

Gender Roles and Identity in Shashi Deshpande's 'The Dark Holds No Terrors

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Abstract: *A wide range of characters may be found throughout Shashi Deshpande's writings. Characters in Deshpande's literary realm are taken from almost every facet of life. They are writers and doctors, housewives with and without education, and maidservants. Apart from the commonplace challenges of poverty and bereavement, women face particular sources of sorrow. Deshpande portrays with empathetic understanding the spectrum of suffering that a woman has to bear. Sometimes women are compelled to undergo torture because they are silenced for the sake of family honor, while other times the anguish is connected to social taboos. Shashi Deshpande often writes about Indian women in her writings. The majority of women live in households in such condition. Shashi Deshpande has shattered the taboo of women's silence, and his sincere efforts have won appreciation from both local and foreign audiences. One was prompted to do study in this field by her perceptive understanding of human connections, her careful observation of the environment, and her detached perspective of movements and dogmas.*

Keywords: Sympathetic understanding, maidservants, dogmas, social taboos

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