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Judy Brady "I want a wife" analysis

Women empowerment as well as women rights has been a major issue in the American culture. Indeed, it can be pointed out that the first convention about women rights that took place in New York in the year 1948 was only convened after the women were not offered the chance to explain their views and opinions about slavery in various past conventions. Presently, over one decade later, many people are still of the view that women are not given equal chances and opportunities as men hence the reason there has been persistent demands for gender equality for many years (Morahan, 12). This paper focuses on the story by Judy Brandy and analysis in detail the theme that all human beings needs wives as is depicted in the story.

Prior to delving on analyzing the story by Judy Brandy, it is important to first provide a background of the story. The story *I want a wife* was written by Judy Brandy during the spring of year 1971. The story was featured in what can be classified to have been a feminist magazine. In the story, Judy Brandy explained the roles of a wife during the 1970s while at the same time offering examples of how she desired a wife herself since by having a wife, she was well placed to ensure that her needs will be well taken care of by the wife. In the story, the author gave different examples of different things that women/wives would do on a daily basis as well as the different roles of the wife id

various occasions such as in holidays, weddings, and even parties. Thus, it can be explained that the manner in which Julie Brandy discussed a wife can be explained to have been very powerful to feminists at the period which the story was published (McCuen-Metherell and Winkler, 58).

When the story is analyzed from the perspective of present times, it can be explained that the roles of women have changed considerably even though there is still a large number of people who are still of the view that the role designated for a woman is to be a wife. Precisely, there is a high number of people who are of the view that women should stay at home so that they can carry out the household chores while at the same time taking care of the children as they grow up. Nevertheless, it can be discussed that due to various circumstances, it is almost impossible that all women can stay in the house and take care of the children hence the reason the story by Judy Brandy can be explained to have been aimed at making people to start rethink the roles that women in the modern day society.

From a rhetorical perspective, it can be explained that there are numerous examples of various rhetorical elements. Specifically, the rhetorical elements in the story can be explained to comprise of exigence, location, individuals, connection, audience, speaker, approach, and institutions. Exigence entails what takes place, or does not take place resulting to an individual talking about the action. The element of individual entails who is implicated in the exigence of the rhetorical circumstances and the nature of role that the individual plays. Connection entails the connection amongst people concerned concentrating on connections to power. Location entails the specific place

where the discourse happened to be and where the artifact was spotted. The speaker is the individual giving the information in various formats in order to ensure that the target audience get the intended message. The method entails the manner in which the speaker opts to make available the information, while the institutions entails the rules for the aspects of rhetoric. In the story by Brady, it can be explained that all elements of the rhetorical circumstances are evident in the story. Nevertheless, this paper only focuses on the rhetoric aspects of exigence, audience, and method (Glen, 15 - 26).

As far as exigence is concerned, it can be explained that it can be explained that the fact that Brandy appears as if to be offering the description of the roles that a wife should be expected to undertake makes one provoked to discuss the story. Specifically, the fact that Brandy does not appear to be gentle when discussing the role of women can be explained to elicit a lot of reactions from those who read the story (Garner and Paterson, 45). Brandy, highlights all of the roles of a wife when it comes to bringing up the children, ensuring that the house is clean, ensuring that every family members is where they are expected to be, and the sexual responsibilities of a wife. An ideal example of this can be explained to be when Brandy explains:

“I want a wife who will not bother me with complaints about a wife’s duties. But I want a wife who will listen to me when I feel the need to explain a rather difficult point I have come across in my course of studies. And I want a wife who will type my papers for me when I have written them (Brady, 508).”

Such statements by Brand could elicit reactions from people since it makes the wife appear as if she is overworked while the other person is only responsible for

education. However, it can be noted that the fact that one is a wife does not necessarily imply that the person has to carry out the various roles as explained by Brandy.

In view of the audience of the story, it can be discussed that the story is mainly targeted towards those who are of the view that women should also have other roles outside their families. Precisely, Brady states:

“I want a wife who is a good nurturing attendant to my children, who arranges for their schooling, makes sure that they have an adequate social life with their peers, takes them to the park, the zoo, etc. I want a wife who takes care of the children when they are sick, a wife who arranges to be around when the children special care...” (Brady, 507).

That quote from Brandy's work can be explained to be targeted towards those who think that women need to do more than taking care of the children and home. On the other hand, the quote can also be explained to have been aimed at showing that women should also be allowed to leave their homes and explore the outside world.

From reading the story by Brady, it is evident that she used a unique approach to write the essay especially when it comes to the manner in which Brandy decided to address her audience who were definitely the readers of the feminist magazine that the story appeared in. Thus, it can be explained that the story is full of sarcasm since while the wife is discussed to be busy with her duties, her partner is busy at school implying that women play a very important role in the families since irrespective of their partner's study, they cannot be able to execute the different roles that are executed by the wives. Even though there is no doubt that majority of the readers of the story

would not concur with how the wife is depicted in the story since they are of the view that women have more freedom and are not only limited in their households as has been explained by Brandy.

When just about to end the story, Brandy noted:

“I want a wife who is sensitive to my sexual needs, a wife who makes love passionately and eagerly when I feel like it, a wife who makes sure that I am satisfied. And, of course, I want a wife who will not demand sexual attention when I am not in the mood for it. I want a wife who assumes complete responsibility for birth control, because I do not want more children. I want a wife who will remain sexually faithful to me so that I do not have to clutter up my intellectual life with jealousies. And I want a wife who understands that my sexual needs may entail more than strict adherence to monogamy. I must, after all, be able to relate to people as fully as possible. If, by chance, I find another person more suitable as a wife than the wife I already have, I want the liberty to replace my present wife with another one. Naturally, I will expect a fresh new life; My wife will take the children and be solely responsible for them so that I am left free. When I am through with school and have a job, I want my wife to quit working and remain at home so that my wife can more fully and completely take care of a wife’s duties. My God, who wouldn’t want a wife?” (Brandy, 511).

From such statements in the story, Brandy manages to make the reader aware of the fact that women/wives are also human beings just as men and needs to be treated with respect as they also have their own needs and cannot only be used catering for the

needs of the others while their own needs are not been taken care of. In conclusions, it can thus be explained that even though modern day women appear to be more free and empowered than was the case in the 1970s when Brand was writing the story, more could still be done in order to ensure that modern day women are perceived in equal measure as men and are more appreciated.

Works Cited

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