

## Harvest Of Tragedy In Anita Brookner's *Dolly*

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### Abstract

The present paper the harvest of tragedy explores love, loss, loneliness, betrayal and regret. Through this inspection a deep understanding of the human condition and which one can manage the tragedies that life can throw our way. The novel "*Dolly*" investigate the deepness emotion that human can experience. Brookner's writing style is characterized by the observation and its ability to capture the complexities of human relationships. Dolly's tragic environment are further inverse relationship with others. Her romantic intertwine filled with heartbreak and disappointment, leaving her longing for connection and love that always seems evade her clutch. Dolly's journey turns into a mirror through which on can forced to face own feelings and think about the common human experiences of loss, longing and the quest for meaning in the face of difficulty.

**Keywords:** Loneliness, Love, Tragedy, Death, Loss.

In this novel Dolly is both real and imaginary, Dolly, aunt of Jane. Dolly married Hugo by the circumstances of romance, it was Jane's favourite story told by her mother. Dolly lived in Brussels with Hugo, who encouraged to do anything and loved her mother dearly. He was always like a hero in her eyes. The family took visit in Brussels when Jane is four or five, her mother is concerned about her brother's health and Jane overhear behind the closed window. Dolly's presence is part of general discomfort, and the flat is melancholy. My uncle was bedridden and he used to click the bell and he awake or that he is hungry. He seemed very fragile and he ringing the bell half-hours intervals, and the bell is answered by the house cleaner, Annie.

Dolly and Hugo seemed very poor there was nothing in their flat. She likes to make children stories and she could see there was not another child in Brussels. The visit, which makes her embarrassed and make her mother upset. Jane is angry at Dolly for occupy her mother's peaceful world and removing me from Prince of Wales Drive to unfriendly town. Jane's impression of Dolly is strange. After return to London, she tired, disturbed, and took strange conversation between her father and mother. Jane's parents said that they are coming over next year to meet her grandmother. After that, Jane went to her room and forgot Dolly totally. She feels discomfort at the flat with Annie.

Jane feels alienated from everything like family, friends, school and peaceful English life because of Dolly. End of the year, it must have been Christmas. Jane parents came to England. In summer and winter, Jane's father used to go long walks on a Sunday afternoons. He is an honourable man. Jane does not like to look forward Dolly, but she did look forward her uncle, who fond of Jane from childhood to till now and encouraged her in all sort of things. Jane's mother said that her uncle sent coral bracelet to Jane when she was born and she cut it by her mouth. Hugo said that she is beautiful when she was a baby. The next thing, which made us sad, we heard that Hugo had died suddenly and unexpectedly. At the time, her parents are ill and Miss Lawlor moved to London look after us all.

"It was nearly spring, but it feel like bitter winter; the light was white, hard and unfriendly, the ground like iron" [23].

After hearing that Hugo died, we could not accept that, it is hard to believe, and we moved to the flat to visit him.

"It was melancholy atmosphere that the telephone call came from Brussels, to say that Hugo had died after a bout of flu which had turned pneumonia of a particularly virulent kind" [24].

We had the call from strange woman who spoke in English and said about the news that Hugo died. The arrangements made by the strange woman. We attempt to call Dolly but her telephone was unsuccessful and there is no answer. Finally, Jane's father spoke to Annie, who seems annoyed. Jane's father put down the receiver and looked at my mother, who is in agony and shocked. Jane's mother cannot let him go her husband to Hugo's death, because he is ill and they wait until hear that from Dolly. Both Jane's father and mother are week to travel so they sat silently and outspokenly in the drawing room and waiting for Dolly's call. Jane's father again trying to connect with dolly but cannot, the flat seems to be empty. It is been a week, Hugo died, there is still no words from Dolly.

"It surfaced, abruptly and violently a couple of days later, when Dolly came to see us; the two women fell into each other in arms, uttering the raucous sobs of uncensored grief, harsh ugly sounds which made my father go pale and pat his mouth with his handkerchief" (26).

After the couple of days, Dolly came to our home; Jane's mother and Dolly hold their arms together and mourning. They could not bear the pain of Hugo's death, and they kept the handkerchief on their mouth.

Jane tries her level best to face the harsh reality of her life. Anyway, it disturbs her mind in all the means. Jane's father told to Dolly that we expected to invite the funeral, and she said that Adele Rougier saw everything. It is done well we had a mass at St. Joseph. Jane mother asked surprisingly a Mass. However, Hugo was not catholic and my father asking Dolly, what will you do now, are you okay to live in Brussels.

Dolly has small pension and she lived with that, and she decided to come back to Prince of Wales. Dolly told that she is not feels sorry to her. She spends her time for dancing and singing. Hugo and Jane's mother is lovable siblings. He is always kind to Jane's mother. Her mother has always adored her uncle almost as much as his mother did. Jane's father is the first person who loved her mother until end of her life. After the death of Hugo, we visited Masterfield Gardens; Dolly face is sad and pale, with tears.

"Hugo death had made her not only sad but bitter, as if it were inevitable that the men in her life should let her down" (48).

Death is universal for Dolly, loneliness cause fear in mind and she afraid of the society. Dolly worried the long dark evening there was nothing to do. Hugo is a good husband he always respects Dolly and he is good son to his mother, this made her to marry him.

After married Hugo, they lived in a pretty flat where peace filled. For Dolly, she never forgets her mother because she remained the greatest love of her life. Dolly used to spend her sleepless night by watching moonlight, which reflected in the mirror hanging on the dark wall in her bedroom. Adele Rougier, who plays vital role in Dolly's life, she is an elderly woman, always dressed well and belongs to wealthy family.

"She loved and mourned her son, who had seemed to her to be as a good humoured and as distracted as he had always been but simultaneously spoilt and diminished" (83).

Hugo loved his mother, but he would not show that in front of her because of his wife Dolly. He used to dominate by her, Dolly again joined with Adele Rougier, this time she comes with fur coat. After the death of Hugo, she feels the marriage lasted in peaceful way not because of Dolly than Hugo. Tony could not bear the death of her son Hugo; she becomes silent and does not want to interact with others.

After that, Tony sold her Manserfield Gardens and moved to hotel. At one night she died quietly by her sleep without any struggle. Tony left her fortune to Jane's mother and, Dolly gets some money on the first Monday of every month. Jane used to go for long walks, and then followed to reading books on afternoons. Her father works at bank, her mother has small income from her mother's property. Jane always had thoughts to advertise the publishers and she loves to write about children stories.

"That is my memory of those summers; the glory of the weather and the refreshment of art. It seemed to me that most of life was mirrored in art, or perhaps that it was the great distinction of art to hold a mirror up to nature, to be an interpreter of phenomena, of situations" (91).

Jane love to watch the nature scene from her dark room in summer. In 1976, the autumn summer is wet. A tendency to think that summers of our youth has begun to interest her. Jane used to go long walks in summer, with her father. After the walk, her mother prepares tea and they have with Miss Lawlor. Jane mother said to take cup of tea to Miss Lawlor. Jane eats and drinks what her mother prepared for her, and she insists to Miss Lawlor to have lunch and asking help for dinner preparation. Usually Miss Lawlor used to join with their teatime, which insists by her mother.

Jane's mother and Miss Lawlor always had murmuring conversations. Lawlor is relative from Jane's father side and she loves both her parents. Jane friend Marigold might come after tea. Both of them are friend from the age of four. Now they completed their schooling, move to college, so Jane would go to Cambridge, and Marigold begins her nursing training. Jane experiences a profound sense of loss and disorientation following her mother's death. With the absence of her mother, Jane finds herself grappling with a deep emotional void and a sense of loneliness. The loss of her mother leaves Jane feeling adrift, as she navigates the complexities of grief and the realization of her own mortality. Additionally, Jane may experience feelings of abandonment and vulnerability, as the figure who provided her with emotional support and stability is no longer present.

Jane's tragedy lies in the realization of unfulfilled dreams and the stifling constraints of societal expectations. Throughout the narrative, Jane grapples with a sense of stagnation and dissatisfaction in her life. She may feel trapped by the roles imposed upon her by family and society, unable to pursue her own desires and aspirations. Additionally, Jane's tragedy may stem from a profound sense of loneliness and isolation. Despite her efforts to connect with others and forge meaningful relationships, she may find herself feeling disconnected and alienated from those around her. Furthermore, Jane's tragedy may also be rooted in missed opportunities and the inability to break free from the patterns of her past. She may look back on her life with a sense of regret, wondering what could have been if she had made different choices or taken risks.

Overall, Jane's tragedy in "*Dolly*" encompasses a complex interplay of unfulfilled potential, societal pressures, and a pervasive sense of loneliness and disconnection. This significant event in Jane's life prompts her to reflect on her relationships and her own identity, leading to a period of introspection and self-discovery. Ultimately, Jane's journey through grief shapes her character and influences her interactions with others as she seeks to come to terms with her loss and find a sense of purpose and belonging in the aftermath of her mother's death. Jane's response to her mother's death is

characterized by a combination of emotional upheaval and a newfound sense of independence. Initially, she grapples with the overwhelming grief and sense of loss that accompany her mother's passing.

She may experience periods of deep sorrow and confusion as she comes to terms with the absence of her maternal figure. However, as the novel progresses, Jane begins to assert her independence and take charge of her own life. Freed from the constraints of her mother's expectations and influence, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery. Jane may explore new interests, forge new relationships, and confront her own desires and aspirations without the shadow of her mother looming over her. While Jane's grief may continue to linger, her experiences following her mother's death ultimately contribute to her personal growth and development. She learns to navigate the complexities of life on her own terms, emerging as a stronger and more self-assured individual by the end of the novel.

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