

The Passive Female Antihero: In Search of Truce

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Abstract

This article aims at investigating the transformation of the Arab female contemporary protagonist into a passive antihero in Rabih Alameddine's novel *I, the Divine* which is set during the Lebanese civil war. The crafting of postmodern antiheroism in the context of war has become a medium to voice out the traumatic experiences of this individual around whom events of death, loss, destruction, and chaos are centered. The representation of the female antihero in postmodern Anglophone Arab war fiction is of paramount importance as it reclaims the past through depicting historical events. In this article, the evolution of protagonist namely Sarah in *I, the Divine* is thoroughly scrutinized in relation to traumatic events of war, and issues of patriarchy that she has experienced. The analysis of the antihero of this paper is approached by Feminist Therapy theory which is a feminist perspective of psychic trauma to associate traumatic outbursts of the female characters in relation to war and the patriarchal Arab world. Thus, interweaving politics, history and psychology, this article aims at bridging the gap between postmodern Anglophone Arab war literature and the concept of the antihero. It also draws attention to women living in a culture where there is a high base rate of sexual assault and where such behavior is considered normal and erotic by men. Indeed, in this article, the traumatic experiences of the female character will be analyzed to examine the external factors that engendered her transformation into a passive antihero.

Key words: antihero, Feminist Therapy theory, Lebanese civil war, patriarchal Arab world, Postmodern antiheroism, trauma.