

## INTENSIFYING THE DREADFULNESS IN STEPHEN KING'S NOVEL *THE SHINING*

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### ABSTRACT :

Horror as a genre in literature represents terrific, fearful and secret desires. It encountered with monstrous, vile, violent, dehumanizing elements into stories. Stephen Edward King's books and narratives have generated fear in heaps of population around the globe. His use of scholarly components, intense letter methods and the using of public's primary fear makes his works brilliant. *The Shining* by Stephen King has paranormal elements. The book is a scary story about a family of three who spend the winter as lone inhabitants and caretakers of an abandoned hotel in a small, mountainous region of Colorado. Danny Torrance, the book's hero is five years old and has clairvoyant skills. The Overlook Inn, where Danny's father, Jack, as the winter supervisor, is filled with secrets and phantoms from a bygone era, keeping Torrance in constant fear. The novel depicts the readers about the horrific suffering and tension the human psyche will bear before succumbing to horror and crashing on itself. This research paper reveals the dreadful situations and terrifying sections in the novel *The Shining*.

**Keywords:** terrific, fear, paranormal, phantoms, horror, dreadful.

### Intensifying the Dreadfulness in Stephen King's Novel *The Shining*

Horror as a genre in literature represents terrific, fearful and secret desires. It encountered with monstrous, vile, violent, dehumanizing elements into stories. Their representation in renowned fictional structure spans a wide range of academic exhibit. Amongst the horror writers, the prolific American writer, Stephen Edward King, specifically portrays the theme of horror in his literary artifacts. King's stories have supernatural elements including human emotions with interesting stories and well characters. His books and narratives have generated fear in heaps of population around the globe. His use of scholarly components, intense letter methods and the using of public's primary fear makes his works brilliant.

*The Shining* by Stephen King has paranormal elements. Danny Torrance, the book's hero is five years old and has clairvoyant skills. The Overlook Inn, where Danny's father, Jack, as the winter supervisor, is filled with secrets and phantoms from a bygone era, keeping Torrance in constant fear. The book is a scary story about a family of three who spend the winter as lone inhabitants and caretakers of an abandoned hotel in a small, mountainous region of Colorado.

The nightmare visions in Gothic novels are the bearers of a new consciousness. One of the key reasons why is the novel combines the literary styles of American gothic and American jeremiad to deliver harsh critiques of the country's political history as well as a message to the country about the dangers of moving on its current course. Furthermore, the combination of dystopian threat and terrifying story is an element of American gothic tradition. It was the place he had seen in the midst of the blizzard, the dark and booming place where some hideously familiar figure sought him down long corridors carpeted with jungle. The place Tony had warned him against. It was here. It was here. Whatever Redrum was, it was here. (TS 34)

*The Shining* by the final explosive demolition of the Overlook Hotel is the culmination of the historical and social pasts. Throughout the book, there are various references to the violent military past of United States, especially after World War II. The woman who has been seated next to the Overlook's summer chef comments on its interference with the affairs of American private business in Third World countries. Jack misunderstands the significance of the Overlook as a symbol and loses words when he comes to answer the questions about it. The Overlook vast mountain range depicts not just the failure of the Pursuit of Knowledge after WWII, but also the disillusionment of the City on the Slope's particular anticipation, the vision of America's Puritan forefathers. In the

argument that the new settlers were upholding God's providential pledge, the Puritan party emerged as the dominant group in the wars of the New England colonies defended Negro slavery.

Jack is a compassionate father and husband at heart, known for his constant care upon his son's welfare in the story. He shares a striking resemblance to Jack Torrance's originator, although King was unaware of this for quite some time after the release of *The Shining*. Despite the fact that King did not intend for this novel to be a representation of his life, Jack Torrance is a direct reflection of King's own character as a family man, novelist and an alcoholic. The Overlook Hotel is a mysterious structure tempting Jack Torrance to drink by representing him with dreams and reflections, as well as supplying alcohol that was previously unavailable in the previous house. Ignorance takes over Jack's body with the aid of copious quantities of alcohol, turning the troubled family guy into a screaming and violent psychopath. Now Jack "could hear the Overlook Hotel coming to life" (TS 377) and actually becomes a new being under the influence of the Overlook's evilness and alcohol through a wicked, a man in Jack's body. Forgetfulness and alcoholism held King's character hostage irreversibly by the conclusion of the book and he has become a shell of his former self.

The hotel, which has been influenced by the misdeeds of the countless harmful individuals who have lived there, takes on a toxic personality, and it discovers Jack's fondness for booze and seduces him with it. The hotel seizes and enslaves him to its dark secrets Ray Browne stated that, "the fear of the father, the unknown, and especially the misshapen grotesque freak" (60) makes Danny terrific and gives statement of his position in the novel. Then, he sees the figures of the wicked people who have died in the hollow houses. The body of a woman who committed suicide several years ago is almost strangling the child, he also sees blood on the walls where a gangster was shot in another room. Now, "fear had settled around his heart, deep and dreadful" (TS37). When the consequences of the Overlook's bad, alcohol and cabin fever combine to send Jack on his murderous spree, the Hotel simply destroys his relationship with his family, just as he is, tragically, physically and figuratively ruined as well. Jack transforms into a totally different human when under the influence of alcohol or the Overlook, identifiable only by his facial appearance.

The lethal mixture of the Overlook Hotel and alcohol produces a doppelganger of Jack Torrance, turning him into a murderous and psychopathic creature. Somehow, Jack may have two very distinct identities, most dichotomous and frightening that King has ever created. In his discussions with Mr. Ullman, the owner of the Overlook, Linda J. Holland Toll indicates that there are hints to "Jack's propensity for dichotomy in the beginning of the novel" (131). Danny is smart enough to understand the distinction between his father and the man who tries to kill him in the hotel. The fact that a mad man running through the hotel with a roque mallet seems to be the same caring father and husband that Wendy and his son, Danny know earlier. Danny relates his father's identity misunderstanding a masquerade. When explaining the transition that arose in his father, Danny thought, "it wore many masks, but it was all one...it was hiding behind Daddy's face, it was imitating Daddy's voice, it was wearing Daddy's clothes. But it was not his daddy. *It was not his daddy*" (TS76). Under the influence of alcohol and the hotel, Jack does not simply transform into another human. Danny's thinks Jack's full transformation into a man resembles his father. Danny, who has an imaginary pal called Tony, also explores the doppelganger concept. Tony emerges as dark and remote character bringing Danny to these dreams when he encounters trances that allow him to see what could or may not be in his future.

Tony didn't answer. But Danny didn't need an answer. He knew. A long and nightmarish masquerade party went on here, and had gone on for years. Little by little a force had accrued, as secret and silent as interest in a bank account. Force, presence, shape, they were all only words and none of them mattered. It wore many masks, but it was all one. Now, somewhere, it was coming for him. It was hiding behind Daddy's face, it was imitating Daddy's voice, it was wearing Daddy's clothes. (TS 134)

Danny's middle name is later discovered to be Anthony implying that his friend has always been a part of him. About the fact that Tony is not the Jekyll to Danny's Hyde, the notion of a doppelganger

is present even in Danny, a minor character. In the novel, King uses not one but two characters with doppelgangers, demonstrating that he is aware of the concept. When under the influence of alcohol and the Hotel, Jack, an addict, transforms into an unrecognisable creature. Consenting to kill, the darker side of him demands a disturbingly low degree of convincing, considering the fact that the real Jack Torrance will never think it.

Many of those slain by the inn seem to have a flaw that the soul may exploit in some way. Jack has also been distinguished by his father's alcoholism and destructive behaviour. As a result, King seems to be implying that evil cannot work without the cooperation. Danny's psychic ability is another intriguing part of the novel. Stephen King has a lot in common with the writer character, Jack Torrance. Identically reflects through his character, Denker without realizing it. Jack, King's character, is oblivious to the parallels between himself and Denker and King, ironically, oblivious to the fact that the same pattern remains in his own fiction.

The fact that Jack Torrance is one of Stephen King's earlier characters, autobiographical reflection is visible in him, whether or not King was aware of it at the time of writing. The much of what authors bring into their writing is accidental and comes from the subconscious. Torrance, King's doppelganger, represents King's own inner turmoil in a way that he could not face at the time the novel was written. Jack takes the deal without hesitation and threatens to murder Wendy. He attempts to kill Danny after leaving Wendy half-dead. Even though he is plagued by demons, Jack's subconscious parental impulses come to the fore and he orders his son to leave. As a result, the spirits that inhabit his body cause him to injure himself and attempt to destroy Danny once more. However, Dick Hallorann, Danny, and Wendy are ultimately able to leave the hotel and escape, despite the fact that the Overlook hotel explodes and is entirely ruined due to boiler strain.

At the novel's terrifying conclusion, Jack has been completely corrupted by the hotel's malevolent powers that attempt to murder his wife and child with a hammer when his kid forces him to combat the inn by summoning the remaining shards of protective love within him, he triumphs and then commits himself. Wendy and Danny, both injured, narrowly make it out until the hotel burns down, the boiler exploding in the same way as its darkness has. The book is a haunted house tale, a ghost tale and a psychological thriller story all rolled into one. The Torrances add a history of family dysfunction to the Overlook, but it's also a rich analysis of the consequences of alcoholism, anger and child neglect. The metaphysical aspects may almost have been stripped out of the novel; rather, much of the truth of these elements is left to the characters' imaginations. Critics and fans of Stephen King believe that *The Shining* is one of his finest novels. The novel reveals his own struggles with alcoholism and other addictions. Portraying Jack as an alcoholic artist. The characters, Wendy, Danny and Hallorann are also developed as Jack in novel published after King's sobriety. The novel's gruesome aspects cannot be overlooked because of its character-driven style.

Shock, anxiety, dread, blood and similar narrating, particularly as depictions of Hallorann's excursion to the Ignore alternate with scenes occurring inside the lodging and portending, as found in Ullman's story of Grady's homicide self-destruction. The setting of the book creates an environment where there is little relief from the horror. The oscillation of Jack's friendship with Danny between passion and homicidal violence the most frightening part of the *The shining*. This connection exemplifies true adolescent nastiness in the United States. Danny is torn between his admiration for Jack, the wonderful father, and his fear of Jack, the correctional father, who is being directed by the hotel. It is worth remembering that Jack's father was a violent alcoholic. Wendy's mother is a cold, remote perfectionist, but she doesn't have someone to whom she can comfortably flee her husband. As a consequence, the novel can be viewed as a criticism of America's broken family life exaggerated by the mystical aspects. The novel depicts the readers about the horrific suffering and tension the human psyche will bear before succumbing to horror and crashing on itself.

The characters continue to live happily in society despite their altered manners. Fear and anxiety, can affect anybody and are prevalent in the acts of the characters. When anxiety and terror arise, humans use a defense mechanism to alleviate them. Stephen King's books are very popular among literary

circles and he beautifully employs the supernatural elements. Most of his works comprises the elements of suspense and wonder to elicit a sense of terror and horror. There occurs a temptation to prefer poetic justice, the good triumphs and survives in his artifice.

It is evident through Jack's dealings with liquor and the Overlook that he is capable to expose as persons - a devoted parent and murdering madman. The fundamental contrast in the book is between Jack Torrance and Stephen King as the author. Whether King intended it or not, Jack is an accurate depiction of his inner battles as he tries to manage his drinking in the hope of becoming the perfect husband, parent and author. He makes reference to the perils of alcoholism and detrimental effects on the family. *The Shining* use exterior doppelgangers to symbolize the protagonist's interior conflicts.

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