woman in the Attic* “dooms her both to death and heaven. For to be selfless is not only noble, it is to be dead. A life that has no story...is really a life of death, a death-in-life.”

KEYWORDS: Literary Partition of Women into “Angels” and “Monsters, Gilbert and Gubar points, *The Mad Woman in the Attic*