

A Good Man is Hard to Find by Flannery O'Connor
A Narcissist, Marxist, Christian, and Bourgeois grandmother

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I read a short story, Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man is Hard to Find." While reading the story, I could not understand all of the author's intentions. Instead, I could interpret the following four things from each character and their actions.

First, the main character, Grandmother, is a narcissist. A narcissist is often used as a person who has an attachment to herself or a person with high self-esteem. In the story, 'grandmother' is depicted as a person with a strong desire for narcissism, especially 'interest' from others. I realized that she probably did not get enough attention and acted out to get someone to notice her. The main character, Grandmother, wears clothes like a Southern lady who seems to be a noble lady. In The Tower, she wants to be shown as a lady and try to show her graceful appearance. She wants grandchildren to be interested in her past stories. I can tell that she is a person with a stronger narcissism than anyone else. However, this strong narcissism gives discomfort to the other family members. In the end, the other family members complain to Grandmother. For example, Billy responds bluntly to her, and grandchildren ignore her.

Second, the author describes the social-class discrimination as Marxism in the story. For examples, in the car, grandmother pointed a Negro child standing in the door of a shack, and then she said that she would paint a boy who was not wearing pants. In the story, there is a discrimination between men and women. Women are called Grandmother, Children's mother, and wife of the store, while men have their own names, including son Bailey, Red Sammy Butts, and even Hiram and Bobby Lee. The social class exists in the novel.

We can also see what the dominant value in the story is. The third is the Christian beliefs with good and evil based on salvation and grace by the God. The author seems to criticize the pretentious Christians like the grandmother. And it seems to imply that we need to have true faith of salvation and grace through the confrontation between the grandmother and the Misfit.

Finally, it is pointed out that bourgeois values are not in harmony with human happiness. The grandmother has bourgeois attitudes. She is a Christian but values money and high class. At the conclusion of the story, all family members are dead, which shows that the bourgeois values are not in harmony with human happiness.

Reference:

O'Connor, F. (n.d.). *A Good Man is Hard to Find*. Retrieved from <https://my>

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