



Character of Amy Dorrit in the novel "Little Dorrit" by Charles Dickens.

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Annotation: *This article provides information about the novel "Little Dorrit" written by Charles Dickens by analysing novel itself and deeply goes through the character of Amy Dorrit.*

Key words: *novel, character, woman, poverty.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье представлена информация о романе Чарльза Диккенса «Маленькая Доррит». Статья глубоко рассматривает характер главной героини Эми Доррит.*

Ключевые слова: *роман, персонаж, женщина, бедность.*

"Little Dorrit" is considered to be one of the most sprawling novels ever written by Charles Dickens. Originally it was published within two years in serial form between 1855 and 1857, with cliffhangers to hold reader's interest and made everyone eagerly wait for the next chapter. Finally, as a whole book it was released in 1857. The plot of the novel grabs crucial topics of those times starting from the poverty, government, family, love, bureaucracy and person's position in a society. The novel tells a reader about Dorrit family and thoroughly pictures everything experienced by the characters. According to the review done by Anne Stevenson published in Guarnian magazine the drama of Dickens lies in the exuberance of his language. Anne highlights that for though his genius has rightly been compared to Shakespeare's, and though Charles Dickens was famous for amateur theatricals and public readings of his works,



the form in which he chose to write - monthly instalments in his own periodicals - positively encouraged him to sprawl.

Amy Dorrit also known as Little Dorrit is accepted one of the central characters in the novel. She was born and raised as the youngest child in her family in Marshalsea prison for debtors located in London. Throughout the story a reader can understand how she was able to sustain of her family, take care of them and how brave she had to become to pass challenges given to her no matter in what conditions she was in.

The novel provides a reader with information that Amy's mother, Mrs Dorrit, after giving a birth passes away. As the result Amy is left with her father and spends her twenty years of her life behind the bars. As she grows up Charles Dickens emphasizes on the fact that how she stays a strong and kind girl no matter how harsh conditions there were. There can be given some information to prove this statement. Firstly, she is characterized by her unwavering kindness and compassion towards others, despite her own difficult circumstances. She cares for her father, William Dorrit, with devotion while they reside in the Marshalsea debtors' prison. Her compassion extends to other inmates and those less fortunate than herself, demonstrating her selflessness and empathy. Another good qualities of her are that she stands out from other characters with her strengths and resilience. Despite growing up in poverty and living in the confines of the Marshalsea, Amy maintains a positive outlook on life and refuses to be defined by her circumstances. She never thinks about herself as unlucky girl living in prison. Her inner strength allows her to endure hardship with dignity and grace, which makes her more stronger individual. Selflessness and sacrifice are also positive traits of her. Amy consistently puts the needs of others before her own. She willingly sacrifices her own desires and aspirations for the sake of her family, particularly her father. Her willingness to endure hardship and make personal sacrifices reflects her deep sense of duty and love for her family. In other words Amy Dorrit is complex and



multi-dimensional character. With the help of her a reader can understand what is kindness, resilience, innocence, and selflessness in reality.

According to literary critics Xiu-Jie NI and Hong-Yan YIN mention in their article that Little Dorrit born and grown up in the UK, she is thin and very strong, shy and kind, diligent and considerate to her family. She holds kindness and even forgets that she is a cute little girl. Even in the middle of the story, she got unexpected legacy to become a member of the higher class, but she still maintains kind or pure, especially compared with her father, brother and sister before and after the change. Charles Dickens creates the image by comparison with other characters to reflect the particular process of development. Roll, the daughter of the prison guards, shows her sympathy to the prisoners, so-called "birds", and you can see that the jailer's daughter is actually a small projection of Amy Dorrit. Such a scene description shows that Amy Dorrit is just like the vague women, born of the lower class in the society, the inner world full of helpless and vulnerable mood, which determines women's tragedy. Amy Dorrit, like these women, was deprived of the right to speak with the world. They became a centralized class that were oppressed and exploited by the whole society.

If we analyse Amy Dorrit's living conditions deeply the quote: *"Home had never been a word of such sweetness to me as after I was ensnared into the Marshalsea prison"* shows a reader how Little Dorrit's sentiment had the profound impact of her time spent in captivity. By being confined within the walls of the prison, her perception of the concept of "home" was completely different compared to other characters. The experience of imprisonment stripped her of freedom and forced her to confront the harsh reality of her circumstances. However, even if she experienced big number of challenges and difficulties she stayed as kind and patient character that *"She had a quiet way of speaking, and she had a quiet way of moving."* would never complain about her life and circumstances. Another sentence taken from the book Helps the reader to picture Amy more clearly. The quote perfectly encapsulates the serene essence her



character. Little Dorrit possesses a unique ability to convey her thoughts and emotions in a calm and gentle manner. Whenever she pronounces anything, her words flow effortlessly, capturing attention without demanding it. Similarly, Amy's movements are graceful and composed, reflecting a serene sense of inner peace. It can be believed that her tranquil demeanor is able to create an aura of peace and introspection, drawing others towards a quiet, yet powerful magnetism. *"Pain, past and present, had stung her into action, and she was maddened by suspense and apprehension."* encapsulates the profound effect that personal suffering can have on a person's inner drive. Little Dorrit's experiences of pain, both from her past and present, have acted as a catalyst, igniting a fiercely determined spirit within her. Tortured by the uncertainty of what lies ahead and weighed down by the fear of the unknown, she is driven to make a stand and take control of her own destiny. In this state of relentless anticipation, she understands how she is being consumed by an overwhelming mix of anxiety and apprehension that further fuels her determination to break free from her past and create a better future for herself. In one of the chapters on the book it is shown how Little Dorrit does profound observation about human nature and the futility of seeking revenge. She states: *"A great many people have about as much idea of taking vengeance on their enemies by injuring themselves as of taking vengeance on their enemies by eating themselves to death."* This thought-provoking quote highlights the misguided notion or believe that some people believe that self-destructive behaviors can somehow harm those who have wronged them. However Little Dorrit understands that seeking revenge through self-inflicted suffering is not only illogical or irrational but also detrimental to one's own well-being or mental health. Through this powerful metaphor, Dickens implores readers to reflect on the futility of revenge and the importance of finding healthier, more constructive ways to deal with conflict and grievances. *"So, Child of Storm, what do you know of prisons now?"* quote holds transformative power of experiencing adversity and hardship. Little Dorrit, a character who possesses an intimate understanding of imprisonment, asks this question with a tone of wisdom and



compassion. Through her own journey in the confines of Marshalsea Debtors' Prison, no doubt that she has gained profound insights about the human condition, human nature and the complexities of the world. By addressing someone as the "Child of Storm," she acknowledges the storms and tribulations they have faced. This quote captures the notion that enduring difficult situations can bring about a profound understanding of life, empathy for others, and ultimately, liberation from the metaphorical prisons that often restrict us. Another trait that makes Little Dorrit stand out from other characters is her silent yet confident way of expressing herself. Her quote *"A strong voice brings its own authority"* eloquently captures the power and impact of one's voice. The strength of a voice is not solely measured by its volume, but rather by the conviction and confidence with which it is expressed or told to someone. When a voice is strong, it inherently commands attention and respect, carrying the weight of its message with authority and makes others listen and pay attention. Such a voice is capable of persuading, influencing, supporting and inspiring others. It possesses the ability to drive change and create impact, transcending mere words to become a force that can shape opinions and transform outcomes. Ultimately, Little Dorrit reminds us that a strong voice holds immense power and influence, capable of leaving a lasting imprint on those who hear it. Another an intriguing quote delivered by Little Dorrit has its own strong power, stating *"Resentments cannot be kept too hot or too cold."* This thought-provoking statement alludes to the complex nature of resentment. Typically, resentments are thought to arise from holding onto past grievances and negative feelings, which can potentially damage relationships and personal well-being in present time. Little Dorrit suggests that there is no ideal temperature for resentment; it cannot be ignored and forgotten, nor nurtured and allowed to fester. The quote implies that resentments need to be acknowledged and processed, either by confronting and resolving the issues causing them or by letting go and moving on, most importantly to be patient as time can help people to heal or at least to look or observe any problem from another perspective. It serves as a reminder



that striking a balanced approach is crucial when dealing with resentments to maintain a healthier state of mind and avoid destructive consequences. *“Always a dreamer, she was less disposed to action and to adventure than to musing and to wondering.”* By this quote Charles Dickens suggests that this Little Dorrit is a perpetual dreamer, one who finds solace and fulfillment in the realm of thoughts and contemplation rather than engaging in action or seeking out thrilling adventures. This description portrays her as more inclined towards introspection and observation, finding joy and inspiration in the musings and wonders that life has to offer. Rather than being enticed by the tangible and active elements of the world, she finds fulfillment in the depths of their own mind, where her dreams and fantasies can take flight.

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