

Lyubov Loza

Professor Walker

WRI 10

6 February 2012

A Secret Affair

There are times when we wonder when if the writers of different novels have some background story that they try to pass along to make their books have passion in the text to catch the eye of their audience they write to. Even though most books include a note about an author we never read the information until after we finish the novel, but others find it to be interesting to know the back story of the book which is the author himself and the kind of person he or she is. As they keep reading the novel they find symbolism that makes you wonder that what was believed back in the years might have been true. We could only suspect certain ideas that could come from ways the author would place the character and the way he would describe him, but only the two individuals would know the truth within the rumor. In the novel by Truman Capote *In Cold Blood* the description and the intricate detail that he used showed an in meaning of a secret affair between Capote and Perry.

As grow to become individuals that shape us, Perry was shaped to be someone that showed no interest in women. From a young age he had lived with his mother and sister, their way to show any interest in him was not visible at all. His mother never showed any interest in him and did not take care of him at all, since she sent him to the orphanage. Also his mother would not let him run away to his father after his parents went through a divorce, which is when he wanted to live with his father but was not let out. Perry's sister would always find ways to

put him down and would find some way to judge him on all of his flaws in life and the way that he acted. As we learn Perry is one of the two murders that killed the four members of the Clutter family. When it came to the killing of the mother and daughter, as Perry looked at the daughter, Nancy Clutter, he told Dick, that he wished that it was his sister (Capote). The way that he was always scrutinized by her he hoped to find revenge for everything that she did to him. Another woman that was in his life was the nun that would take care of him at the Catholic orphanage. All of the beatings he had been through and no care from her showed no mercy on for any women (Capote). That lost feeling and compassion could have made Perry despise women, just because of his past. In other words, his past experiences could have made him gay.

Perry's actions in jail when he was caught showed that he was only friendly with woman, but had no interest in them. When Perry and Dick were caught by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation when they left Mexico and were taken to jail Perry was taken to the women living quarters after his confession. He became friends with a the women and when he watches men pass by he hopes that one of them would come to the rescue to get him out of the prison that he is in (Capote). The way that Perry fascinates with men coming to save him is like him having a prince charming which could show that the way he see men is more than just friends but the way woman fantasize men. Also when he gets a visit from a close friend from the army, Don Cullivan, who wrote to him earlier to get him to convert to Catholicism, he did not care about the converting just to have some company from a man.

The description of the Perry and his how his character was perceived by the Capote shows an interest from the author to his subject. When reading the novel you see very intricate detail when Perry's character comes up, especially when it goes to the religious views feelings. I could see many ways that Perry was a man that was gentle and kind. He actually showed

remorse for what he had done in the past. Except for when it came to killing the “nigger,” for that to him seemed to be the only difference when it came to killing the Clutter family of four (Capote). He had also felt some isolation from the world for he had nothing to hold him back and when it came to leaving the country, unlike his partner in crime Dick, who had three sons back in the states. As I compared the two criminals, I could see the difference in the way that Truman Capote took more interest in describing Perry over Dick that gave me some evidence to believe that the rumors could be true.

Truman Capote’s description of Perry in his novel *In Cold Blood* emphasizes an inner need or wanting of Perry on an intimate level. From knowing that as a kid he had no compassion from women that were in his life and was horribly hurt by any women that he would try to show any emotion. The way that he felt about being in prison having a man, not a woman saving him from there showed the fact that he could only see women as friends, but there could be a desire for a male companion. The deep description made by Capote on the way that Perry would act and his ways of showing the way he felt comes from a closer relationship not just from being friends. We could see that from the way that Perry was in real life and from the way we see him from the eyes of the author that he was more than just a character but he was part of an intimate relationship that he could have had with Capote, as we were told by rumors. As the saying goes, “In every rumor there is some truth.”

Works Cited

Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*. New York: Vintage A Division of Random House, 1965. Print.