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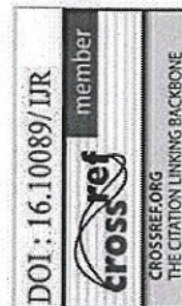
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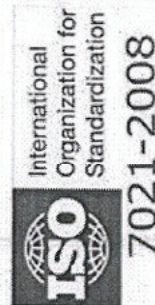
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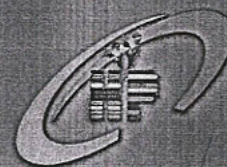
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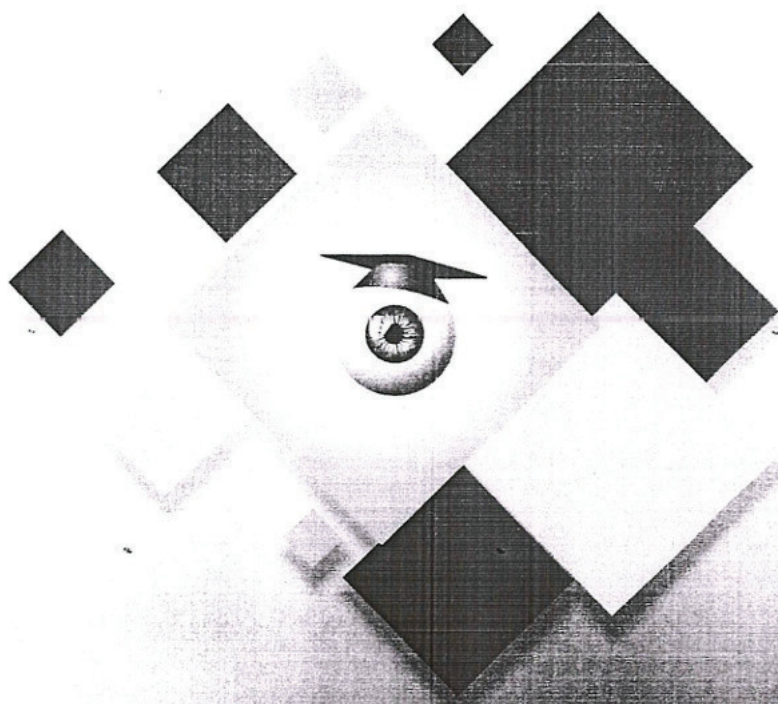
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वित्तविना शूद्र ग्रचले. इतके अनर्थ एका अविद्येने केले

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## Loneliness in Anita Brookner's Falling Slowly

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Anita Brookner's eighteenth published novel, *Falling Slowly* (1998), explores the story of two middle-aged women's loneliness and the lament for the un-lived life. She explores the loneliness through the novel. Brookner has succeeded in exhibiting the causes for loneliness like the negligence by husband, feeling the work burdensome, mistresshood, infertility, having no ties of family or friends, the feeling of exile, having no companion, disappointment in love, disillusion in failed married life, death of beloved person, having no work in hand, anxiety etc. through the novel.

The above might be taken as the nutshell account of the causes for loneliness emerges through the novel. In fact, the title of the novel reflects the loneliness itself which suggests symbolically the decline of Miriam and Beatrice in their middle-age. Actually the words in the title 'falling slowly' are the last in the predawn shipping forecast on British radio. They mark the end of one day and the start of another. The protagonist of the novel, Miriam Sharpe's falling in love similarly promises a transformation. It is Miriam's falling in Simon's love, and Beatrice in Max's which serve as their moral and physical decline. The word 'slowly' is suggestive enough to exhibit only decline and not the destruction. Thus the title refers to the premature decline of

loneliness. Even Miriam's flat's impression comes out when Brookner notes, "In bed she lay awake for a long time, sensing the loneliness of the flat" (188) which is self-reflexive one.

In addition to these citations, there are certain descriptive phrases like – silent street (7, 161), street so quiet and uneventful (37), bleak childhood home (47), deathly quiet in the deserted streets (69), sleeping building, silent park (73), lonely afternoon (78), silent days (131), silent house (185), empty evening (207) etc. contribute to constitute the atmosphere of loneliness in the novel.

Brookner also can be seen skillful in using the images, symbols and allusions. She uses the image "Chaucer's patient Griselda" (210) to compare Miriam which symbolically used image to suggest how she is also lonely and devoted like the character, Griselda who sacrifices her life waiting for an ideal lover and looks after her sick sister. Brookner has also used the image "Mariana in the moated grange" (33) to exhibit the intensity of Miriam's waiting and loneliness. It is also symbolic that in Miriam's dream she sees only "... vast cranes and hanks of lights, but no people" (122). Miriam's work as a translator of fiction from French to English exhibits the activity which can be done by becoming isolated from the world. Apart from these evidences, there are certain descriptive phrases like – silent day's work (1), landlocked person (82), lightless days (207) etc. in the novel which are helpful to construct the feeling of loneliness.

Thus the suppressed lives of Beartice and Miriam are scrupulously narrated throughout the novel. Miriam's diminished desires can be seen revealed through the novel significantly. Both the sisters can be found torn between an idealized longing of connection and greedy complacency about their placid existence. Beatrice's idea of a marriage of convenience to Max Gruber is her existential endeavour though it proves absurd. They can

be seen embracing the vacancy in their life. Miriam's rejection of stable and kind Tom as a lover is her great flaw which inevitably leads her to confront the lifelong loneliness. Brookner seems to convey that one has to remain in society connected to live happily and grab the opportunity to make company and to be companion for others. Her optimistic vision of the world can be seen as the novel ends with Miriam's readiness for the new adventurous journey by showing a briefcase in her hand and face the present reality more boldly than ever.

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