

# *English Break*

April 2019, Edition 14



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*women all across the  
globe*



# *English Break*

*May 2019, 14th Edition*

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PUBLISHER: ALZAHRA UNIVERSITY

LITHOGRAPHY: ا ب

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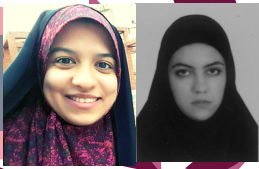


Najieh Abedinpour

## *Editorial*

As a female-run association, we couldn't skip past the one issue that gained its first grounds as far back as humanity came along. It may have taken on a life of its own now. However, there is more to it than meets the eye. The infamous gender narratives that for awful many years, have laid waste to femininity, can yet drag on for centuries to come. Since the propagations about gender identity are floating around in flux and there is hardly any credible yardstick at our disposal to measure them against. This, though, has prompted quite an idea to great many ones: let's man up women! Get them all it takes to end up where the most qualified of men do. Of all things, it's the most direct pipeline to equality, after all. Then it builds and it builds, and the next thing we know is that the over-achieving heroines that stand out to us, share the same virile features that the high-profile men of sorts do. Even if those features run sorely contrary to female biology, it inexplicably appeals to our eyes and thus shapes up the prisms through which we see other women. Interestingly, the painstaking efforts to celebrate femininity seem to have taken on the quality of adopting masculinity.


That is what set us off in search of further clues that would cross geographic and ethnic lines. As in this issue of English Break, we've tapped into literature to cut through all the gender-confusion around. Brought to your by our prolific writing panel, deft editors and dexterous designers. And our biggest shout-out to all the women who had their heads cut off so that our voices don't get cut out.



# *Friedrich Nietzsche's Views of Women*

Introduction: Writing about Nietzsche's views on women is beyond the capacity of a four-page essay, but we will do our best in order not to miss any important points. Whenever one speaks about Nietzsche among a group of people, undoubtedly a majority will call him a misogynist philosopher and others have various opinions towards him. Overall, commenting about such a great philosopher is not a piece of cake. Nietzsche's theories on women is ambivalent, in a way that on one hand we can call him a feminist who tries to defend women, according to some of his quotes, and on the other hand we can call him a misogynist according to his other quotes. Due to this fact, it has been said that most of his books and quotes are equivocal and paradoxical. Subsequently, we cannot defiantly call Nietzsche a feminist or a misogynist, thereupon we will assess both sides in order to cover all aspects of his views.

If we take a brief look at Nietzsche's life, we can understand that he has grown up in a totally feminine environment. His father had passed away when he was only five, so 5 year old Nietzsche had to continue with his mother, sister, grandmother and unmarried paternal aunts. He was completely surrounded with women and was unconsciously under their influence. It has also been mentioned that he had some feminine features, hence we can say on one hand he was fed up with this situation, on the other hand he was completely familiar with women and their features even those that cannot be easily recognized by men, so this issue could be counted as a threat to women, since every hidden aspect of their individuality had been revealed to a man.



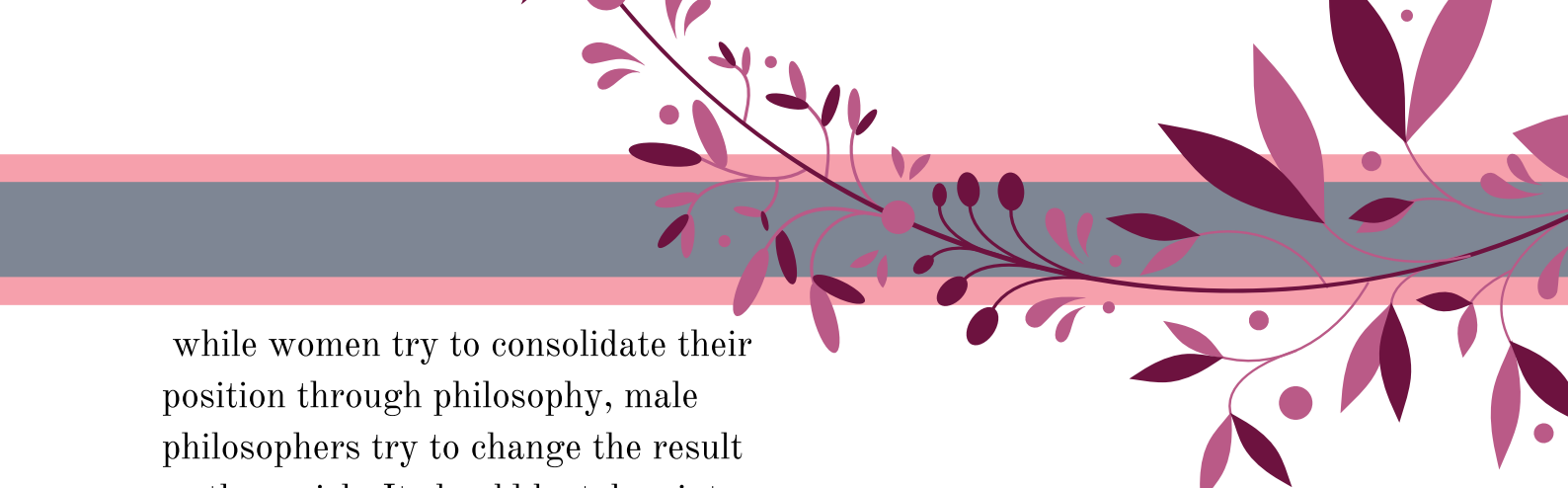
Nietzsche was abandoned by his Russian beloved Lou Andreas-Salome. It has been expressed that Lou Salome saw herself defenseless in his presence, and she thought as if Nietzsche could see her soul or read her mind. She had also confessed that she was afraid of Nietzsche staring at her. This sorrowful loss influenced Nietzsche even more and led him toward misogyny, but it does not mean that he was an enemy of women. Different philosophers have different approaches towards Nietzsche's supposed misogyny; some of them such as Walter Kaufmann ignore it and assert that it is not a philosophical theory and try to show that Nietzsche's views on women were unimportant and irrelevant to the rest of his philosophy.

“Nietzsche's writings contain many all-too-human judgments –especially about women – but these are philosophically irrelevant” (Kaufmann, p.84). Kaufmann believes that “Nietzsche's prejudices about women need not greatly concern the philosopher” and furthermore that “ad hominem arguments against any philosopher on the basis of such statements seem trivial and hardly pertinent” (Kaufmann, p. 84).”

(Hudgens, *Forget Not the Whip*, p 20-21). Kaufmann believes that Nietzsche's views were historically connected to the zeitgeist of his time, as he states that “Nietzsche's epigrams about women may have been connected with his own experiences.” (Kaufmann, p.84)

In contrast to Kaufmann, Nietzsche's first and best ardent fan “Carol Diethe” who was a feminist critic defended his views and indicated that “Nietzsche is a virulent misogynist and chauvinist par excellence, it would be wrong to simply dismiss Nietzsche's commentary about women as philosophically irrelevant as Kaufmann does” (Hudgens, *Forget Not the Whip*, p.23). Therefore she believes that Nietzsche's views are totally relevant to the rest of his philosophies. With this in mind, we have two contradictory approaches. Kaufmann's view causes the emergence of patriarchy that is,






while women try to consolidate their position through philosophy, male philosophers try to change the result as they wish. It should be taken into consideration that Nietzsche writes in a dualistic manner, so understanding his intentions require a deep study of his published works.

“Go to the women? Forget not the whip” (Thus Spake Zarathustra). This is one of Nietzsche's most famous quotes which is ambivalent. Apparently it shows violence against women, but it can be interpreted in a different way; if we consider whip as "rationality of men", we can see how women are praised by Nietzsche and have indirectly been called wise beings, but the second view is far-fetched, because a man like Nietzsche who mostly speaks about women when he wants to represent men's superiority is rarely liable to have the latter intention. Even he believes that women can have no role in their destiny and every single aspect of their lives has been arranged in advance. He does not hold the same idea when it comes to men. He claims that men arrange their destiny themselves.

In his other quotes, he sympathized with women when they were trained and actually forced in order not to speak about their sexual desires and considered that a terrible shame. Therefore, their knowledge and information in this field could not increase too. As a result of this kind of training their desire to become a mother was suppressed, then if they wanted to be a mother it would not be regarded a positive and acceptable demand, whereas it was not the same case with men, and even this way of thinking gave them a sense of masculinity. Maybe this attitude was born of men's knowledge of women's superior sexual power. The power of becoming mothers and giving birth to mankind. With this in mind, they wanted to keep women unaware of this superiority to control them easily. He actually believed that whatever keeps women far from their most important duty which is growing up children, is evil.




What makes women frightening and also connects them to men is their sex. Self-creation, the ability of being connected to the nature and giving birth to someone is emphasized frequently in his theories and maybe this power of women is making him sensitive, and he does not want to accept them as the superior sex or at least equal to men.

He wants to devalue females by declaring that their completion is dependent on men, while the being of each man is dependent on women. He is constantly controverting his own ideas. Now the question is "Can we call Nietzsche a feminist or not?" In order to answer this question, we should go back to the late 19th and early 20th, as during this period the first wave of feminism had risen in Germany. In this movement, feminists demanded the right to vote, own property and obtain higher education for women. There are some ideas which imply that Nietzsche's quotes were powerful hints for feminists in those time, in a way that by reading Nietzsche they had come to the conclusion that women are superior to men or at least both sexes can be equal.

Nietzsche speaks as if he believes women are superior to men and this is a fact but the problem is that men do not want to accept this superiority, since they do believe that women's consciousness of their own abilities would endanger the males.

"The men of our epoch treat the weaker sex with more respect than any epoch has ever done – this is part of the democratic tendency and fundamental taste, as is a lack of respect for age –: is it any wonder that this respect is immediately misused? People want more, people learn to make demands, people ultimately find this respect tax almost hurtful, people would prefer to compete for rights or, in all seriousness, wage war: enough, woman loses her shame. Let us immediately add that she also loses her taste. She forgets her fear of man: but the woman who "forgets fear" abandons her most feminine instincts.





It is fair enough and also understandable enough for women to dare to emerge when fear of men is no longer inculcated, or, to be more exact, when the man in men is no longer wanted and cultivated; what is more difficult to understand is that in the process – women degenerate...While women are seizing new rights in this manner, trying to become “master” and writing “progress” for women on their flags and pennants, the opposite is taking place with terrifying clarity: women are regressing...” (Beyond Good and Evil, 239).

In this long and beautiful quote indirectly but obviously women have the authoritative backing of Nietzsche. He refers to women’s hidden powers. He knows that women are strong. He also asserts that their strengths can weaken men’s masculinity and destroy the utopia they have made for themselves based on patriarchy. “So far, men have been treating women like birds that have lost their way and flown down to them from some height or another: like something finer, more vulnerable, wilder, stranger, sweeter, more soulful, –but also like something

that has to be locked up to keep it from flying away” (Beyond Good and Evil, 237)

Once again he has pictured women’s fragile soul and vulnerability. From my point of view Nietzsche does not mean that women are weak and should be protected but he simply shows how sensitive these lovely creatures are.

They give joy and pleasure to men and don’t miss their liberty. To sum up, Nietzsche, as a great philosopher who is highly appreciated all over the world, is mostly known as a misogynist but by looking deeply to some of his works we can figure out that he was aware of women’s values and abilities. With this in mind we cannot call him a feminist for sure, as we do not have enough document and reason to prove it, but we tried hard to make bold some of his special works.

**sources:**

- 1. Beyond Good and Evil By Nietzsche**
- 2. Thus Spake Zarathustra by Nietzsche**
- 3. Forget Not the Whip! Nietzsche, perspectivism, and Feminism: A Non-Apologist Interpretation of Nietzsche’s polemical Axiology**  
**Jennifer L. Hudgens University of Kentucky,**  
**jenniferlhudgens@uky.edu Digital Object Identifier**



Sanam Azimi

## *Equity or Equality?*

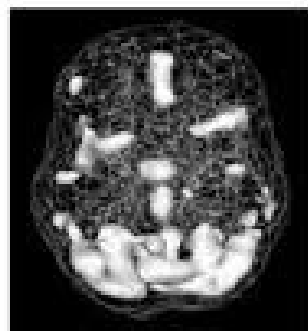
For many years now, feminism has been a hot topic of discussion. It has been misused, mistreated, misunderstood and misjudged. Feminism, nowadays, pursues a milder and more moderate goal, though: Equality! All in all, for centuries and even millenniums, women have been considered as second-class citizens, and that is putting it mildly. Many great philosophers have counted women as animals that are created for a man's pleasure and satisfaction.

Looking at it from this angle, that is more than logical! Women are as human as men, and they should have rights as men do. Considering all of these assumptions, I, for one, identify as a feminist, too! And a very serious one in that matter. But then, comes another perspective. ARE WOMEN ACTUALLY EQUAL TO MEN?

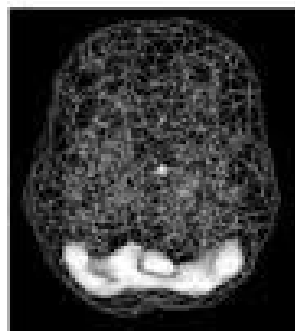
Let's think about that in biology terms. Apart from apparent physical differences, there are other differences that separate us from a man as mentioned in the following list:

- 1- Women have a larger hippocampus. This is where we store memories. So, they normally are better at remembering things!
- 2- Differences like acting more emotionally than logically, personalizing the matters (unlike men who depersonalize things), thinking wider and more futuristic than men, are neurological. Men and women actually think differently. Let's just take a look at this picture:


**Female at Rest**



**Male at Rest**



Source: Dr. Daniel Amen, Amen Clinic



Notice how a woman's brain is far more active at rest?

This is why women tend to want to talk after a hard day, while men want to process in solitude.

3- Women develop their Prefrontal Cortex (PFC: The decision center of the brain that controls social behavior, judgment, and consequential thinking.) at a younger age, which is why they take fewer risks as teenagers than males of the same age.

4- Women have a larger PFC and men have a larger amygdala, which means men have more processing power for threats, and women have more processing power for details.

5- Women have a larger anterior cortex \_Where people process emotions, arrange memories, and ruminate: aka, the 'worrywart' center of the brain. Which means they spend more time ruminating, trying to process emotions and, well, worrying.

6- Women have higher rates of anxiety than men. Researchers think this might come down to the highly sensitized female anterior cortex.

7- And so on!

There are so many neurological differences that even their names would require a multi-volume book to mention. But, the bottom line is, men and women are different! That's easy and logical to understand, so, why would we treat them the same?

Should their differences (physical and mental) be ignored? Is that fair? I believe in pursuit of equality. we are forgetting that we're ignoring our true selves. We are not dueling on "who's better than who" because the answer is no one! We are

**EQUALS IN VALUE, BUT DIFFERENT IN FUNCTION.**

What is meant by that is, we need the rules to treat us accordingly; Not ignoring our values \_as has been the case so far\_, not ignoring our differences \_as we intend to be the case.

Yet again, anyone is allowed to have their own opinions over this matter! That's the only way that we can find a way out of this maze of a universe, right? TOGETHER!

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Atefeh Mohammad Hosseini

## *The Big Bigotry*

Have you ever thought why women have lower expectations of their own sex, and what can be done about it? We are shocked to see that “women are assumed to be incompetent unless proven otherwise, and men are assumed to be competent unless proven otherwise by both the males and the females”. For example, even females may prefer a man over a woman for a job, while they have identical qualifications. Where does this bias come from? There are some facts in play at the backdrop of this issue that give rise to implicit gender-biases.

Scientifically, the unconscious part of our mind has more processing power than the conscious one. It creates shortcuts known as heuristics, and these heuristics are born of experience. For example, once a child burns his hand with an oven door, they will always associate the oven with burning. The society is also filled with men holding top positions. Thus, people mostly associate manhood with leadership, success and competence, and womanhood with home, children and incompetence. Naturally, people can't associate vice versa. In other words, this is the influence of the culture that has been passed down to us. That is why people who have been brought up in the same culture, have the same biases.

What can we do about it? Be aware, and keep being aware of any possible bias in critical situations. Try to silence the unconscious voice that may tell you "a woman lacks authority". Make sure you are not more forgiving of a man's shortcomings than of a woman's. Try to compare them based on their skills and characteristics, and do not rely on your instinct, hunch and heuristics that are born of experience.

Although it is not as easy as in word, the outcome is certainly rewarding. Sexism is as horrible as racism and should not have any place in any community. In short, next time you assume a woman is not competent until she proves otherwise, slap yourself on the wrist, realize that it is your reptilian brain talking and make a conscious decision to act like a logical and rational person, not a caveperson.





Hanie Argani

## Mark Twain and His Feminism

Scrolling down our Instagram search, these days we face and read a lot about feminism and standing for women: a movement that means so much to us as females. Reviewing our memories and thinking about simple things - \_even trivialities\_ being a woman can be counted as our longest experience no matter how old we are, and that is the most significant reason for us to be feminists and to stand for our and other women's rights. Although there are so many issues to discuss in this movement we should not forget men and women who fought for us to be here and speak out about our rights or against patriarchal societies and the innumerable abuse/misuse happening all over the world. Therefore, in this article I am going to analyze Mark Twain's

“Adam’s Diary” (1893) and “Eve’s Diary” (1903) to illustrate how an American author paved the way for us with his pen.

For American authors, turn of the century was a new path to achieve their great expectations, and it really



worked for Mark Twain whose aim was rather different from that of his contemporary colleagues: to campaign

against social beliefs. Twain chose a biblical setting for his books \_Adam’s Diary and Eve’s Diary\_ to attract the religious Northerners, and depicted his characters in a stereotypical way: The familiar man and woman to whom we have been introduced in many literary work: the physically strong and fairly smart man, and the talkative, sensitive, physically and sexually dependent woman.

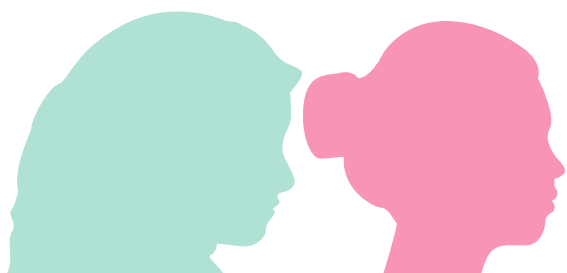


A first reading of these books gives us nothing more than life in the Garden of Eden from Adam's and Eve's points of view, in which Eve enters Garden of Eden, disturbs Adam's comfort with her non-stop speeches, chooses names for animals that demonstrates her cleverness and wisdom, discovers fire with her curiosity, and finally eats the forbidden apple that causes their dislodgement \_this part is only narrated by Adam due to women's lack of voice in 20th century\_. Both diaries end with Adam and Eve's confession of their love towards each other, which again is an illustration of Eve's dependency on Adam.

As a result, in Christianity Eve is actually a woman who caused the misery of human beings, in opposition to Quran's verses in which both Adam and Eve ate the apple, thus Christians believe women to be sinners and have degraded them for a long time and the Northerners were not an exception.

Therefore, what Twain actually did was entering an on-screen battle with people's beliefs and thoughts which assumed women to be housewives and mothers with no social role, no voice, and no right to vote. He described his Eve an intelligent and curious inventor and explorer, also a subversive discoverer: a creature who had a progressive voice in her world, in contrast to Adam who many critics call naïve but in my opinion is a simple minded, physically strong creature.

Seventeen years after Twain's Eve's Diary, on August 18th 1920, laws changed and women's and feminists' battles worked out; however, it was the first step and they had a long way to go. As it is not fair to solely reward Twain for getting the vote, it is also not fair to forget his attempt to change his audiences' way of thinking. In short, he defied the patriarchal-minded society with his words and demonstrated an unseen or hidden brilliant aspect of women to it. His books, however, did not confront the sex-based vision of America and the world mostly because of close-mindedness of people at that time. Moreover, although the upcoming feminist waves had to do most of the combat, it has not finished yet, and obviously, it is our turn to fight for the equality of people's and women's rights.





## *Feminism and Literature*

In the last few years, we have been imposed to the idea of feminism more than ever and we have witnessed its impact on politics, economies, etc. but now we seek to know how feminism affected literature throughout history. The feminist movement in the United States and other countries was a social and political movement that sought equality for women and transformed the lives of thousands of women for the better.

With the advent of print in Europe in the mid-1400s, literature began to have a much bigger audience and it assisted the role of women writers who despite being denied the education that was offered to men, were able to express themselves in writing more than before. Much early in writing, women's works were devoted to nature. Many female writers wrote prayers and religious works originating in

Latin but with the increasing availability of print and women having their own voice, they started contributing to the body of literature by writing essays and letters. Letters, initially a private genre, became an elevated one with the works of such authors as Margaret Cavendish and Mary Wortley Montagu. These letters are now studied not only for their historical value but also the literary merits they hold. Modern analysis of women's literature from 1500 to 1800 investigates the pressures of social, political and economic conditions women were under as well as the literary values of their works.

At the beginning of the 19th century, women writers were largely confined in children's literature and poetry as the emotionalism of such genres was considered "feminine" but despite these assumptions women started writing fiction and they were soon criticized because of their 'lack of worldly experience, critical judgement and rationality'. Towards the end of the century, women expanded their subject matter and moved beyond highlighting the hardships of

Towomen and expressed their individualism and demanded more equal partnerships in marriage, law and politics with men.

The early decades of the 20th century was filled with turmoil and change in the world that impacted the feminist movement more. These changes were the two world wars, industrialization, urbanization and also the pressure and stress put upon domestic relationships, from the work place to the family. Amid these conflicts, the first half of the 20th century witnessed a flourishing time in literary arts as well as the further development of the new media such as radio and film. In this era a growing number of women with different racial and social backgrounds emerged and drew upon their varied experiences as Asians, Native Americans and Africans and addressed the issues of race and gender. In particular, African-American women became

prominent as part of the literacy and artistic movement known as the Harlem Renaissance which reached its peak during the 1920s and 1930s.

While women writers participated in literary and artistic movements during these years, they struggled greatly as creators. The world wars had a profound effect on the generation who had witnessed it especially women and it caused a lot of frustrated female artists to abandon their creative works and turn their energy to social and political causes and find new paths like journalism to express themselves and their ideas.

In several lectures that she gave during the 1930s, Virginia Woolf reflected upon the challenges she and her fellow writers faced during the first half of the century and noted that although women have been writing for years, the subjects they wrote of and the style they wrote in was still dictated by not only their own creative vision but also the standards imposed upon them.

The feminist movement still continues to this day as well as the pressures put on the female writers' society and we see its effects on every aspect of our lives everyday but we wouldn't be where we are today if it weren't for the women who paved the path before us; Women writers such as Charlotte Bronte, Margaret Atwood, Kate Chopin, Jane Austen and so on who fought for our freedom and equality.



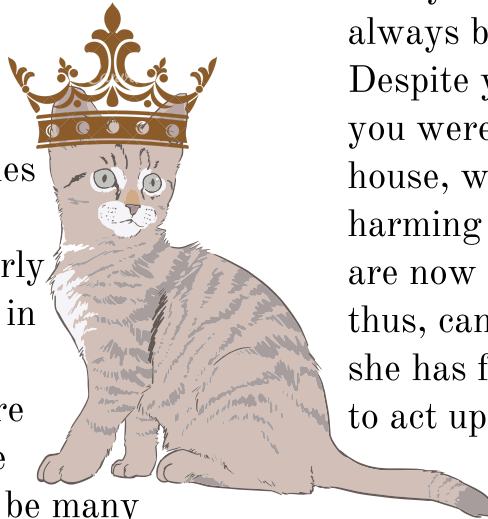




## *A Letter from the Queen*


My dearest cousin Sir James,

I hope you are well for I am not. There has been much development in the affairs of this kingdom since our last exchange, and none have been positive in the slightest. I feel urged by the calamities that have befallen me to write to you as I have nearly no hope of betterment left in me. My dear cousin, the loneliness I feel, is far more immense than the distance keeping us apart; you may be many streets away, nonetheless, believe me when I tell you that you are the only kin of mine that I can rely upon. Therefore, I ask of you to keep the highest discretion in what I am about to tell you. It is of utmost importance that you, alone, read this letter as I fear there might be spies even on your side of the realm. All disasters begin with small misfortunes, so have mine. It pains me to even write this, however, for a while now, my dear



kin, your sister, Mary, has been a great threat to my throne. As I am sure you are aware, there has always been rivalry between us. Despite your close kinship to her, you were the dominant male in the house, which kept her from harming me. However, since you are now the lord of another house, thus, can no longer stay with us, she has found the opportune time to act upon evil whims.

It started with her haphazardly smelling my food, the food she knew that I was going to eat. She then moved onto staring at me for long minutes before yawning in the most uncouth manner. Later, she began walking in front of me, sitting where I had been previously seated as soon as I got up, she would even lay down underneath the seats on which I slept, while I was sleeping there. All of this was accounting only a few of her misdeeds towards me. The most disastrous event, however, happened not long ago.

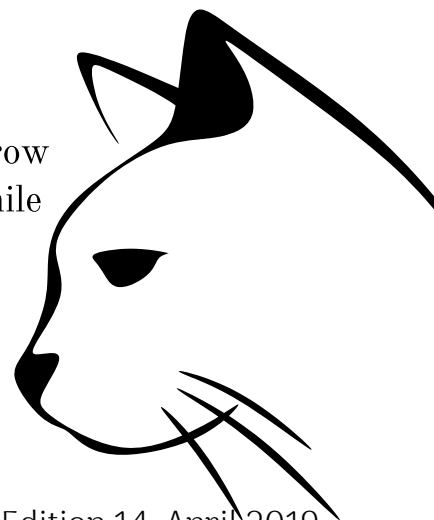


Now, I may be a ginger, or not as young as she, or have hair as shiny and long as hers, but I still have perfectly capable senses. Mary and Sir Henry have grown quite close to each other. I find this very unfortunate as he used to be a loyal servant of mine, but, alas she has bewitched him. I believe that Mary and sir Henry have plotted my murder. Yes, dear cousin, murder. Exactly thirty-seven hours ago, while I was seated on the ground, observing the beautiful scenery that is the living room, I was attacked by her. Now I will ask of you not to worry about me for I am in good health. She only managed to remove a bunch of my hair and land a scratch. Nevertheless, the bruise it left on my soul is irreparable. What really wounded me was her response when I asked her why she would do such thing to her queen. She merely responded with a meek “Meow”. Don’t you see? She never even regarded me as an equal, let alone her queen, for this was the same kind of meow she gives the humans of this house when she wants them to give her food, or pet her. She sat down and stared at me, as if she is anything but a usurper. She and Sir Henry then proceeded to lick themselves clean, and I, utterly heartbroken, have been sitting on top of the cupboards in the kitchen since, as I believe it is the safest here.

Humans have been of no use. I cannot fault them since ignorance is their very nature. They have been succumbing to their every meow and purr, even more so as of late. Yesterday, they even told me that I would get no bathroom time if I insisted on remaining on the cupboard. I should have known the moment they started calling me Chub Chub, that something wasn’t quite right. Chub Chub is not even a name! I, Queen Elizabeth, reduced to a mere nickname! What insolence! They go about their days, sweet talk the traitors and only groan when I inform them of the crime that has been committed against me. They call me “noisy” every time I do so. Fortunately, they have been feeding me, yet, I no longer know if I am safe here. I do not know when humans will eventually force me down on the ground. So, my good sir, I beseech you to come to your queen’s aid, and you shall be rewarded for your fierce loyalty. With your strong paws holding the pillars of this kingdom upright, I am certain that I can, once again, rule over this realm. Let us free this house of its captor’s claws together.

Elizabeth Mewdor

P.S. My trustee crow will await you while you write your response and deliver the letter directly to me.





## Narges Mohammadi Majed

I'm dancing so emptily to my favorite song  
a song that moves my body all along, while my soul is lightly gone  
as my heart feels so empty like this hall without its chairs  
and without its woody warming fireplace  
while the rosy curtains are drawn away  
so that it's exposed to the cruel morning light  
letting everybody know about my mental ties  
and about my tragic dreams  
my most silent screams...

and everything that i've holden in  
so that I can dance to my favorite song.  
Oh God, how intensively I need love  
in this empty hall, sat on a rocky chair  
letting its dim light stream on my crooked face  
so that I can faithfully pray...  
But the demons whisper in my ears that it all is a big lie  
and the angels are cryingly begging me to stop  
but the sight in front of me is so hypnotizing  
he opens his arms for me to stop this hopeless sobbing...  
he opens his arms for me to die.

And I cry,  
cry on these sad yellow papers  
glowing bright, telling me to write  
“write this fancy about your darkest days,  
write about the things that no one tells  
write about the tall castle in your mind  
which you can't reach its upper vines  
in whose basement you are locked  
wishing to rush out, but dreaming to hide inside...  
So I keep dancing to all the nonsense I hear  
hoping that all my senses would gradually disappear  
So that I can heartlessly smile  
and heartfully decide to die  
and get drown by all these eyes  
reading my distorted bitter lines  
wearing the deepest frown  
thinking wow...what a clown!



Nasim Hoseini

## My New Home

Dear sister,

I have settled in my new place, and I am glad to announce it is comfortable enough to be called home. Well, it has no view, and it is too small for more than one person, but it is my home now, and I think I like it. Hope you come to pay a visit soon. I mean, someone would have to sleep on the couch, but who cares? It will be fun unless you bring a luggage, because you will have to share your couch or your bed with it. Whatever! I just want to have a companion in this new town. Oh no, someone is knocking.

Dear sister, who do you think it was? You have three guesses. Uh oh, all wrong! Do you remember my talkative classmate from second grade whom I tried to get rid of? Yup! Hadn't seen her in years. What were the chances? Gosh! She hasn't changed a bit! And she has found me! I must look for a new place; I am moving!

I thought it would be a lovely neighbor coming to say hi, but I opened the door and there she was. "Why God? Why?" Thought I. So yeah, she has been passing by and has seen me "ridiculously stumbling into the house" (isn't she too nice?!) So she decided to surprise me, and didn't she just! I should admit I was a little happy to see a familiar face, but she soon reminded me why I avoided her all those years. She invited herself in for a cup of tea, and pushed her way through the boxes on the floor.

"Why haven't you unpacked yet? I would have done it the second I arrived," she said.

"I got here last night. Haven't had much time really," I lied. (Alright sis! I will unpack as soon as I can.)

"Oh okay. Welcome then. Why are you here anyway?"

"A job," I mumbled.

"Okay but what job?"

"Oh just a job in some... um, place," I tried to keep it short.

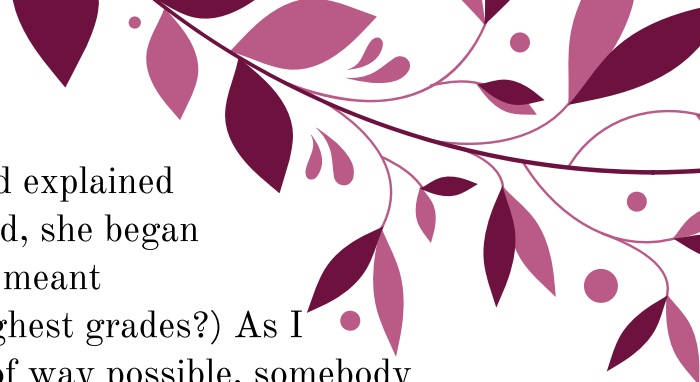
"Yeah I know that, silly," she replied with a very sweet smile. "Where?"

Why did she want to know?

"I'm going to participate in a research project," I was remembering how she







Yeah, that much.) So I didn't wait for her and explained everything, which was no use. After I finished, she began repeating my sentences and asked me what I meant (Seriously, how did she graduate with the highest grades?) As I repeated each sentence in the most idiot proof way possible, somebody knocked. It was my boss's assistant. All my life I wished someone would want me on the phone, and it never happened, but in an hour I get to be the host of the most annoying people I've met in my life. He had come to give me the keys of my office (I have an office! I know, right?) and have me sign a few papers that were apparently vital. My friend invited him to have tea with us and he accepted. He gave me my landlady's number and some advice on keeping my house clean to which I could not help but laugh. Don't blame me; his hopeful expression was so funny! Anyways, my guests turned out to be getting on really well. And I feel bad about myself for being irritated by this, but you should have been here to understand. Dear me, they both talk too much! The worst part was when they started talking about me. She talked of the hardships of a lonely young girl in a big town and how she could handle the whole thing from home instead of coming all this way while I tried to interject and explain why I couldn't. He, on the other hand, talked about decreasing job opportunities for men as women were getting "all the jobs". How much I hate this guy! You know how I can't pick the right words when I hear such nonsense. I tried to make him understand how wrong he was, but my words were not heard as my friend was announcing her agreement. What can I say? She is a woman too! Shouldn't she be on my side?

If we really think that the two genders are equal, then we shouldn't discuss these issues like men and women are opponents who steal each other's opportunities. It's simply a matter of profession, hard work, and talent. The better you are, the more chances you have. Am I wrong?

But the point is equality, isn't it? I don't think my friend and my colleague really believe that. Well, what can I do? I can't change their minds if they don't want to. I think I should just not care. I decided to shrug it off and give them the tea they had come for. They enjoyed our small gathering and then after two hours of talking, finally left me alone, angry and upset, thinking why these two should know my address. I think I will try to convince them I don't wish to spend time with people. Can I though?

Oh, I am so tired and I think my head is about to explode. I miss home and you. Think about me tonight, will you?

Love,

The girl about to clean her house!

