

A Feminist Reading of *the Group*

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ABSTRACT: *Mary McCarthy is an important feminist writer. The Group, as one of her most famous novels, sparked the heated discussion of the theme of women's self-liberation. This paper will analyze feminism of this novel from two spheres. The first is the public sphere which includes education, employment and politics. They have received higher education. They are devoted to make contributions to the society and realize their own value. The second is the domestic sphere which includes sex and contraception, marriage and child-rearing. Although having got married, they are not willing to abound themselves in family life. They seek their position in the community and the family actively.*

KEYWORDS: the group, Mary McCarthy, feminism

INTRODUCTION

Mary Therese McCarthy was an American novelist, critic and political activist. She focused on the themes such as: politics, emotion and morality. Her work is famous for its precise prose and its complex mixture of autobiography and fiction. McCarthy's personal life provided abundant material for her autobiography and novel. She was orphaned at the age of six and raised by her repressive paternal relative. Fortunately, her maternal grandparents offered her a middle-class life and sent her to Vassar when she was 13 to 21. She had four husbands and one lover. Her men brought deep impacts on her writing style and political viewpoint. McCarthy enjoyed great reputation in American contemporary literary world. Her debut novel, *The Company She Keeps*, helps her build the reputation as a satirist and critic. And she enjoyed popular success when her novel *The Group* remained on the *New York Times* Best Seller list for almost two years. She was the winner of the Horizon Prize in 1949 and was awarded two Guggenheim fellowships in 1949 and 1959. Elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1973, she also

won the National Medal for Literature and the Edward MacDowell Medal in 1984.

The Group (1963) is the best-known novel of Mary McCarthy. It was set in the uneven 1930s. It begins with the marriage of Kay Strong and ends with her funeral in 1940. In June 1933, eight young female friends graduated from Vassar College. Kay married Harald in New York and her other seven friends participated in their wedding. All of them had the aspiration and confidence to the future life. However, the reality was that each character had to struggle with different issues, including financial difficulties, sexual relationships, sexism in the work place, child-rearing, family crises and so on.

Foreign research on Mary McCarthy started earlier, and the late 60s of last century had McCarthy included in the academic research field of vision. There have appeared reviews of the study and a variety of scattered theory. Bess Fox makes detailed study on McCarthy's literature career. His article aims to put the remarkable highs and lows of her career in better perspective. Nancy.k.Miller analyzes *The Group* from the sex and contraception. She traces how McCarthy comes to complete this novel and presents a review of the novel itself. And the latest paper about her is Sarianna Ikonen's thesis: *Women's socialisation in Mary McCarthy's The Group: a feminist reading*. The domestic research on her work is relatively deficient. There are only two papers about the writer and this novel. Zhang Yi introduces her main life experience and speaks highly of her critical spirit. Zhang Jinsong makes a study of her literary creation from the left-wing politics and classical building perspective and concludes four reasons for her success.

The basic premise of Feminism is that: Women are oppressed and discriminated around the world in the long human history. In such a cross-historical and intercultural ubiquitous social structure, women are in a position which is unequal to men in politics, economy, culture, thought, cognition, ideas, ethics, even in private areas such as the family.

Western feminism can be divided into three stages. The first generation of feminism (from the second half of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century) started after the French bourgeois revolution and the Enlightenment, and it kept pace with the European industrial revolution. In October 1789, a group of Parisian women entered Versailles, demanding the National Assembly to guarantee the same legal human rights as men, which opened the prelude to the feminist movement. In 1790, the French actress Gore published the *Women's Rights Declaration* and made 17 requests for women's rights. The declaration later became a programmatic document of the feminist movement. In 1792, the British woman writer M. Wollstonecraft published *A*

Vindication of the Rights of Woman, a book advocating that women should be in education, employment and political enjoyment of the same treatment with men. In the mid-19th century, the center of the feminist movement shifted from Europe to the United States. Until 1920, the United States passed a bill to protect women's right to vote.

The second generation of feminism (from the early 20th century to the 1960s) is the most important stage of feminism in the West. Feminists found that women's unequal status in social life had not been fundamentally improved, although the fruitful efforts of movement had help woman achieve equal efforts in the political and economic fields. For example, women who were entitled to vote are still in a subordinate position in politics. Although equal pay for equal work and equal employment are basically guaranteed, the problem of poor prospects for occupational segregation and career development is highlighted.

The third generation of feminism is also called postmodern feminism, in face of the significantly increasing divorce rate and the spread of AIDS which is caused by "sexual liberation movement". Feminists began to reflect on serious social consequences. Especially in the elimination of male and female binary opposition, it formed the "gentle feminism" and "green feminism". On one hand, feminists affirmed the feminist movement to protect women's social rights and interests; on the other hand, they tried to question the subverting to the traditional family model. Postmodern feminism is still in its growing stage, and is divided into two main schools: the theory of the essence and the theory of constitution. The first one inherits the duality of men and women and tries to eliminate gender inequality on the basis of acknowledging the differences between men and women. The second one fundamentally negates the duality of men and women, emphasizes the sociality of gender roles, and views the equality of men and women as the product of patriarchy. Although the two theories have different starting points, they all agree with that traditional family model is the base of achievement to goal of women's liberation.

Female Consciousness in *The Group*

Female consciousness is the most important theme of feminist writers, who advocate resistance to patriarchal world. It exists in feminist literary works and develops over time. Female consciousness is female's understanding of social roles and status, and is the sensitive understanding of women's value as women. It involves women's awareness of the inequality between men and women and their determination to resist it. Female consciousness concerns the unique experience and deep consciousness of women, which can be explained from three aspects: female subject consciousness, self-consciousness and equal consciousness. The female subject consciousness involves the

consciousness, influence and self-value of the independent consciousness and the autonomous position of the female in the objective world. It is the tireless pursuit of women's independence and autonomy of the internal motivation. Self-awareness is the self-understanding of women, and the nature of women's exploration from women rather than men's perspective. This is a positive and clear denial of male dominance, most like self-reflection and self-criticism. Equality awareness refers to the sensitivity of women to the subordinate status and unfair treatment from men in society.

In short, the core of women's consciousness is a sense of resistance to patriarchy and a strong sense of gender equality. In other words, feminine consciousness is opposed to the male ideology of women's self-identity and inner attention to gender awareness, beyond the patriarchal mainstream things. *The Group* was written during the first wave of feminist movement and it was published during the period of second wave. The female characters' feminism consciousness is clearly discussed in the novel.

Public Area

The first generation seeks for the same economic and political right as that of men. They seek for education, employment and political rights, and the final goal is the equal social role status. The irrational labor market is the biggest obstacle to the feminist movement. It can be said that the disadvantaged status of women in the labor market is an important source of inequality between men and women social status.

Girls in *The Group* reflect contemporary common social phenomenon that women become more concerned with their own education as a means of financially supporting of themselves under the influence of the Great Depression. Pokey, Lakey and Helena pursue further education for better development of themselves, and their awareness of independent and autonomous position shows their subjective awareness. By means of education, all of them improve their own value and regard their influence and self-value as the subject in the objective world. The same generation's different attitudes towards education show clearly their distinct fates and self-value in their society.

Mrs. Davison is the wife of the first vice-president of Oneida Steel, and Mrs. Prothero's husband who owns a high-tech patent which can be called the mint. Both of them enjoy the life without sorrow and anxiety. However, they choose different way of being housewives. Mrs. Davison is bitterly regretted for not being a college woman in her life, and she keeps studying during her free time. She subscribes great amount of magazines for reading and she is fond of playing

developmental game. Her continuous pursuit of education helps her form an advanced educational notion. For cultivating Helena's independent mind, she requires Helena to read the Bible and the beliefs of the principal Christian creeds although she is not a regular churchgoer. For Helena's integrated development, she has had Helena tutored in every conceivable subject when Helena was a child. For supporting Helena to pursue the equal rights, she argues with her husband until her husband becomes flush with shame. On the contrary, Mrs. Prothero is inactive to her life. As a common woman, she doesn't like shopping because she thinks her body is too weak to stand. As the host of a family, she doesn't pay attention to the interior decoration because she thinks it is difficult to study. As a mother of two daughters, she doesn't support for daughters' receiving higher education because she needs someone to accompany her to do hairdresser. In *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Wollstonecraft argues that women who received great education can educate children well and they could be companions to their husbands rather than mere wives. Mrs. Prothero depends on her English butler and doesn't have any joy of life. Compared with Mrs. Prothero, Mrs. Davison is more active in self-improving through education. She has her own life pursuit and she has educated Helena quite well. Her awareness of independent and autonomous is remarkable among her peers.

Pokey and Phyllis are daughters of Mrs. Prothero. According to the state law, they don't need to go to school any more when they are sixteen years old. In the family, their mother only cares about their marriage and distastes for higher education. Both of them are in face of the obstacle from the social situation and their family. However, they make totally different choice when facing obstacles. Although she doesn't have the necessity of pursuing higher education and her mother is against her, Pokey tries her best to enter Vassar. Her determination moves many people to help her. She wins over the application with the help from school mistress. She successfully registers for school with the help of her servant. And she participates in the examination with the aid of Priss. Finally, she becomes a student of Vassar. At verse, Phyllis drops from school when she turns sixteen and she follows her mother's desire to get ready for marriage. As a nineteen-years-old girl, she sets to libertinism when her sister is receiving in school at the same age. As the same generation living in the same circumstance, Phyllis follows the mainstream and steps forward to the way of being an ordinary woman. Pokey insists to pursue higher education and she even changes the history of the whole family. "The Prothero family was dim-witted and vain of it, as a sign of good breeding; none of them, as far back as they could trace their genealogy, had received a higher education, until Pokey." (Mary, 1963:109) At last, Her determination moves her parents. When she needs to study to be a veterinarian at Cornell, her parents gives her a plane as the gift. Pokey's independence on pursuing higher education and her devotion to self-improving can be set as an example for study by

her families.

Through the description of several characters' educational experience, it can be found that education is essential for women. It can decide the quality of one's life and her quality of education to the next generation. Meanwhile, pursuing higher education is one efficient way of forming one's awareness of independent and autonomous position, and pursuing further study is a good way for women to strengthen their awareness of improving their own value.

The main goal of the first generation of feminists is to challenge the traditional division of labor. The original division of labor allows men to control all the public areas, work, sports, war, government and so on, making women become a slave in the family without pay and bear the burden of the whole family life. However, girls are mentally independent, and they want to have some influence on their society instead of living behind men. They pay attention to the realization of their value.

Girls in *The Group* having gone through college are going into business, book publishing, anthropology and medicine to start their career. And they feel like that the whole world is open to them. When they have just graduated from school, Kay Strong get a work at Macy as a junior executive in personnel. She wants to be an outstanding staff at Macy. For becoming the official staff as soon as possible, she participates in training course in summer. For getting promotion, she keeps toiling at her position for many years. Davison plans to teach at a private nursery school. As a versatile girl, she decides to impart her knowledge to the children and help foster more and more talents. Polly Andrews, who is an outstanding student in her major, is to work as a technician in the new Medical Center. Dottie Renfrew is slated for social work in a Boston settlement and Priss Hartson lands a job with the N.R.A. Both of them pay attention to the social situation under the influence of the Great Depression, so they are devoted to the social welfare work. After being educated by Vassar, they want and expect more in life. Although they come from the middle class, they don't need to strive for money for maintaining their life. Girls believe that they can make some contribution to the emergence of American and do something useful for recovery of the country under the Great depression. They could have been something more than simply housewives thanks to their education and they are useful for the development of this country.

Libby MacAusland is the most successful girls who are committed to make contributions to the society. She uses her action to prove that women's labor is the vital part of the social development. Libby is determined to break into the New York publishing industry. Her background is perfect for

making achievements in publishing: “fluent reading knowledge of French and Italian; copy editing, proofreading, and dummyming as editor in chief of the Vassar literary magazine; short-story and verse-writing courses; good command of typing-all the tools of the trade.” (Mary, 1963:192) At first, she has a promise from a publisher. However, the reality disappoints her. She decides to start from reading the manuscript as the proof-reader. She labors far into the night and tries to break out the tradition that book publishing-publishers don’t read the manuscripts. After two years’ working, she realizes that she has to make breakthrough for her development. She begins to write book reviews with the suggestion from her boss. At this time, her boss finds her talent in writing and he suggests Libby to write. Although her boss keeps looking down upon her and implies her to change her profession, she doesn’t give up her dreams. She keeps finding out the way of making accomplishments in this area. At last, she becomes an assistant of the literary agent. After her long-time hard working and trying to make some changes to the original mode, she gains some admission and gets closer to her dream. Libby keeps striving for realizing her own value and she proves that women can make breakthrough into the traditional division of labor which is controlled by man.

Girls’ pursuit of realizing their value also shows their consciousness of equality. They are sensitive about women’s subordinative situation in employment and they are angry about the unfair treatment in reality as men do in the society. They have strong desire for pursuing the equality in labor and the hope of changing this unequal statement as soon as possible.

In *The Subjection of Woman*, John Stuart Mill convinces that the inequality of women is a relic from the past, and he argues that the legal subordination of one sex to another— is wrong in itself, and now one of the chief hindrances to human improvement; and that it ought to be replaced by a system of perfect equality, admitting no power and privilege on the one side, nor disability on the other. All of girls show great interest in political party and wars, and they conceive that politics belongs to everyone rather than belong to man.

In *The Group*, all of the girls pay much attention to current political situation and talk about political issues freely with people around them, their classmates, husbands, mothers, fathers and neighbors. At that period, the war is on the verge of breaking out. They care not only political issues about women, but also the issues about the war. Kay says, “What had saddened her friends was that her interest in what she called Hitler’s was so obviously a rounding on Harald.....’ Still, her zeal of war preparation had given her something to live for.” (Mary, 1963:380) After divorcing with Harald, she shifts her attention to political instead of soaking herself into the sorrow. She has

become very war conscious: she discusses with Mrs. Davison about Mr. Churchill and the air raids and the necessity of a draft in this country. Priss confesses that she was more interested in politics. Priss and her husband Sloan are at sword's points over several social and war problems through the whole chapters. Girls are passionate about politics when they were students. After entering society, they have deep understanding of the social situation and they turn their passion into practical actions. Polly uses her money to support the political activity. Polly lives in a building where most of her neighbors are socialists. She sympathizes warmly with the Spanish Republicans and donates to the Republican war. Norine Schmittlap helps servants to seek for their rights through the parade. She discovers socialism in junior year and she was always leading campaigns at college. After being a housewife of Putnam Blake, who creates an organization to donate for the poor people in the labor case, she doesn't stop her political activity and she leads a campaign for supporting servants' striking.

Girls' political consciousness is worthy of praising. They want to make contributions to society and leave their own tracks on the history. Their strong patriotism helps them realize their value and sublimate their value. They show that women are also passionate in politics and want to be an important part of the political area. And Norrine's behavior implies that women can make great influence on political area and women can even make greater political achievements than men. At the same time, Norrine's participating in politics movement shows another way of realizing one's value. Through the description of girls' concern for politics, readers can find McCarthy's own political claim and her desire for making some changes to contemporary bipolar structure between America and the Soviet Union. After the October Revolution in Russia, New York gradually developed into the camp of American left-wing culture. Under this circumstance, McCarthy has the opportunity to read the left-wing literary works extensively. Lately, she meets with two men who are scholars of New York's left-wing cultural camps. From the thought to the art, she is marked with American left-wing culture. And then, some intellectuals and she organize a group which combines the advantages of two party. Although they fail at last, their notion for peace is worthy of praising.

Domestic Area

The second generation of feminists believe that the right for women to vote, work and education is superficial gender equality. The superficial equality obscures the actual gender inequality. They dedicated to eliminating sex differences which caused women's subordination to men. The main goal of the second generation is to criticize sexism, gender discrimination and patriarchy.

The group was banned in Australia when it was just published, when it “was saluted by one ironical commentator as an ambitious attempt to do for the female contraceptive what Herman Melville did for the whale” (Nancy, 2001:173) in America. It is known that one of the characteristics of male-dominated society is to deny the sex of women and impose male sexuality on women. Dottie Renfrew shows her revolt to this notion and her awareness of sex liberalism through her actions.

To Dottie’s belief, love and sex are two separate things. She goes home from Kay's wedding with Dick Brown, a poor artist. She has sex with him. For remaining the sexual relationship with Dick, Dottie follows his suggestion to get a pessary. She goes to the clinic and registers as an unmarried woman which stocks Kay, who is quite open to sex among them. At that time, if an unmarried woman gets a pessary, she would be made indiscreet remarks or criticisms. However, Dottie thinks that this behavior is legal and she doesn’t need to be shame for her behavior. She uses the legality of the behavior to retort upon Kay when Kay complains for her crudeness. Dottie is a brave girl and she is aware of the essence of self-liberation. She gets rid of the chains added by social prejudice and makes the right choices. Fortunately, her brave action also gets the corresponding support. She is fitted for a diaphragm by a woman doctor who is willing to fit unmarried as well as married women, and she gets encouragement and advice from the doctor. To Dottie’s disappointment, Dick has not called her or returned her calls although he has asked her to give him a call. She waits for him for hours in Washington Square Park. Eventually, she hides the birth control kit under a bench and goes back to Boston. Before her marriage with Brook Latham, she admitted to her most trusted mother about her affair with Dick. When her mother suggests her to postpone the marriage for exploring her true feeling, Dottie refuses and marries Brook on schedule. Dottie knows that Dick and her are just sexual partner. Dick is not worthy of loving and he is not a suitable husband. Although Dottie is the most quiet and awkward girl, she shows the best understanding of sexual autonomy among the group.

The publishing of *The Group* follows the trend of sexual liberation. Detailed sexual description and scientific introduction to pessary inspired woman to satisfy their own needs and provided reliable guidance for birth control. “What was new was reading about it in fiction, where to many women - single women, that is, often eager to lose their burdensome virginity-the information seemed an important revelation.” (Nancy, 2001:174) Dottie believes that women have the right to get satisfaction from the sexual act. Dottie’s different view on sex relationship and marriage, and her bravery reaction to contraception is a good example for women to follow: Women have the autonomy to decide whether to have sex with man. They can choose the sexual partner freely instead of worrying the risk of pregnancy by using the pessary. The single woman, who doesn’t get

married, doesn't need to be ashamed of using it because she has the corresponding right regulated by law. Women are equal with man in sex, and the public shouldn't define it as an disgraceful thing which is worthy of blaming.

The core concept of culture on what is good, worthy of longing, worth pursuing or normal is linked with male temperament. This male identity leads to a social mode that man is responsible for income and woman reigns in the home. However, Kay and Harald show a different family mode.

Kay Strong has to support her home financially because her husband has lost his job. At first, Harald has a job in theater and Kay has a job in Macy. Harald makes delicious food for their meals and makes good plans for their life, meanwhile, Kay puts emphasis on the decoration of their house. Everything seems perfect before Harald's being fired. When the family faces the difficulty, Kay chooses to be strong while Harald chooses to escape. When he is just being fired, Kay chooses to comfort him. When his play is sold out, they hold a party to celebrate. When he becomes self-abandoned because of the Great Depression, Kay doesn't give up her hope to him. In their marriage, Kay doesn't regard herself as the subordinated one and she takes the whole family responsibility.

Yet, Harald beats Kay when he is drunk. One time, he beats Kay again and Kay finally fights back. "Then he knocked me down and kicked me in the stomach. What should I have done, Polly? Picked myself up and waited for him to be sorry the next day? I know that's the right technique, but I haven't got the patience." (Mary, 1963:325) When facing with the domestic violence, Kay chooses to submit to Harald in the beginning and tolerate his violence. However, she doesn't choose to tolerate when she faces the violence once again. She can't tolerate her cowardice any more, so she uses the knife to frighten Harald to show her rising up in resistance.

At last, Kay chooses to divorce with Harald. It's a difficult choice for her to make. At that time, she is a legend in her hometown and her divorce means her failure. Breaking out the legend created by oneself is tough and painstaking. However, she decides to follow her own heart. Harald instinctively adopts the matriarchal principle: he can't bear that Kay works to support him and he can't accept the inferior state in their marriage. All of these lead to his exclusiveness upon Kay. Kay loved him at first, but his long-time elusiveness torments her love and mental. As a strong-minded woman, she chooses to break out the legend and live in a real comfortable situation instead of the faked happy life.

Kay shows two important truths to other women: First, patriarchy is outdated and it must be replaced by rational gender equality. Women shouldn't give up self-consciousness. They should tell themselves that women are not the accessories of men, in contrast, both of man and woman are independent individuals. And husband should tell himself that the lasting of marriage can't be achieved without each other's respect and support in mental and finance. Second, it's meaningless for women to tolerate when they are facing domestic violence. Kay has the awareness of resistance, and she puts it into effect. Domestic violence is the sexual inequality brought by man in family, a rational woman shouldn't permit herself to burden this kind of harm. Women must protect their bodies and defend for their rights when facing violence from husband.

In a society, in the political, economic, legal, religious, educational, military field, or in the family field, all the authority of the position are reserved for men. However, mothers have rights and authority equal to those of fathers; for the obligations imposed on children originate equally from the mother and the father, as both are equally responsible for bringing them into the world. Thus the positive laws of God that relate to the obedience of children join the father and the mother without any differentiation; both possess a kind of ascendancy and jurisdiction over their children. Priss finds this essence during the process of fostering her son.

Solan is a pediatrician who has the authority on educating children. For giving their son immunities for at least the first year, he asks Priss to nurse Stephen. At first, she believes Solan's theory and follows the timetable of nursing strictly although she has to tolerate the lasting crying from her baby during this process. After listening to Stephen's mournful cry once again, she begins to reconsider the reason of insisting breast feeding. She feels humiliated and angry when she finds that she has just become an object in Solan's experiment. And then, she discusses with Solan about the necessity of insisting the nurse and she tries to persuade him to adjust the theory. Gradually, she begins to question the theory and compare it with the words from the nurses and the booklet. At last, she decides to give up the breast feeding because she doesn't support the theory of her husband. During the process, Priss keeps thinking about the right way independently and finally she recognizes that the authority is the way which is good for baby's growing instead of her husband.

Solan owns the irrational theory of breast feeding. At the same time, he has the wrong conception of child-rearing. Solan's inherent patriarchy idea makes him put his back on the difficulty of training Stephen's bowel evacuation habit. And he blames his son's toilet problem for Priss, who is good at other aspects of training Stephen. However, Priss doesn't receive this kind of blame silently.

She complains about his indifference to Stephen's problem and she thinks that he should take the responsibility of solving the problem.

Besides, Priss doesn't agree with women's sacrifice to family. She was a believer in the FDR program and she was good about her work, but she gave up her work to give birth to Stephen. When she was pregnant, she was pressured by the fear of abortion, she gave up her job and she was regretful for her decision. She doesn't think that women's sacrificing their own career and pursuit is worthy of praising. On the contrary, women should go back to their work and their life should have more diversity.

Priss has the strong awareness of self-identification that woman are not inferior to man in any area. As a thoughtful woman, she doesn't follow her husband blindly. She recognizes that her husband doesn't consider the human factor in his theory and she doesn't view Solan as the absolute authority any more for baby's growing. As a mother, Priss doesn't view rearing child is an obligation which is only for woman. As a housewife, she doesn't praise for sacrificing the career for husband and children. Priss shows that women can't lose the self-consciousness when they become housewives. And she is a great example for women to reconsider their identities in domestic area.

CONCLUSION

Mary McCarthy is an important feminist writer. *The Group*, as one of her most famous novels, sparked the heated discussion of the theme of women's self-liberation. *The Group* was set in the 1930s, when America was in the Great Depression. It describes the life tracks of eight girls, who have just graduated from the famous American school only for girls. It begins with Kay's wedding and ends with her funeral.

This paper analyzes characters' female consciousness from two aspects: The public area and the domestic area. The public area includes three parts: education, employment and politics. Girls receive great education and they believe that they had the ability to change this male-centered society. All of them lay emphasis on improving their own value and regard their influence and self-value as the subject in the objective world. They pursue further study and keep improving themselves. They work hard to prove their ability and finally they get the admirable admission. At the same time, their strong passion help them make contributions to society and realize their value. Although social and cultural circumstances and political situations have been improved, the old

ideology remains and haunts women. So the domestic area is separated into: sex and contraception, marriage and child-rearing. Girls live in an age when they don't need to look down upon themselves. They have the sexual autonomy to avoid the worry of pregnancy. They are able to support the whole family and dare to fight against the domestic violence. Meanwhile, they have the same authority in child-rearing. Although sometimes they submit to the inherent patriarchy notion, as girls have received great education, they keep seeking a better way of living and they try to find the balance between work and family. Girls have made their own voice spoken out and they make changes to their society subtly.

The feminist consciousness in this novel shows not only the characters' pursuit of equal rights with males, but also McCarthy's eagerness for women's final liberation.

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