

THE MOVING FINGER

The title

↳ idea of control, change

- ↳ various kinds → Clayton painting the portrait and feeling as though he owned her
- Mrs Grancy having control over the men even after her death
- Grancy changing the painting to age with ^{him}

How people were impacted by Mrs Grancy, both Mr Grancy and the others around her as well, including all the friends of Mr Grancy.

Women were expected to be like Mrs Grancy in the patriarchal society. This can be ~~compared~~ analysed ~~by~~ through the contrast between Mrs G and the first wife.

Clayton ^{love} Mrs G

↳ turned in obsession

↳ caused jealousy

↳ led him to lead Grancy to death.

The story shows that love outlives the lover. It can be that love can sustain a person even after the lover has died. Grancy stayed in Europe he feels that she is there with him he feels that love. This became an obsession and which is why he needed the portrait to survive.

↳ The portrait is a clutch.

Theme

↳ Gender expectations

↳ Both for the women and the men, men are expected to be strong and suppress the grief period.

↳ social expectations.

Narrative technique → third person

Analyse how the story, expectations and thoughts change in the story along with the changes in the setting.

Running away to another country to escape the death of his wife → escapism.

seasonal setting: Spring → connotes, rebirth, rejuvenation, hope
↳ here the opposite is happening
↳ ironic.

Spring for claydon → when he repainted the portrait to restore its beauty.

Granary

↳ indefatigable

↳ Loving

↳ sensitive

↳ relationships: with narrator

with claydon
with friends

↳ love made him tireless. → his spirit had been given fertility.
↳ close relation, understand and empathise with Mr Granary
↳ there is brotherhood as he did repaint it, but there was also jealousy and lack of understanding.

↳ his wisdom, calmness and meditation, intellect seems to enrich their company.

↳ Granary's family home is like an open ocean where everyone can sail on their own waves.

↳ he supports and is kind to his friends.

↳ unable to accept his loneliness and the death of his wife.

↳ his emotional weakness

↳ ppl couldn't see his weakness, but it was always there with him, which is seen through his early death.

Mrs Granary

→ nurturer

→ influence she had on husband and other friends

→ sacrificial nature → sacrificed her youth to support her husband, allowed painting to be changed.

→ she is always in the background of Mr Granary's life
↳ supportive figure.

→ admirable woman in the ^{context of the} social cultural time

Claydon

- sees beauty in MSG that he feels MG missed
- his friendship with MG
- The way we see him as a lover
- manipulated → he was manipulated by Granzy to change his masterpiece.
The fact that Granzy expected him to agree and change the painting
- Selfish → when he painted her first time, it was to capture her for himself
→ repainting the portrait he did it with the wrong intentions
- believes his friend didn't love MSG the way he should've.
↳ claydon loves the ideal sight, idea of MSG, whereas for MG it was the context, companionship she gave him.

Narrator

- ~~distance from claydon~~ Relation with Claydon
- feeling claydon killed MSG
- feeling pity for MG
- change in perception → feels pity for ~~the~~ claydon as he understood what he must've gone through.

Conflicts

- ↳ role and expectation of women vs role and expectation of men
- ↳ Granzy love vs Claydon love
- ↳ Love vs obsession
- ↳ 1st wife vs 2nd wife
- ↳ ~~Gent~~ grief of woman vs grief of man
↳ more quiet and composed, ideal
↳ supposed to recover quick
woman grieving shown through expectations of MG for painting grieving.

Symbols

- ↳ currency → showing the patriarchy in society
- ↳ land
- ↳ art → returns a woman into art.

'think he owned the moon because it reflected in the pool of his house'

↳ claydon's overpowered M_g's love

The way the narrator describes M_g's recovering

↳ spring.

↳ Light symbolism.

→ M_g's belief in M_S's spirit being there even after her death

→ Her still sustaining him

↳ portrait → exposes claydon's ability to turn life into art in such a manner that it seems life is infused in the art

↳ objectifies M_S by turning her into a painting

↳ irony, M_g own the woman, but claydon deludes himself that by owning the painting in the end he would own her.

Themes

Gender → identity and perception is defined by the role you play in society

Youth → beauty is youth, being supportive to husband.

Friendship/Com

happiness

Transformative power of time

Loyalty

Obsession / possession

Sorrow / grief

Art → claydon's masterpiece is proof of claydon's artistic talent

→ power to replace the actual person

→ love reflected through art

→ claydon's obsession with art and ∴ the woman

→ the timeless frozen quality of art is forced to be changed by Grancy.

→ imprisonment of M_S, even after her death she is forced to follow through with her roles as a wife

→ characterization of love

Death → impact on those left behind

↳ vacuum it creates

↳ inability of humans to control their fate

↳ need to fill that vacuum

↳ idea of death like a disease

↳ supernatural power it has

↳ wanting to remember the ~~death~~ dead

fate / destiny → her death was cruel, died only after little time

memory → he needed her to sustain

→ he was able to live so many years after her death because ^{she} ~~it~~ become a support for her.