
State Vs Individual in Christopher Greyson's *And Then She Was Gone*

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Abstract

The research examines state's subjugation of individual power and authority in Christopher Greyson's And Then She Was Gone. It introduces power theory and shows state's exercise of power and use of force against individual power. The state power defines law and authority which is mandatory and individual power exercise is punishable. As novel identifies a character who is professional spy however, he cannot define truth and justice which is state's perspective. Truth is no matter for state but it defines truth. The character fights for justice and truth but the state never accepts the justice from the perspective of state.

Keywords: *State, power, subjugation, authority, psychology, aversive, dynamism and tussle*

The research discusses the relation between state and individual power in *And Then She Was Gone*. It is portrayal of power relation as well as power dynamism of the state which define power and role of individual. It often creates tussle between individual and state. In the context of novel, the protagonist undergoes crucial situation under state control and manipulation.

The central character Jack Stratton is a private detective, employs criminal detective idea but his personal authority is contradictory with state apparatus. The conflict between the individual and state creates conflict and tussle between them. The state always stands for law and authority which defines law from own perspective. An individual exercises power in society which can be opposing for the state. In this way, an individual cannot declare law and order. It is not matter of truth but it is ideology which is defined by state. With similar idea, the novel projects conflict between individual and state's discourse.

The concept of discourse refers to the construction of truth which is dynamic ideology and it creates power. Similarly, law and authority is resultant of discourse which is exercised through majority and power. Law and discourse is not truth but it is created ideology.

In this concern Michel Foucault uses the term as, "discourse to refer to the general domain of all statement, sometimes as an individual group of statements, and sometimes as a regulated practice that account for a number of statements which have been made which have meaning and which have some effects" (53).

In broad sense, discourse can help us to interpret many slices of our social and political system that we never even considered before. It also helps to illuminate part of the ordinary world that is controlled by the support of society. Foucault advances the principles of discourse in relation to

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power structure acting in a society by stating that discourses are deeply rooted in social organization. So, discourse and power cannot be separated. Foucault clarifies discourse as a result of power or discourse stands as an instrument and an effect of power. As Foucault views:

Discourses are not once and for all subservient to power or rose against it any more than silences are. We must make allowances for the complex and unstable process whereby discourse can be both an instrument and an effect of power, but also hindrances, a stumbling, block, a point of resistance and a starting point for an opposing strategy. Discourse transmits and produces power; it reinforces it, but also undermines it and exposes it, renders it fragile and makes it possible to thwart it. (54)

Discourse is a major point in society that affects how we can speak act and interpret things and it all depends on power holder. So, discourse serves the power holders.

Jack Stratton was born in prostitute and he does have low social status which trivialized his social identity. His social status defines his identity which matters for social authority. Social background and social class also legitimate social identity and power. Jack, having low social status and stigmatized identity, intends to be professional as a detective agent.

This research has discussed over law as a state discourse in Greyson's *And Then She Has Gone*. Law is presented as a perspective which may or may not be truth. Law and truth are not always reciprocal and parallel. A state is a body which authorizes or legalizes discourse and it becomes law for the state. On the other hand, individual cannot manipulate law. Though, individual may advocate truth and justice but it may not be law and justice from the perspective state.

The novel introduces a conflict between the state authority and individual. The protagonist of the novel Jack Stratton carries responsibility of spy and makes decision of finding criminal. The decision he makes is considered as close to truth but the state authority disqualifies his decision. Jack personally leads the case of kidnap but the state interferes to his decision. From the eyes of state, law is declared and made and individual cannot have right to decide right and wrong. In this respect, law is presented as perspective.

Jack is found helpless and weak in terms of using force. He professionally works for finding and providing justice. His approach to decide crime and criminal is professional ethics. As he detects the crime, he wants to decide right and wrong. The case for him is to find truth and untruth. It is considered as social as well as individual responsibility which is matter of justice. The mysterious loss of girl leads the case and it becomes social pressure to find and provide justice. As the case moves forward, Jack leads the case. Though, Jack finalizes the case with norms of natural law and justice but the state's authority denies his judging decision. The state has own ideology as to law and justice which is state's discourse. The state has right to define law and justice which is considered as law and justice. It is different eye to overlook and define law. The novel presents a concept of validity of law which is not single and final which is based on ideology and perspective.

This novel presents story about Jack Stratton who admits his plan to join in army. Along with his brother, both of them confirm to be enlisted in army. Stratton has been motivated and interested. The person desires to play with authority. Having post in authority, he is interested to distribute justice to the helpless people. Justice and equality are characters of him and his interest and aim of life guides his life. Jack interest of doing justice for society and country motivates him to do

social work and welfare task. The initiation of his desire and work goes along with the detective case.

Stacy Shaw, a victim and helpless girl who is kidnapped by unknown person. This story rises from the case and the protagonist of this novel begins and develops toward climax. Along with the story, the novel develops two ideologies as well as conflict together. Both of the ideologies claim authority and justice. The interpretation of law and justice differ from each other. Law and justice are not similar. The conflict between law and justice are projected in the novel. The authority represents law and the protagonist Jack Stratton represents justice. The conflict between them is major argument of this thesis.

The case of disappearing Stacy Shaw initiates argument which is subject of interest of Jack. When Jack is affected by the case, he decides to follow the case though he is not a right person. Jack follows the way of justice but it is wrong from the perspective law. As soon as Stacy asks for protection and it was declared to be right decision then Jack confronts in front of his aim of life. By doing and granting justice and right judgment, he wants to rescue and establishes civilized society. In course of establishing justice, he hears the voice of the girl and immediately handles the case. The girl's voice for rescue changes his path and he is convinced to handle it being a civil detective. It is harder to find and solve the case however it becomes challenge for him to justify himself. The girl Stacy is kidnapped then the responsibility of rescuing as well as solving case initiates his journey to justice as her mother appeals him to solve the case:

The old woman's cry for help rang in Jack's ears. Her face flashed through his mind—desperate, helpless. A victim Jack had been a helpless victim, prey, in the past. Not now, Jack was the hunter now. The adrenaline surging through his body was like rocket fuel. I have got this. The wiry thief cradled the purse like a football. He had a lead and picked up the pace, but he wasn't in shape and Jack's legs quickly ate up the distance. (7)

The case is handed over to Jack when her mother appeals with him. Due to his brave nature, experience and intention of giving fairness and lawfulness convinces others. As Jack leads the case, he thinks over fairness. Being centralized over justice and fairness, he handles case.

Jack is an illegal person to handle the case because he is a civilian. But the authority or law is another perspective which decides right and wrong. Regarding the question about law, it is always questionable. Law is taken as truth and it is common for all. However, law and literature have close relation, because it is product of power which is handled by powerful people. Even law is interpreted on the basis of situation and context. Law does not have any single understanding but it is interpreted and reinterpreted by power. Regarding the law and literature Bernadette A. Meyler views:

Law seemed to the literary scholar longing for the political really made things happen. Literature seemed to the legal scholar longing for the critical humanist real a sphere in which language could stand outside the oppressive state apparatus speaking truth to the law's obfuscations and subterfuges. The only way to escape this interdisciplinary impasse, peters insists, is to move beyond these illusions and into a disciplinary flexibility and multiplicity that will confute standardized attempts at definition. Hence she sees with optimism the replacement of law and literature by something like law culture and the humanist. (422)

Law is supposed to be contextual which can be interpreted. Though, law and justice are understood as similar but the law cannot always define justice. Justice is based on the natural law and absolute but law is contextual and relative. It is often noticed that the notion of justice is not applicable to all class and status of people in the same magnitude. The imposition of justice differs from person to person based on influence, power and motivation. In everything which men are accustomed to characterize as just or unjust, a common attribute or collection of attributes is always present. We may judge whether this particular attribute or combination of attributes would be capable of declaring the idea of fairness and injustice. As such, justice is often a sentiment of that peculiar character and intensity by virtue of the general laws of our emotional constitution, or whether the sentiment is inexplicable, and requires to be regarded as a special provision of nature. If we find the former to be the case in resolving the idea of justice, then we humans might have resolved the problems underlying fair justice.

Jack always believes in truth and even he works for it. Being an individual he advocates truth and justice but the person is not right person from the eye of state. An individual being responsible helps someone but it can be against state or law. In the same way, Jack undergoes similar obstacles in his life which creates problem in his life.

The novel brings the conflict between law and justice which are considered as two different issues. Law is constituted by the state for providing justice to the people. It is strictly implied in the state that brings uniformity among people. But sometime it is overlapped by morality. People sometime take decision being based upon morality. Law does not give justice everywhere because it has single language and single perspective. Therefore it is avoided instead of law, morality provide justice.

The research clearly shows that law is not ever matter for providing justice in the society. It is the state's perspective which may be wrong and right. The protagonist of the novel, Jack Stratton, being a detective, makes judgments but the state does not accept his judgments. On the basis of societal values and norms, he tries providing justice but the state cannot tolerate it. The society is tied with many social, moral, religious and traditional norms and values. There is always conflict between these societal values and law. Law tries to overlap over such social values. It means law tries to take action over moral law but it is not intended to provide justice to the people.

The novel *And Then She Was Gone*, Jack Stratton being an individual fights against the state's authority. The authority examines criminal case from the legal perspective either it may be true or fake. The law enforces own definition which is against societal justice and moral values.

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