

## TESS MEETS PRINCE HAMLET (Fictitious Fiction: Revisiting Classics)

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### ABSTRACT

There are different types of fictions including science fiction. In addition to all those fictions it is needed to introduce Fictitious Fiction. The main aim of fictitious fiction is to remember and recollect different type of characters from popular dramas and novels. In this experimental genre Fictitious Fiction, the remarkable characters in the popular works of dramatists like William Shakespeare, George Bernard Shaw and novelists like Thomas Hardy and D. H. Lawrence are taken to meet with each other. Not only the characters but also the authors are involved to speak their fictional renderings.

**KEY WORDS:** Trafalgar Square, Restaurant, Elizabethan Dramatists, Restoration Dramatists and Modern Dramatists.

A restaurant at Trafalgar Square is busy with customers. A grey-haired girl eagerly waits for a friend. She reserves a table. The waiter meets her twice to receive the order. She knows how to call the friend, but it is unfair to bother him again and again. Her blue eyes reveal her anxiety. With exact eyebrows, broad forehead, half sniffed nostrils, she looks here and there, and it looks as if she fears someone. The restaurant is crowded with customers. Only one chair is vacant in front of the girl. At last Hamlet arrives and waves his hand and offers his apologies for his being late.

"I am sorry Tess. Due to the heavy traffic, I am unable to arrive on time."

"Don't bother Ham. I am not worried for myself but I fear Alec might chase you"

"Oh Alce, he is seen outside the restaurant."

"Nothing happened to you, Ham?"

"What... what do you say Tess?"

"No Ham, he is very dangerous, more dangerous than a serpent."

"Oh, you remind me of the words of Julius Caesar as he spoke against danger."

"I can remember the day of his last breath. But think twice Ham. Alce is more dangerous than Cassius."

"Don't bother about anyone is more dangerous than my uncle Claudius,"

"Yes, I have heard about your uncle."

"Don't you know my creator William is here in the same restaurant?"

"Really? I am so eager to look at him, Ham."

"Yeah, we can meet him but wait for some time. He dines with a friend."

"With a friend? Is he probably my creator Thomas Hardy?"

"I haven't seen your creator. But the person with him has huge moustache and a striped tie"

"Let me see him. He is probably my creator Thomas Hardy. Ham, where are they?"

"They are there near the toilet."

"Ok, I shall pretend to go to the toilet. Wait here a few minutes Ham"

"Sure Tess, take care."

Tess moves to the direction Ham suggests and looks at Shakespeare and Thomas Hardy. But they haven't recognised her. Tess takes all the care not to be noticed. But she has noticed Alec entering the restaurant. On noticing Alec, she immediately returns to her table. Hamlet sees her frightened face. She explains to Ham the arrival of Alec in clear terms. Hamlet is assured of Tess's safety, but she bothers about the security of Hamlet. Hamlet can see through Tess's nervousness and tries to make her comfortable. Alec has gone to a corner and sits in a chair without being noticed by Tess. Tess uses a straw to drink fruit juice. She is too curious to know about the tragic death of Ophelia. Hamlet explains the strange behaviour of Ophelia and his disappointment with her. But Tess is not convinced and defends Ophelia's innocence. Hamlet explains his concern for

Ophelia and remembers the words spoken to Laertes as he declared his (Hamlet's) love is greater than those of ten thousand brothers like Laertes. And he remembers his mother's wish that he should marry Ophelia. Tess is convinced. A strange voice is heard greeting Tess.

"Ah, How are you, Tess?"

"Oh, dear Eliza, it's quite unexpected of your appearance here," replied Tess

"No Maa, I have heard that Prince Hamlet is here in this restaurant. I am sorry I haven't asked you. Who is this gentleman?"

"Oh, be seated Eliza, I shall explain the circumstances."

"No, Maa. I am so eager to see Hamlet, a great warrior."

"Lady, do you believe that Hamlet is a warrior?" asked Hamlet.

"Don't you? He is a great warrior. Unfortunately, he was cheated by his uncle."

"Lady, some people say that Hamlet cheated Ophelia."

"No sir. I don't accept it. Ophelia is not a dedicated lover. If she is sincere, she might have stood for Hamlet. Hamlet may marry her, afterwards," Eliza says

"No dear. Hamlet can't marry her, because he is a prince. A prince should marry a princess, not his lover," Tess said.

"I don't accept your argument, Tess. A prince also needs to have a personal choice. Sir, don't you agree with my statement?" Eliza asks.

"I am sorry, Lady I don't know who you are. But I like your preferences," Hamlet says

"I am sorry sir, I haven't introduced her. She is Elizabeth, popularly known as Eliza. She is my good friend," Tess says.

In the meanwhile, elderly gentleman Professor Higgins has arrived there. He requests Eliza to come back to home, but she rejects. He threatens her to say that he is going to complain against her to her creator Bernard Shaw, who is there in the same restaurant. Without being properly introduced to one another four of them sat together opening discussion of an Indian becoming their prime minister in England.

In the other corner of the restaurant Shakespeare, Hardy and Shaw are sipping sac and continuing their chat. They discuss mainly the WhatsApp groups. Shakespeare says he is a member in the two groups, one for British poets and the other one for British dramatists. Shaw and Hardy are happy as they are in the same group as they have written in both the genres. They enquired Shakespeare of the recent uproar in the poets group reported in the local newspaper. Shakespeare explains with an unbelievable patience that junior romantic poets' claim they are superiors to the senior ones. But the seniors are supported by the University Wits. Hardy remembers that the University Wits called Shakespeare an upstart crow. Shakespeare says though they are nightingales they are unable to sing like him. Shaw supports Shakespeare saying that every bird has its own throat. The waiter asks them if he should bring another quarter. It pains Shakespeare the way he created Falstaff. The waiter consoles Shakespeare as he is Falstaff's fan, and as such he would pay the bill himself. Shaw has ordered two quarters. Hardy remembers the recent attack on him at Oxford protesting the way he moulded Tess's character. Shaw suggests that Eliza might have leave like Tess. Their conversation is not completed. Suddenly Shakespeare has received a WhatsApp message that there is a proposal to split the British dramatists into three groups viz: Elizabethan Dramatists, Restoration Dramatists and Modern Dramatists. The admin requests to know Shakespeare's opinion on the division of British dramatists to in separate groups. Shaw says that the split is praiseworthy since all the groups received Harold Pinter's abnormal treatment. Hardy interferes here to remind Shaw of Pinter's status as a Modern Dramatist. Shaw supports Hardy since he is to protect Professor Higgins, his own creation.

Higgins's android phone on the other table displays a message that someone spelled his name. He tries to know the caller's identity as Shaw is in the same restaurant. He goes directly to him to complain against Eliza who refuses to return home. Shaw defends himself saying that his duty is to create characters and not to guide their destination. Higgins says it amounts to irresponsibility on the part of the creator. Shakespeare wants to know who Eliza is. Here Hardy replies that Eliza is the creator's creator. Higgins continuous to defend himself against that he was compared with Pygmalion by Shaw, but his creation reaches over his creator's whims and fancies. Shakespeare remembers that he is blamed for creating Hamlet. Shaw remembers how Hamlet realises his destiny and saves his life from the attacks of Laertes at the end of the play. Shakespeare objects to the originality of the play but the assistant director pays a deaf ear to him pleading and saves Hamlet's life simply to satisfy Hamlet's fans. At this stage the waiter awaits Hamlet, who is searching for his creator and has seen him now in the same restaurant. SP is panic but Shaw reminds that Hamlet is not an ordinary person. He is a student at Wittenberg University. Shakespeare doesn't seem to be in favour of the argument and asks him to consider the case of Professor Higgins. Scolding Shaw Higgins walks out in anger. Hardy consoles advising to lodge a complaint at writer's jury, London. The waiter seems to order to supply them with one more quarter.

Higgins reaches Hamlet's table and informs the irresponsible behaviour of his creator Shaw. Hamlet can now see that with no trace of doubt that Shakespeare is in this very restaurant. Tess takes in two glasses of fruit juice. Hamlet receives a message from Horatio waiting out near the restaurant. Meeting Horatio there Hamlet asks him:

"Why do you come here Horatio? Didn't I give you my consent to handover our kingdom to Fortinbras, our worthy enemy?"

"Milord, I need your safety more than anything else."

"Do you think I cannot save myself?"

"No. Milord I don't wish to give chance to Shakespeare our creator. Luckily you were saved by the assistant director."

"The script is printed taking in the form of ISBN number. Our creator can't tamper it."

"May I meet you shortly Milord?"

"Dear sir, I suspect you are Hamlet," Higgins says.

Tess intervenes, "No professor, don't have any suspicion. He is exactly Hamlet, formerly Prince of Denmark." Tess.

Embrace the professor finds fault with Tess. He laments "Oh, Tess you are a cheat. I have been speaking of him for one hour without noticing him."

Not minding professor's words Tess exclaims in excitement and kissing and saying, "Sorry sir I am your diehard fan."

(Eliza)Tess prevents Eliza (Tess) from those kisses and declares that she is the inheritor of Ophelia's weakness. Here Higgins advises Tess not to call herself Ophelia. Hamlet keeps quiet. Higgins complains to Hamlet that his creation Eliza is unwilling to return home. Tess explains to Hamlet the training of Eliza and its later consequences. The professor argues that he has made Eliza gutter spy into a duchess. At this juncture Alec reaches there drags Tess holding hair tightly. Eliza remembers that she was dragged herself by Higgins in the same way at the time of her training. Hamlet doesn't waste his time to save Tess and boxes Alec's ears. Higgins must run away from the restaurant. He meets Colonel Pickering outside the restaurant and talks about the fight inside the restaurant. Pickering assures the safety of Higgins and takes him inside. Here Hamlet holds Alec's throat in his left hand while Eliza whistles. Because it was never his intention to allow to rape Tess. The waiters of the restaurant have rushed there and removed Alec's sword which is tied at his waist. The Police have arrived and arrested Alec on Tess's online complaint.

The waiter informs of it to the writers. Hardy thanks to Shakespeare as he is unable to control Alec himself. Hardy felt satisfied at Alec's arrest when he says to Shakespeare:

"It was never my intention that Tess be raped by Alec, but he had overreached my intention"

But Shakespeare feels that even though Hamlet is a good person, he is basically a cynic. Shaw interferes and requests Shakespeare to allow him to show a way to Hamlet and Tess since he learns that they are in deep love. Hardy is curious to listen to Shakespeare's reply. At this juncture Hamlet reaches there and touches SP's feet for his blessings. Shakespeare makes an enquiry about the fight and love. Hamlet explains Alec's rude behaviour towards Tess. Hardy thanks Hamlet for saving Tess from Alec's hands. Hamlet has touched Hardy's feet. Eliza signals Shaw's departure from the scene to Hamlet. Hamlet has utilised the opportunity. Hamlet shies answering the second question. Tess's cheeks turn purple here. Eliza cries in ecstasy expressing her emotion in a cockney speech. Higgins tries to correct the dialect, but he is not listened to anyone there. Shaw accepts to perform the marriage of Hamlet and Eliza willingly embracing the position of a priest. Shakespeare asks to Hamlet about the venue of the marriage. Hamlet declares his intention that he is unwilling to return to Denmark but willing to settle down in England working for a software company. Tess raises no objections. By the end of their conversation Horatio seems designing their wedding card on his tab.

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