

10/10/2016

17 October 2016 15:00

Fraulein Else - Arthur Schnitzler

Civilisation and its Discontents - Sigmund Freud.

### FRAULEIN ELSE

The inner monologue. Sharp narrative perspective.  
Social satire.

Characterisation of Else: her voice, her style.

Representation of the body.

Else's body is the central point of the novella.

Hysteria in the dining room with Else naked.

Fantasy

Exhibitionism: revealing herself.

Money and class

Love: she loves her father, but is it an incestuous relationship?  
What about cousin Paul?

Suicide: Schnitzler's own daughter committed suicide.

Construction of femininity: what is being female?

Construction of masculinity: what is being male?

↳ These two questions specifically in the context of Viennese society.

The entire book is written as Else's stream of consciousness.

Sexual jealousy.

Else always compares herself to Cissy.

"I'd lie on the Riviera with nothing on" - exhibitionism.

Constant questioning of whether she's beautiful enough.

All of the subtle details build up to a conclusion.

"What tear sacks she has" (p. 11)

↳ another comparison of beauty and age

"I'm sure your name used to be something else."

↳ changed his name to inflate his status!

↳ assimilated Jew?

Dorsey says "Else" without "Fräulein"

↳ bold intimacy, outside of social constructs.

"How awful it must be to be so old"

↳ ageing, undesirable

"My darling child" - treating her like a child but asking her to become a prostitute.

Dorsey is creepy - "I hate him!"

"I'd die of shame" } fantasising about death.

"I wish I was dead"

Else goes through the rationalisation process (p. 24)  
"is it really so different to marriage?"

Overall, Else is very lonely. She feels very alone. The landscapes she admires intensify her loneliness. Her family don't give her any affection - they give her education and teach her to play the piano.