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FRIENDSHIP IS THE MIDDLETON

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ABSTRACT

The main themes in the novel *Sula* are motherhood, friendship and love. Among these, conventional and unconventional life of Sula plays a significant role in this novel. This manuscript has been elucidated the effort to unfold their deep bonding which was tested by social norms. The main is to analyze the interpersonal relationship between mothers, daughters, friends and lovers. Sula and Nel converged the areas of female friendship and estrangement. Personalities that differ tend to attract us, thus life becomes interesting and desire the contrast of what we have. Sula and Nel Friendship are the perfect examples, where the ideas of good and evil are turned upside down. But two girls are like magnet with opposite poles.

**Keywords:** Mother/daughter relationship, friendship.

This article completely brings out the true essence of friendship and how it happens between two girls, Sula and Nel. The girls live in a place called "bottom" where blacks used to live after a white man offered the particular land to them, which is not good for cropping and it is the bottom of the place of the place and so it was named so.

Nel was born to Helen and Wiley Wright in 'Middleton' even though Nel is plain looking, Helen was happy because as a plain girl Nel never become like her grandmother who was whore. Helen hopes that her grandmother's daughter has a normal life with dignity.

Helen gets a letter that her grandmother is dying. It was a long time since she left with Wiley, and now she goes there along with Nel. Nel met Rachel there whom Helen hates and who Nel should not be in her life. Nel changed in an overnight. After she made conversation with Rachel and finds there is something called self identity?

She keeps on thinking about Cecile's funeral and the conversation helps her to find a self identity in herself she feels the softness of Rachel and believes even she can become a better person like her and this self belief makes her to be friendly with Sula.

Helen dislikes Nel's friendship with Sula. She says that Sula's mother was sooty; but Nel ignore her. Helen hates Hannah but like Sula because she seems to have none of her mother's slackness.

Sula lives Nel's house which very neat and tidy but her house is quite opposite which is always messy and noisy. Nel like Eva grandmother of Sula, she tell them scary stories and engage them in a good way.

Hannah Sula's mother is a whore. Who often have sex with men. She sleeps with many men like her neighbor and her friend's husband. As this reflects with Sula's attitude when she becomes an adult.

Sula and Nel are twelve years and they discover boys as opposite sex. The girls like to get men's attention. As both of them try to grab men's attention they need each other's company. Unaware of others intention they became friends.

Sula looks quite like African-American with heavy brown color and has large eyes. But Nel is different. She is light skinned and plainly good. Even though both of them are black they are quite different and coming it the personality Nel is stable and stronger then Sula.

When Nel was humiliated by Irish school boys, the girl tried to avoid it. It became a routine and it's been a habit for the boy. The girls tried their best to get rid of their problems. At once they decided to go on the other way. But the boys even come there and stopped the girl's Sula who is soft for a long time, takes a knife from her bag scare the boys. The boys do not feels scary but when cuts off part of her finger they scared and moved from there.

Sula was a heavy brown with large quite eyes none of which feature a birth mark that spread from the middle of the lid towards eyebrow shaped something like a stemmed rose it gave her otherwise plain face a broken excitement and blue bluds threat like keloid scar of the razord man for sometimes played checkers with the grandmother. The birthmark was to grow darker as the years passed, but now it was the same shape as her gold flecked eyes which to the end were as steady and clean as rain.

Sula over hears her mother Hannah talking with the other women who complaining about their kids. One of the mother from the group told that she do not like her daughter Hannah confers that even she do not like her daughter. Sula was devastated by hearing this. The girl's mother played a major role in their life they became adults. The girls really a reflection of her mother. The friends ran to the tree which was surrounded by full of grass sometimes they played there and dig large holes and bury unwanted dirt inside the earth which was covered with uprooted grass they feel relaxed after this. This particular incident shows that bad things are to be buried. Human beings buried all their bad habits once they are closed to death.

They find a boy named Chicken Little who is good and behaves decently with the girls. The boy joined with them and played happily for some time. Sula grabs Chicken Little and starts swinging him around. First he enjoys but late he gets scared and starts to cry. Sula lost her grip and the boy flew into the water and drowns.

Girl shouted his name but he never emerge from the water. Shadraek watched the incident and runs from there. Sula chases him and to his house when Sula questions him about the incident which is not relevant to the accident but to see she returns to Nel and shares with her about shadraek answers. While talking Chicken Little's body floats on the water. The girls are annoyed to see his body.

Few years later Nel get married to Jude, is a hard worker who wants to shine in his life. He wants a wife who can able to console him in his bad times and in return he can shatter her, love her, and grow old with her. Sula seems happier than Nel that her friend is getting married. She enjoys the occasion and moves away from her. Sula feels that she don't want to disturb her friends life. Sula leaves the village and lead an independent life.

Eva finds something bad in the nature. It shows that the evil thing is connected with Sula. truly now; Sula is filled with evil thoughts and behavior. She came to her house, where Eva and Sula they didn't share affectionate words rather they fight and throws anger on the other person. Sula tries to blame eva for everything and in a day or two Eva was taken to mental asylum. now Sula feels a great relief and it's very clear that Sula has changed in the years. She is filled with negative thoughts.

The friends get to meet after a decade and they had best time in the afternoon. They talk about Eva where Sula blames her grandmother but we know the truth behind it. When Nel's husband Jude comes there in a sad mood. Nel tries to comfort him. Sula disagrees the idea and comment on white men's behavior which really comforts Jude and he laughs subsequently Jude ends up sleeping with Sula even though she is not attracted.

Sula's intension is not to spoil her life rather she just brings back their old game alive. In their childhood they used to kiss a boy and discuss about it later .Sula tries this with Jude but doesn't have sex intentionally thus they find a crack in their life.

Nel finds the truth but she is not ready to accept the fact. She feels that friendship and love is no more and it was already dead. She feels that her relationship has been cheated and her loss of love is bitter than losing her friend. She feels that her own friend backstabs her.

'love making seemed to her at first, the creation of special kind of joy she thought, she liked the routines of sex and its comedy; she laughed a great deal during the raw cows beginnings and rejected those lovers who regarded sex as healthy or beautiful. sexual aesthetics bored her .although she didn't regret sex as ugly, she liked to think of it as wicket but as our experience multiplied she realized it was not only wicket ,it was not necessary for her to conjure up the idea of wickedness in order to participate fully'

Slowly sul's attitude changed and everyone in the village abused her for sleeping with their husbands. the whole village starts to hate Sula and degrade more and more .she was separated from the society soon Ajax desolates her too.ajax with whom she shared everything that happens in her life .Ajax fills Nels place after Nel leaves her, when he leaves to Sula disappointed and falls sick and became ill.Nel comes to visit her she buys medicine for her and nurtures too.

"I know what every colored woman is doing"

whets that?

Dying just like me, but the difference is stump. Me, imp going down like one of those red woods. I sure to live in this world.

Really? What have you got to show for it?

Show? To who? Girl, I got my mind and what goes on it; which is to say I got me.

loNely, ain't it?

Yes but my lonely is mine. Now your lonely is somebody else's. Made by somebody else and handed to you.ain't that something second handed lady?"

They have an honest conversation in their whole life when Nel asked about her deceit of taking her husband; Sula replies that she didn't love him but done things playfully. On hearing this, Nel leaves the place angrily and makes a point that is her last visit and decides not to visit anymore. Soon after she leaves Sula feels more sick and unable to breath.

Nel meets Eva after two decades.eva hates to see her because she is equally vicious to Sula.only because of them little chicken has died.Nel tries to blame Sula for the accident but nel is the one who asked to hide the truth from the society.eva accuses her that Nel and Sula are not different but both of them harm others. On her way to home Nel was disturbed by Eva's words .Nel burst out with tears cries out Sula's name and that way that miracle happens.

"All the time, all the time, I thought I was missing Jude and the loss pressed down on her chest and came up into her throat. We were girls together, she said as though explaining something. O Lord, Sula. She cried, girl, girl, girl girl girl. It was a fine cry-loud and long but it had no bottom and it had no top, just circles and of sorrow."

Nel atlas realizes Sula's fierce heart and understands Sula's love for her. In all life she misses Sula more than Jude. It is Jude who made things harder and not her friend. Sula tries to be true to her and plays with Jude as they done in their childhood. It remarks her innocence and their last conversation make things clear to her and even though Sula is rude, she tries to be true to her but Nel puts all the blame on her and tries to prove her innocece. When she confronts her faults things change to happen. She may be rude but true and when she realized it. The friendship becomes an appropriate anecdote to their generation.

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