

# Importance of Parental Aid in the Transition Age - A Research of Siobhan Curham's *The Moonlight Dreamers* and *Tell it to the Moon*

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**Abstract**—A writer becomes successful only when he is able to communicate his thoughts to his readers without any circumlocutions. Siobhan Curham is one such writer who is able to communicate her intentions through the characters in her novels *The Moonlight Dreamers* and *Tell it to the Moon*. Growth in a human being along with physical growth involves the emotional and psychological stability as well. The Young Adult Fiction particularly focuses on the children of twelve to eighteen years of age, as young adult fiction itself is to soften the transition between the children's novels and the adult fiction. It is during this span of time that the individual understands the importance of life and starts to develop the inner self. The situations in this series explain in detail of how the characters' thoughts are altered as they grow. This paper focuses to bring out those situations that make the characters realize their worth in life.

**Keywords:** individuality, struggle, motivation, friendship.

## I. INTRODUCTION

"Communication is the essence of literature" says Shivram Karanth. This statement can never be denied as any writer of literature would always want to communicate to his readers through his work. Siobhan Curham, the London born contemporary writer, motivational speaker and a writing and life coach is of no exception. Her profession as such demands a better communication than any ordinary writer and her works too never fail to fall from the pace of communication. She has also won the GBP 2000, Young Minds Book Award in 2010 for her novel *Dear Dylan*.

Siobhan Curham being a motivational speaker and a writer, her main focus is on the young audience. She however has written books for children, young adults along with fantasy and series novels in the fiction and in the nonfiction genres. Some of her fiction novels include *Dear Dylan*, *The Scene Stealers*, *Finding the Plot*, *True Love Always*. And to the list of books in nonfiction are *Antenatal and Postnatal Depression*, *Finding Your Inner Cherokee*, *Dare to Dream*, *Dare to Write A Novel*.

*The Moonlight Dreamers* and *Tell it to the Moon* are the series novels published in the years 2016 and 2017, respectively. These two novels are written for the young adults and the four main characters in the novels are also young adults. The novels are in the third person narrative and each of the four characters is given equal importance which makes the novel more interesting. There is no continuous narration of a particular character but each chapter has the narration of at least one character. This shift of narration among the four characters marks a different and

a unique narrative style. The language as such is direct and simple and there is coherence throughout the novels.

*The Moonlight Dreamers* is the first novel in the series. The novel is about four young girls, Amber, Maali, Sky and Rose who are totally different from each other and have no idea about the other people until Amber, the desperate of all tries to make an initiative to organize a group called "the moonlight dreamers". The characters come under a common roof and share their whims and fancies and also try to bring out the individual talents promising to help each other in their endeavours.

The novel begins with the narration of the first character Amber, a school going girl who is been brought up by her 'dads'. Amber is humiliated by the rest of her schoolmates for she is been brought up by gay dads. This feeling tends to marginalize her and she is deeply upset of what her mistake is in being brought up that way. She never clings to any human soul for embrace but she holds firmly the quotes of Oscar Wilde, her writing hero. Amber is desperate to know if she alone is different from the world with her thoughts or whether there are other people who could join hands with her. She thus decides to organize "the moonlight dreamers."

The next narration is of Maali, a beautiful girl with subtle references to her appearance. Maali belongs to Hindu religion and is settled in London with her parents who own a sweet shop. She is portrayed as a typical young, faithful girl with special love for goddess Lakshmi. Being the elder daughter she is more responsible with her family. Throughout the first novel she only thanks God for all the blessings. She is the first one to get the post card from Amber which she never thought could bring changes in life.

Sky Cassidy is a sixteen year old girl who has a profound love for poetry and she is a member of Poetry Café in London. She writes poems in the pen name Halo, in remembrance of her dead mother. She is been portrayed as simple girl who lives with her dad Liam, a yoga teacher.

The last character in the narration is Rose who is the daughter of the famous model, Savannah and an eminent actor, Jason. She stays with her mother and she is also forced to stay in the limelight in order to keep up her mother's name in her modeling career, which Rose totally hates to do.

All these four characters mentioned are totally different and have no connection with each other. All these young minds are from different social backgrounds, one being brought up by gay dads, the other has everything in life but still has a sense of discontentment, the other is still

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mourning for her dead mother and the other is yet, tired of being brought up in stardom with a fear of losing her own individuality. However Amber's initiative unites them under the strong roof of friendship.

"It's a group for teenage girls who are sick of being told who to be and how to look, and who want to find the confidence to live their dreams. It is supposed to be secret" (117, *The Moonlight Dreamers*), the words of Amber clearly mark the whole intention of both the novels. The first novel proceeds with the characters trying to realize the thoughts of Oscar Wilde though his quotes thereby making him the patron of their group. These people get acquainted with each other very quickly. There is also a transition in the way of communication where it first began with formal emails and later where they meet for friendly at different places.

The second novel, *Tell it to the Moon*, is the continuation of the first novel, where the four girls try to point out the mistakes with the way they are brought up and also stand on to fight for their individuality and they also emerge victorious in doing so. In the times of adversity they do not let lose their hopes but rather they cling on to each other with innocent love and also in high hopes on their patron, Oscar Wilde. There are many quotes written by the writer that goes hand in glove with the situation of the characters. This inter textuality is maintained throughout the novels.

Parents play an important role for the children of the transition age. It is during this time that the children would mould themselves to being an individual with their own whims and fancies. It is here that they develop their individuality. Most of the children would require a supporting hand to achieve their individuality and they can get this only from their parents in the very first circle and then their friends.

In this series certain characters can be examined in such a way where they are let down by their parents in the quest of their identity and individuality. These novels are not like the other young adult fictions which focus on love as the major theme, what makes this different is the author's attempt to bring out the originality of the different characters. Since it deals with the improvement of oneself, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory is used to examine each of the four characters.

Abraham Harold Maslow is an American psychologist who proposed, Hierarchy of Needs theory in the article "A Theory of Human Motivation" in 1943. This theory in psychology helps in understanding the different stages that are involved in the growth of a human. Maslow has given a distinct pattern tracing the growth of an individual and by giving the categorizing it in five different stages, Psychological, Safety, Social, Esteem and Self Actualization.

The character Rose can be particularly examined with the concept of Self – Actualization. This can be explained with different aspects such as Mate Acquisition, Parenting, Utilizing Abilities, Utilizing Talents, Pursuing Goals and Seeking Happiness.

The character Rose falls perfectly in the aspect of Self-Actualization. Though she is in the limelight of stardom being the daughter of a famous model and an eminent actor, despite the divorce of her parents she is forced to keep up her mother's name as she stays with her. She is also strained

to do modeling because she has sharp features and attracting appearance. Her aim in life is totally different and her sexual preferences are also different as she is attracted to girls.

Rose does not have a proper parenting and she yearns to have one good relationship with her father and mother at least once which she believes could enrich her thoughts and feelings. She then abruptly finds solace in the moonlight dreamers. She however tries her hand in modeling but fails in the attempts as she had to fake herself in doing that. Her passion of becoming a patisserie is also put to a shake when Rose tries to bake in her house and Savannah blasts at that very sight. "Throw it out. All of it. Right now. I can't believe you would do this to me." "Make cakes. Bring that into my house", "Savannah marched over the bag of sugar and threw it in the bin." (214, *The Moonlight Dreamers*). She outgrows all her barriers and join in a local cake shop, where the owner Francesca offers her a job and motivates the work she does.

The exact opposite happens in *Tell it to the Moon*, where the mother and the daughter gradually reconcile after Rose cries out in anger and pain about all the misfortunes that had happened in her life making her mother realize her mistake of not being with Rose, especially when she needed her the most. Observing the love and passion in Rose, Francesca gives a separate shop to look on weekends and encourages her by commenting on the new recipes that Rose tries on her own. Savannah tries to slowly build her pace with Rose and Rose is overwhelmed with her efforts, particularly when Savannah visits her in the cake shop where she works. "I wanted to see where you worked." "You're my daughter. I care about where you work, OK?" (272, *Tell it to the Moon*)

Despite all the struggles Rose has her firm legs to work for her individuality. She tries hard to shape her talent in baking by trying out new recipes, selling them in the cake shop. She finds out that her happiness is in moonlight dreamers who constantly motivate her to do what she loves. She did not try to convince her parents to do what she loved but the faith she brought in to her mother is what makes her different from the rest of the other four characters.

This quest for individuality and self identity is the main search of the young adults of this generation. However the character is just an example of what pursuing of goal is, and how important friendship and parenting plays a major role in the development of an individual. The transformation of a young adult to an adult starts from the point of realization of their dreams and goals in life and this novel totally remains an inspirational one for the young readers to choose what they want and to choose how they want to be.

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