

# Evolution of Independent Women for egalitarian treatment and dignity in the selected work of Margaret Atwood

Baljeet Kour

Research Scholar Mphil, Shri Venkateshwara University

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## ABSTRACT

This paper examines the evolution of Independent women for egalitarian treatment in the society. It should be equality for all people. This work deal with the issues of selfhood, selfesteem, endurance loss etc. Cat's eye is a novel about a young girl whose life is scarred by the cruel treatment she receives at the hands of her friend. The problem of the women who is unable to accept the roles provided for her by a male dominated society because she is reliable potentially successfully everything which she think she ought to want. Atwood had wonderfully explored every aspects of a women's life to improve herself socially and economically. During her journey she undergoes a transformation for she learns about herself at various stages in her novel cat's eye and she tells us how does a girl struggle to free herself from the power. The premise of this study is not only to determine the extent to which gender performatively determine the charter identity best also to illustrate how gender identity is unstable and constructed socially and culturally. Margaret Atwood, the best Canadian women novelist today has been exploring women's problems with archetypal and political perspectives in her novel cat's eye. The Paper also show how Elaine comes to term with her sister as well as her past. This work put some light on evaluation of the self in relation to time where as Atwood Approach to line is more scientific.

**Keywords:- Egalitarian, Independent, Selfhood, Dignity, Archetypal.**

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## INTRODUCTION

A woman who work hard and does not give up easily is sedulous and the definition of evolution of independent woman in urban dictionary is a woman who pays her own bills, buys her own things and does not allow a man to effect her stability or self confidence. She supports herself entirely on her own and is proud to be able to do so. An egalitarian which means all people are equal and deserve equal right and opportunities. Margaret Atwood, Concentrates on the personal intimacy of two women Elaine, the narrator and her childhood mate Cordelia. By concentrating on the complex mirror imagery in the novel this paper examine the way the female protagonist liberates herself from the gaze of her girlfriend Codalia. This work show the evolution of the self in relation to time where as Atwood's Approach to time is more scientific. As a young girl Atwood was exposed to one important lesson of the time society anticipation of women to choose between family and career.

A famous quotes of Atwood in her novel Cat's eyes "She doesn't know what power this Cat's eye has to protect me. Sometimes when I have it will me I Can see the way it sees. I can see people moving like bright animated doll, there mouth opening and closing but no real words coming out I can look at their shape and sizes, their colours without feeling anything else about them. I am live in my eyes only." These line shows that a line Cat's eye is an item that protect her from the bullying. This novel follows the girl from childhood into middle age placing the effect of her early experiences on her adult life.

## SUMMARY

Cat's Eye is a coming-of-age narrative that tells the story of Elaine, a girl who must decide both who she is and who she wants to be in the eyes of other. The narrative deals with the issues of selfhood, self-esteem, bullying, abuse, and loss.

Elaine must navigate her childhood, and then her adulthood, while taking each of these themes head-on. Her response to each of these issues will certainly change her, but it remains to be seen if this change is for better or worse.

When the narrative begins, the reader finds that Elaine and her family live away from the business of the city. Elaine is eight years old at the time and has no real friends aside from her brother, Stephen. When her father accepts a job as a university professor in Toronto, however, the family moves, thus changing Elaine's quiet way of life forever. In Toronto, Elaine attends public school for the very first time. Not used to being around other girls, she nonetheless makes friends with a girl named Carol Campbell. Elaine eventually meets Carol's friend, Grace Smeath, and the three girls soon become good friends.

Elaine's life is soon changed again after returning from a summer vacation in the north. Elaine finds that a new girl has befriended her group of friends. The girl, named Cordelia, not only becomes the leader of the group, she begins to bully Elaine as well. In time, both Grace and Carol also join in on the bullying. Though Elaine does not like the taunting, she wants nothing more than to be accepted, and so endures the bullying. Elaine soon begins develop anxiety over the cruel treatment, however, and it is not until she is almost freezes to death from one of Cordelia's cruel games that she finally manages to separate herself from her former friends.

Though Elaine's relationship with Cordelia in tenuous, Elaine suppresses the events surrounding their friendship's ending. To this end, when Cordelia's mother wants the two girls to walk to high school together. Elaine accepts, having successfully pushed the traumatic events out of her mind. The girls become friends again, and ventually are inseparable. In time, however, Elaine begins to change. She starts mocking Cordelia, and the dynamic in their friendship changes as well. Like Elaine earlier on, Cordelia soon begins showing signs that she might be suffering from things emotionally. Elaine does well in school, while Cordelia falters. It is when Elaine remembers something of her troubled past that she begins to withdraw from the friendship.

The next chapter in Elaine's life finds her attending night classes at a local art college. While working on her drawing skills, she enters into an affair with Josef Hrbik, the teacher of her Life Drawing class. Mr. Hrbik is also having an affair with another student, Susie, though Susie know nothing about Elaine. One day Susie finds out that she is pregnant by Mr. Hrbik and attempts to terminate her own pregnancy. Susie manages to botch the abortion, however, and with her life now in danger, she calls Elaine for help. Elaine is subsequently brought face-to-face with the results of a failed abortion. Her worries are increased when, after Susie recovers and leaves Mr. Hrbik, she finds herself growing tired of him. She eventually begins treating him horribly. In despair, Mr. Hrbik leaves Toronto.

"Elaine has also seen her old friend Cordelia again when she finds out Cordelia is in a home for having taken pills. Though Cordelia implores Elaine to help her leave. Elaine refuses, and does not see Cordelia again after this fact. Elaine faces her own quagmire of conscience when she later finds out that she is pregnant by a classmate named Jon. She had been having an affair with Jon while still with Mr. Hrbik, and is afraid to tell Jon of pregnancy". Given what she witnessed with Susie, however, Elaine does not want to attempt an abortion. In time, she tells Jon and he marries her, and she gives birth to a baby girl, Sarah. Neither of the two are ready to be parents, however, and Elaine eventually tries to take her own life due to the pressure. Though she is saved by Jon, she eventually leaves him, taking Sarah and retuning to Vancouver.

Elaine is recognized in the art world after her return to Vancouver, and feels that she can breath again. When she finally makes it back to Toronto, she is a veritable star, give her art. Though happy, she continues to think about Cordelia while at an art event. The next day, Elaine actually misses her plane as she is so distraught at not seeing Cordlia the previous day. She goes for a walk and ends up in the same ravine where she had broken though the ice as a child, when she almost died. When she looks into the ravine, Elaine sees a vision of Cordelia, and is shocked. She also feels the same ominous grip on her, and realizes that this feeling is not hers, but Cordelia's. With this revelation, she earnestly reaches out to her friend.

Cat's Eye is a powerful narrative that shows how every action has a reaction, even though some reaction might not come until much later in life. Seemingly trivial incidents like bullying in school can impact someone's life and cause them emotional distress for some time afterward. Also, the desire to be liked can have devastating consequences for people. Atwood's novel shows how it is better to understand oneself and to make attempts at genuine connection than to posture and connect to others by superficial means, or with superficial agendas. In the case of Elaine and the novel's other characters, these superficial connections are troubling, and can indeed be life threatening.



### **CONCLUSION**

In this work we conclude, Atwood track Elaine where she is at in her life and how she grew stronger and who she develop the story. This work symbolizes that Elaine forgive Cordelia for what she did allowing her to come to terms with her past so she can ultimately come to peace with herself and she is finally letting go of her past. Nothing in Atwood's novel suggest that society is recognizing the need of women for self realization although her novel is clear demand for such change. At the same time, her protagonist does come to an intuitive, understanding of herself and her own need. During her journey she undergoes transformation for she learns about herself at various stages of the novel.

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