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Problems of a Werewolf in a Moderate Social Climate through Examples in J.K. Rowling's and S. Meyer's Novels

To begin with, modern literature successfully continues the tendency of using the fantasy genre to display significant issues and complications that appear in the human community. One of the methods that writers use the most often is displaying conflicts between different species to address such critical social problems as racial, national, and other inequalities and conflicts between dissimilar communities. For this purpose, authors introduce various fantasy characters like werewolves, vampires, and others in order to show a wide range of problems. Exact examples of such literary pieces are novels by J. K. Rowling and S. Meyer and in particular, the series of *Harry Potter* and *Twilight*. In these books, the authors display that even being in moderate social climates, werewolves tend to face significant difficulties and issues, such as unequal treatment, the lack of acceptance and understanding of other community members, complications with 'fitting in' with their environments, and notably limited governmental support.

First of all, it is necessary to note that Rowling and Meyer depict werewolves in their writings differently. In particular, Rowling shows them as a part of the Wizarding community who are considered as inferior to wizards: human beings and barely accepted by people. At the

same time, these individuals are legally proclaimed to be full citizens of the Wizarding world even though they are registered by the Ministry of Magic because of their potential danger to others ("Werewolves - Pottermore"). Meyer introduces werewolves in a significantly different way because, in her novels, these creatures appear as separate from the human community. Thus, even though werewolves may contact people and live close to them, they do not disclose their nature and prefer being isolated (Ledvinka 197). Nonetheless, the issues faced by the werewolves as introduced by both writers are notably similar and mainly related to the lack of acceptance of their differences by human beings. It is necessary to add that these complications are reviewed in the communities with a moderate social climate that does not fully invite werewolves, but does not attack them either.

One of the most critical problems faced by werewolves that are pointed out by both Rowling and Meyer is the unequal treatment of them by humanity. Notably, in the novels of the first writer, this issue is displayed in a much more detailed way, as the author directly shows that werewolves are considered as 'pariahs' and believed to be less developed and decent community members. The problem can be observed in the example of Remus Lupin, who is one of the significant characters of Rowling's books; he was bitten by a werewolf in his early childhood and became a lycanthrope involuntary, but still is not accepted by most of the wizards as equal. Notably, Meyer does not include this conflict in her writing, but a reader can clearly see that she portrays them as underrepresented. In the *Twilight* series, however, werewolves do not disclose their nature to the world because they are afraid of being hunted. As follows, even though human communities created by both authors display a moderate social climate, werewolves in them still suffer from social inequality and are not accepted by people.

Significantly, the lack of acceptance appears as the next critical issue faced by werewolves as shown in the covered novels. Again, Rowling represents it much wider by showing that the Wizarding community that is closely familiar with different peculiarities still does not accept the nature of werewolves. The author shows that even though lycanthropes are dangerous and can barely control themselves in the full moon, they are not initially evil. It should be pointed out that Rowling addresses the issue of werewolves not being accepted by magicians in a complex way, as the author observes the complications of both born and infected lycanthropes ("Werewolves - Pottermore"). In the first case, the writer shows that wizards do not accept the nature of werewolves and, because of their greater number, make lycanthropes live separately. In the second case, the highlighted issue can also be observed in the example of Remus Lupin, who did not want to become a werewolf, but still is perceived as a pariah and potentially dangerous rather than as a victim. Meyer also covers the issue of werewolves not being accepted by human beings, as she presents this historical tendency as the main reason for lycanthropes hiding from people and living in separate reservations.

It should be noted that the next issue of the lack of the governmental support directly results from the previously discussed one. Even though the Wizarding community introduced by Rowling appears to have a moderate social environment and is proclaimed as liberal and democratic, its government does not provide werewolves with decent legal support and does not clearly establish their rights as equal. In the case of the fictional world of Meyer, werewolves are not represented in any legal aspect and hide to avoid potentially aggressive social reactions to them.

The last critical issue that is discussed by both of the authors is the significant difficulties werewolves have with 'fitting into' society. In the books of Rowling and Meyer, lycanthropes are

in constant contact with wide communities and cannot successfully become their members. For instance, the already-mentioned character of Rowling Remus Lupin is used in the Wizarding community because he was not born as a werewolf, so he remains its part but is rejected by magicians; at the same part, he is also rejected by the lycanthropes' community and, as a result, is alienated. Meyer also discusses this issue, and her character Jacob, who is a werewolf, gets to know about his nature when he is a teenager; as follows, he does not want to leave his usual social environment but, due to his peculiarities and not being accepted by people, cannot fit into it anymore.

All things considered, Rowling and Meyer discuss a number of significant issues faced by werewolves in their novels of the *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* series. These problems include unequal treatment, a lack of acceptance and governmental support, and a difficult, if not impossible process of 'fitting in.' Notably, the characters developed by the writers live in moderate social environments, but they still cannot become full members of their societies due to their peculiarities not being respected by the majority. This critical issue displayed in these fantasy books reflects real-life ones that appears in the remaining racial and national inequalities in modern global society.

Works Cited

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