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# Analysis of The Sisters Short Story by Pauline Smith

Introduction

This essay critically analyses The Sisters short story by Pauline Smith. The purpose is to discuss the literary devices used by the writer, Pauline Smith. The essay focus on two literary devices. Firstly, it will focus on the structure of the story, which include; setting, structure and plot development, characterization, narrator and point of view. Lastly, it will focus on the literary and language concepts (diction, tone and style).

Title

The title of the story "The Sisters" indicates that the focus is on the two sisters, Marta and Sukey, who are devoted to each other.

Themes

· Greed and how it affects people's lives

Burgert de Jager's obsessive greed to keep his lands and to have water to irrigate the land blinds him to the effect of his actions on his daughters. Jan Redlinghuis's greed to possess Marta and to display her around the district in the end killed both her and him.

Powerlessness of women

According to Van Niekerk (1990:19), men's urge to have power over women and land by means of possession and exploitation. In the story, the power of men is shown in the way that Burgert de Jager used Marta, as a pawn in his battle to keep his lands. She had no power over her fate, and she got married off to Jan Redlinghuis. Marta had no power to stop Jan Redlinghuis from parading her and boasting to everyone that her father had sold her to him.

The power of love between sisters

Sukey was prepared to sacrifice herself to Jan Redlinghuis in order to save her weaker sister, Marta from marriage. Marta tries to comfort and reassure Sukey that she is ready to accept her fate.

Analysis of the Short Story

Setting

- Little Karoo, near Oudtshoorn, neighbouring farms, Bitterwater and Zeekoegatt in vicinity of the Platkops.
- Even though there are few descriptions in the story, we know that Little Karoo is a very harsh and drought-stricken world.
- The water rights from the Ghamka River.

Structure and Plot Development

The complication in the story arises from the fact that Burgert de Jager has tried for many years to get water from Ghamka river through a neighbouring farm owned by Jan Redlinghuis and has spent a great deal of money on legal fees. He is so obsessed with that he does not notice how it is affecting his wife, who dies in his "bitterness and sorrow".

The conflict between the two farmers creates the tension in the story. Burget de Jager eventually owes Jan Redlinghuis so much money for allowing the water to pass through his farms that he is forced to make a deal with him (Redlinghuis will either marry Marta or take over the Burget de Jager's farm). This tension rises in the story when De Jager decides that Marta must marry Jan Redlinghuis to save the farm.

The story reaches a climax when Marta becomes weaker and weaker fr

# **Sisters By Pauline Smith**

**Harold Scheub** 

#### **Sisters By Pauline Smith:**

Story Harold Scheub, 1998-10-01 What is the essence of story How does the storyteller convey meaning Leading scholar Harold Scheub tackles these questions and more demonstrating that the power of story lies in emotion While others have focused on the importance of structure in the art of story Scheub emphasizes emotion He shows how an expert storyteller uses structural elements image rhythm and narrative to shape a story s fundamental emotional content The storyteller uses traditional images repetition and linear narrative to move the audience past the story's surface of morals and ideas and make connections to their past present and future To guide the audience on this emotional journey is the storyteller s art The traditional stories from South African Xhosa and San cultures included in the book lend persuasive support to Scheub's These stories speak for themselves demonstrating that a skilled performer can stir emotions despite the obstacles of space time and Textual Ethos Studies, or: Locating Ethics, 2016-08-01 What is the relationship between texts and ethics Who culture decides the ethics of a text the writer or the reader What happens to ethics in texts that portray dreams or psychoses Is violence always inherently unethical In dealing with others is violence to both them and oneself ever completely avoidable Textual Ethos Studies does not attempt to provide definitive answers to these questions so much as to be a springboard to the further discussion of ethics in relation to specific texts The essays illustrate varying perspectives ranging from the philosophical to the psychoanalytical to the linguistic that can be used to localize how texts engage or invite an engagement with ethics Twenty scholars representing Asia Europe Israel North America and South Africa highlight the complex relationship between cultural context and ethics and between the ethical and the unethical Several essays deal with the study of atypical texts that represent different attitudes toward the violent the disordered the traumatized the psychotic and the sentimental in order to encourage or provoke further discussion of the relevance of these types of texts to ethics The **South African Novel in English** Kenneth Parker,1978-06-17 The New Statesman ,1915 **Music and Musicians of** Maine George Thornton Edwards, 1928 Valero Keith Wild, 2015-10-16 Valero shouted and pointed to the Police Station For goodness sake Sergeant a policeman is in that ambulance dead Get to the CID room find out properly what the boy saw Valero turned to his boss I had a chat with him before he went off his shift He was fine and looking forward to changes around here it s bad sir very bad I know Valero look over there at those coppers they are stunned as well at what has happened Yes sir but maybe it s the ones not here that we should note the ones still behind a desk or round the corner having a fag Hold on Valero we know we ve got some problems here but surely not a murderer You got here quickly sir Rectors Remembered: The Descendants of John Jacob Rector Volume 3 Laura Wayland-Smith Hatch, 2014-10-22 Volume 3 of 8 1213 1918 A genealogical compilation of the descendants of John Jacob Rector and his wife Anna Elizabeth Fischbach Married in 1711 in Trupbach Germany the couple immigrated to the Germanna Colony in Virginia in 1714 Eight volumes document the lives of over 45 000 individuals True Latter-Day Saints' Herald ,1929 The family magazine of the Reorganized Church

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There was No Lightning Harold Scheub,2010 We Specialize in the Wholly Impossible Darlene Clark Hine, Wilma King, Linda Reed,1995-04 Essays by 30 authors attempt to reclaim and to create heightened awareness about individuals contributions and struggles that have made African American women s survival and progress possible The Ohio Newspaper, 1925 Loretto in the Rockies Sister Celestine Casey, Sister Mary Edmond Fern, 1943 Dragma To of Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity, 1917 Laws of the State of Illinois Enacted by the ... General Assembly at the Extra Session ... Illinois, 1919 Southern Reporter, 1894 Includes the decisions of the Supreme Courts of Alabama Florida Louisiana and Mississippi the Appellate Courts of Alabama and Sept 1928 Jan 1929 Jan Mar 1941 the Courts of Appeal of Louisiana

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### **Table of Contents Sisters By Pauline Smith**

- 1. Understanding the eBook Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
- 2. Identifying Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
- 3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - User-Friendly Interface
- 4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Sisters By Pauline Smith User Reviews and Ratings

- Sisters By Pauline Smith and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Sisters By Pauline Smith Free and Paid eBooks
  - Sisters By Pauline Smith Public Domain eBooks
  - Sisters By Pauline Smith eBook Subscription Services
  - Sisters By Pauline Smith Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Sisters By Pauline Smith eBook Formats
  - o ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Sisters By Pauline Smith Compatibility with Devices
  - Sisters By Pauline Smith Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - Interactive Elements Sisters By Pauline Smith
- 8. Staying Engaged with Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - o Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Sisters By Pauline Smith
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Sisters By Pauline Smith
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - Setting Reading Goals Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Sisters By Pauline Smith
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources

- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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