Love in Infant Monkeys (2009)

Lydia Millet, 1968, Worked for: Natural Resources Defense Council & Centre for Biological Diversity): A writer whose comic vision believes a seriousness of purpose that is grounded

From Intro in book: Love in Infant Monkeys mingles fact and fiction-- \*\*Theme\*\* revealing a dimension of a protagonist's (main character) fundamental nature. The story is centrally concerned with humanity's potential for exploitation (treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work).

Notable Characters: -Harry Harlow: Harry F. Harlow (1905-81), a psychologist known for his experiments studying the development of young monkeys in isolation from their mothers, born Harry Frederick Israel, high-functioning alcoholic.

-The experiments: "Test subjects", Lab monkeys-- One in particular he talks about (weak young female, Minestrone)

-B.F. Skinner: Burrhus Frederic Skinner (1904-90), an influential American psychologist who advocated the study of behaviour as opposed to internal psychological states. To conduct experiments in behaviour conditioning, he invented the "Skinner box," a cage in which a captive animal is rewarded for performing a specific action, such as pulling a lever. -Is made reference to when Harry Harlow has a nightmare and in the nightmare, admires boxes (cages) that he created himself, which B.F Skinner had admired.

Characters of Reference: -Too much affection was coddling, and coddling weakened the child. "When you are tempted to pet your child," said a president of the American Psychological Association of Speech

-Others, "were doing bold animal experiments at the same time"

-Young women and men "who would continue his work"

-Later scholars "who would view his collateral damage as a necessary unpleasantness"

-His chief biographer "a woman journalist, who described him as a rose in a cornfield"

-Wives, "first one- then another, then the first one again"/ "Everyone knew the second smart wife was on her cancer deathbed- these days, Peggy dying like this"

-Two sets of children, "he never saw"

-A famous professor "who was also his first mentor"

-Suomi "said he'd be there" Steve "chance to talk to Steve again about the chambers"/ "Seen Suomi? Steve's not here yet"

-Then the boxes where "Bill" had dosed the subjects

-He said this to a "new female grad"

-"Some of the faculty" he went on, "these guys" don't even work on Sundays

-His students "were going to be here"

-Fat woman from the department "The fat payroll" "the water buffalo"

-Good-looking girl from East Germany "smoking in the corner with" Jim

-"Harry", said a guy from the right

-Skinny kid "fast asleep on the couch

Narrator/ Voice of speaker: 1. A third person narration is speaking empathetically but with a sense of hostility to describe the life situation of main character Harry Harlow, his thoughts and his character as a human being. 2. The thoughts and voice of Harry Harlow seem to come through in specific times, ex) p. 303, 5-28, the other narrator comes through again through line 29 "Only 8:00 pm, and he was already slurring. He would swing by that party." and then a transition back to Harlow "What the hell. Suomi had said he'd be there". - Unless the narration as a whole is just Harry's thoughts to himself, as if he's narrating his life as he sees it- or the whole narration is just the first one, and none of it is Harry (except then explain the lines 5-28...

Subject: Psychologist Harry Harlow who studies the development of young monkeys in isolation from their mothers. "How does love work", to refute that "love is a dangerous instrument" but by devoting his life to his work he "must study the absence of love" in his own life. And as he realizes what he is doing to the monkeys, he chooses to continue with the animal cruelty for the "greater good", as he gives up on his life, for the greater knowledge his work will lead to- which is proving who his true character is.

Implications: He had "finally given up. Now broken. Her spindly arms hung loose from the sockets, doing nothing. Hunched little figure, staring. Nothing there. It had gone. Had a flask in a special file cabinet. Headed for it. Deep swig." This statement at the end of the story, represents the end effect of what the main monkey Minestrone, has resulted to, but in actuality it is both the monkey and Harry, the two have both given up- which is the purpose to understand when analyzing his ultimate character.

Style: Descriptive and narrative

Formal Elements: Symbolism: The lives of the monkeys connecting to the life of Harry. Plot/ conflicts: "the only thing I care about is whether a monkey will turn out a property I can publish" "I don't have any love for them. I never have. How could you love a monkey?" "so harry deferred to him, it was a minor accommodation" - The formal elements are the sentences that connect Harry to his work, and how he decided to let his work chose who he was going to be- immoral towards helpless animals, influenced by others and affected by his work to the point where his work made sense to him in real life, his kids and his wife did not need him, they would be fine, as the monkeys would be fine.

Relationships: Within the story, is the relationship that Harry has with himself and his work. Which is more to discuss the relation a human has with his own self and moralities.

Back story: Harry Harlow, real person. Worked at University of Wisconsin where he had his own laboratory. Treated his findings as major statements about love and development in human beings. These monkey love experiments had powerful implications for any and all separations of mothers and infants, including adoption, as well as childrearing in general. - *The Adoption History Project:* http://pages.uoregon.edu/adoption/studies/HarlowMLE.htm

Place: His laboratory, that party