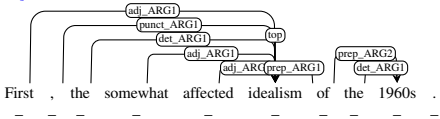


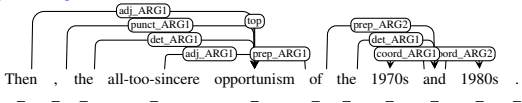
Document 1473

[21473001]



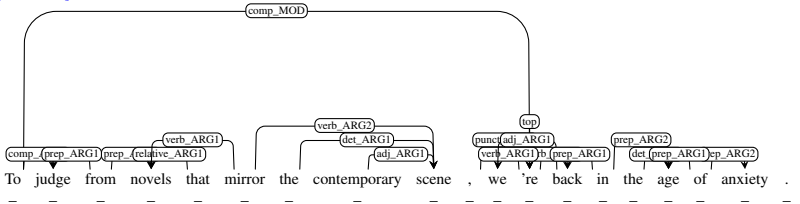
First, the somewhat affected idealism of the 1960s.

[21473002]



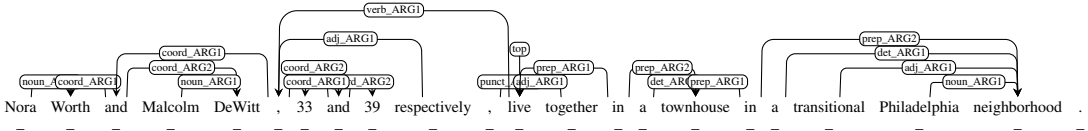
Then, the all-too-sincere opportunism of the 1970s and 1980s.

[21473004]



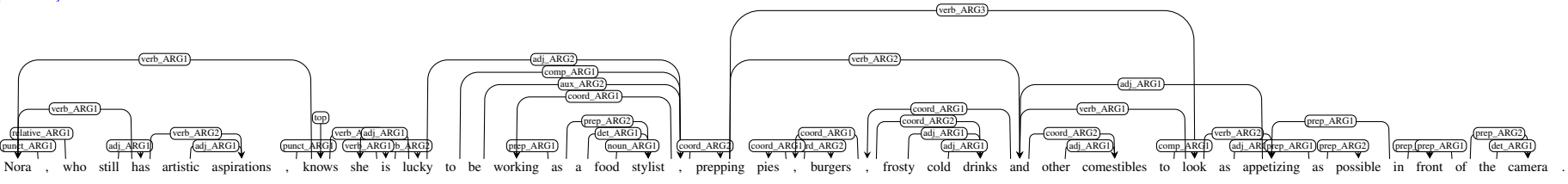
To judge from novels that mirror the contemporary scene, we're back in the age of anxiety.

[21473007]



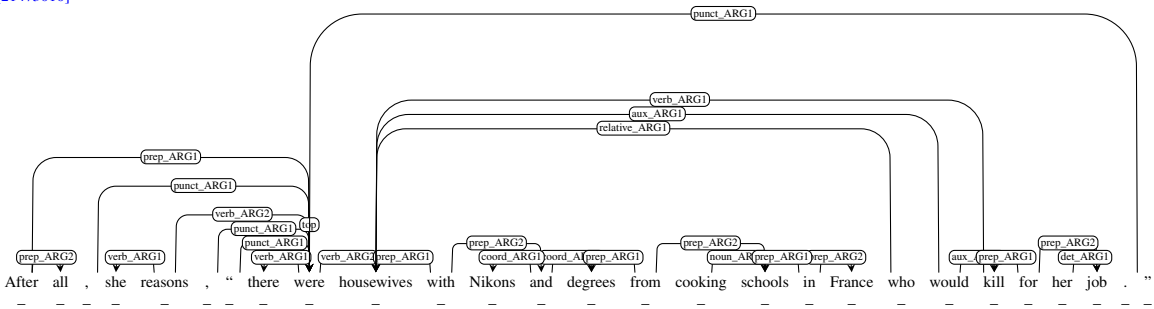
Nora Worth and Malcolm DeWitt, 33 and 39 respectively, live together in a townhouse in a transitional Philadelphia neighborhood.

[21473009]



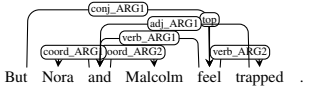
Nora, who still has artistic aspirations, knows she is lucky to be working as a food stylist, prepping pies, burgers, frosty cold drinks and other comestibles to look as appetizing as possible in front of the camera.

[21473010]



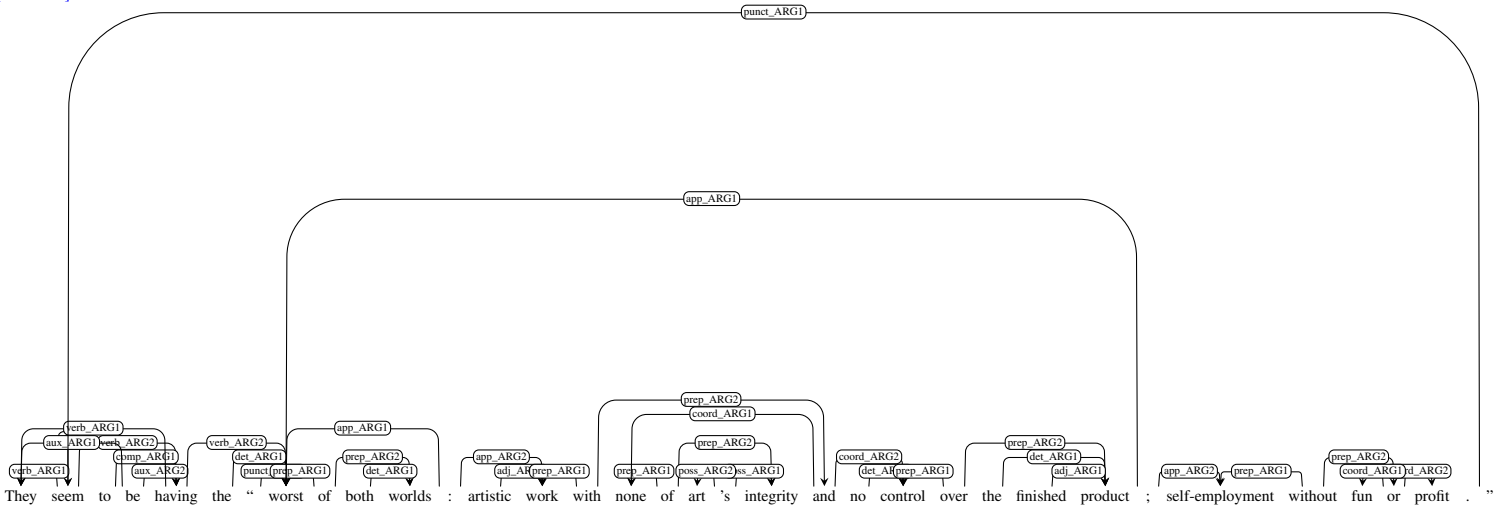
After all, she reasons, "there were housewives with Nikons and degrees from cooking schools in France who would kill for her job."

[21473011]



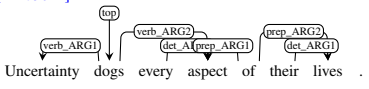
But Nora and Malcolm feel trapped.

[21473012]



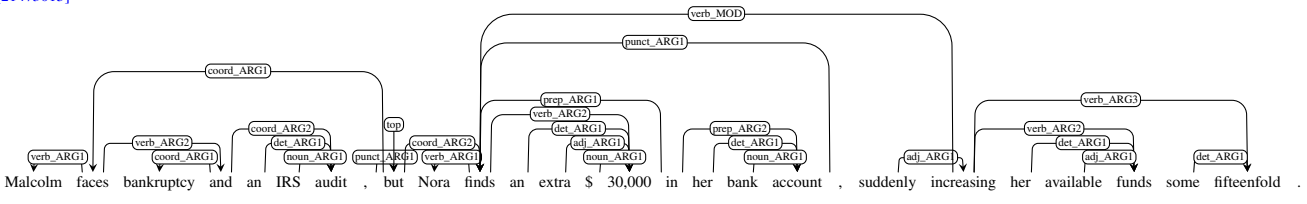
They seem to be having the "worst of both worlds": artistic work with none of art's integrity and no control over the finished product; self-employment without fun or profit.

[21473014]



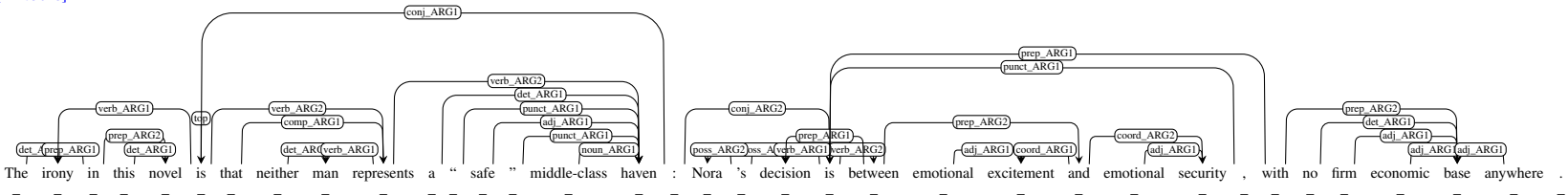
Uncertainty dogs every aspect of their lives.

[21473015]



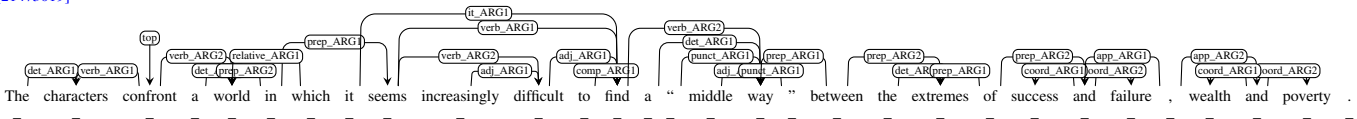
Malcolm faces bankruptcy and an IRS audit, but Nora finds an extra \$30,000 in her bank account, suddenly increasing her available funds some fifteenfold.

[21473018]



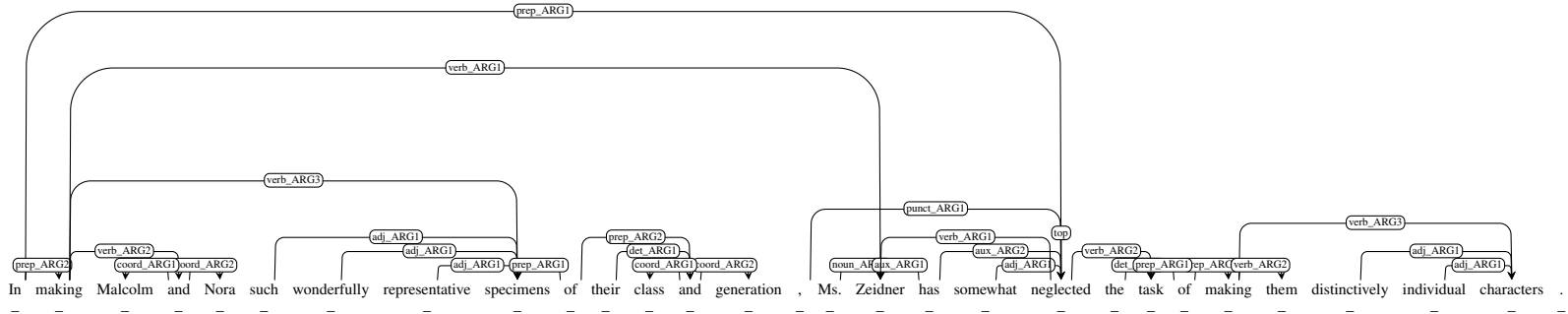
The irony in this novel is that neither man represents a "safe" middle-class haven: Nora's decision is between emotional excitement and emotional security, with no firm economic base anywhere.

[21473019]

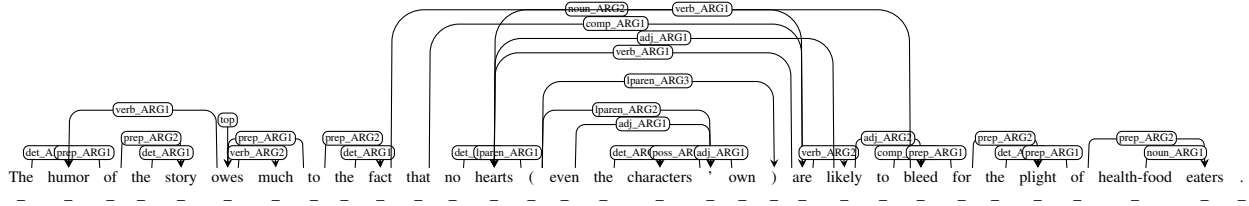


The characters confront a world in which it seems increasingly difficult to find a "middle way" between the extremes of success and failure, wealth and poverty.

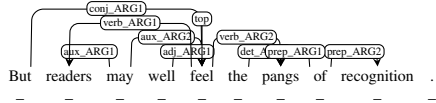
[21473020]



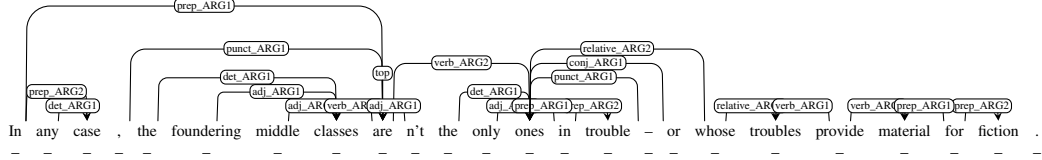
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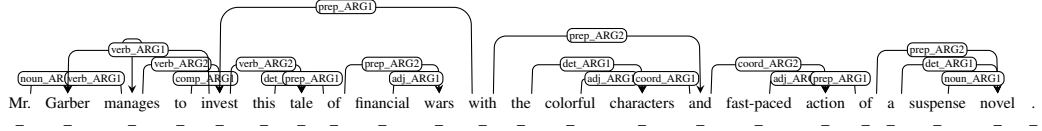
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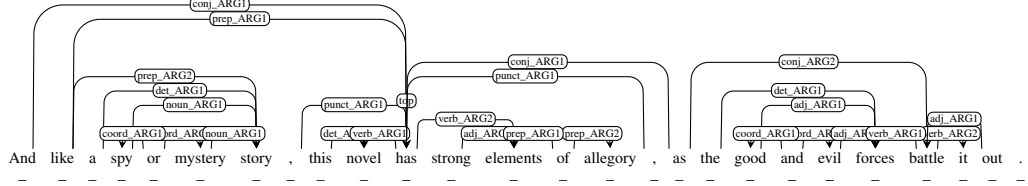
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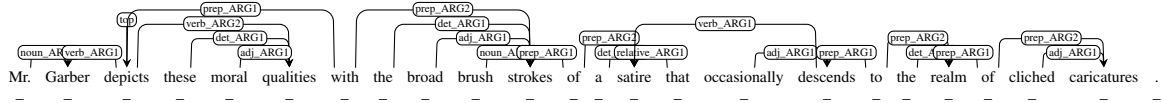
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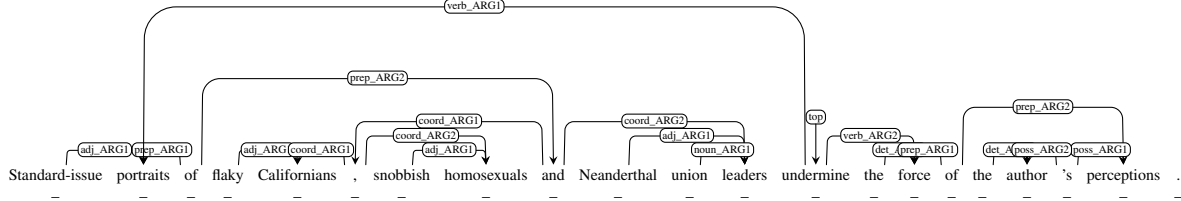
[21473028]



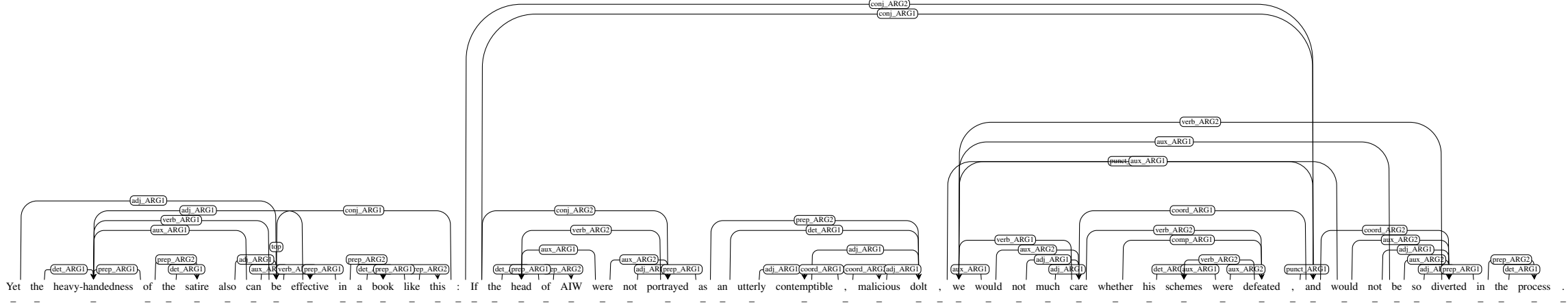
[21473029]



[21473030]



[21473031]



[21473032]

