

AN EXISTENTIAL FEMINIST STUDY OF ANTON CHEKHOV'S BETROTHED

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ABSTRACT

Anton Chekhov is one of the greatest literary stalwarts of not just Russia but of the world. He addressed the woman question in many of his works. Betrothed is one of them. Existential Feminism debunks and discredits the enfeebling gender roles and cultural constructs foisted on women by society, hampering their self-determination. Through Betrothed, the paper tries to explore the authentic and self-reliant introspection, choices, decisions and action that the protagonist Nadya struggles to exercise through her journey. She attempts to identify and break the shackles fettering women from achieving subjectivity and availing university education.

KEYWORDS: *Existentialism, Feminism, Patriarchal Constrictions, Eternal Feminine, Immanence, Inessential Other, Religion, Narcissist, Sexual Inequality, Authentic, Agency, Autonomous Beings*