The Postmodern Female/Male Gothic in Stephen King's Misery and Joyce Carol Oates' The Tattooed Girl

By

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Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to examine the postmodern female and male Gothic present in Stephen King’s *Misery* (1988) and Joyce Carol Oates *The Tattooed Girl* (2003) by showing how the characters of these novels are a representation of social violence. The characters are analyzed in light of Carl Jung’s psychoanalytic view of archetypes of the anima and the animus. To combat violence, both authors suggest a state of androgyny which is the balance between the masculine and the feminine side.

The analysis will show how the characters of both novels strive to achieve this balance, yet it is hindered by the emergence of violence again. This thesis comes to fill the gap in scholarship on postmodern female and male Gothic by analyzing violence in the light of the anima and the animus.