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Summary of a wall of fire rising

There are two people in this world: those who can deal with life's challenges and those who cannot. "A Wall of Fire Rising" by Edwidge Danticat recognizes this predicament in the shantytowns of Haiti in 1991. Freedom has a different meaning for everybody and can be attained in different ways. As referenced by Guy, the hot air balloon is the key to freedom. Guy and his wife, Lili, have different perspectives on freedom and what life should be. Lili loves her husband Guy but is not too fond of his negative comments and views towards people. Before marrying Guy, Lili was skeptical since he had an angular hairline. "It was said that people with angular hairlines often have very troubled lives" (238). Guy and Lili's son, Little Guy, lived in a world by himself. He was focused on education and remembering his lines for his role Boukman in the upcoming school play. It was not of major importance for Little Guy to be focused on his parent's financial situation. He has not been faced yet with the reality of being dirt poor. Lili wanted Little Guy to have the life that Guy and she never had. She wanted to give her son the opportunity to be successful. Guy wanted his son to work in the sugar mill, the only source of jobs in the area. Lili opposed this idea for it might influence their son's destiny. The main quote that plays a major role throughout the story happens when Little Guy is reciting his lines for the play. "There is so much sadness in the faces of my people. I have called on their gods, now I call on our gods. I call on our young, I call on our old. I call on our mighty and the weak. I call on everyone and anyone so that we shall all let out one piercing cry that we may either live free or we should die" (244). Boukman says this during the revolution as the great rebel leader. A question for Danticat, would have to be if she wanted to have Guy be the present form of Boukman's beliefs? Little Guy recites this playline twice within the story. The first time, Guy took this quote to heart and compared it to his own life. The second time was said when Guy committed suicide and jumped out of the hot air balloon. Some would argue if it was suicide or if it could be justified. Either way, Danticat wanted to resemble Guy's similarity with Boukman and distinguish it from the rest of the characters. At the time of Guy's death, the foreman asked if Lili wanted her husband's eyes to be closed. She responded, "No lave them open. My husband, he likes to look at the sky" (244). Guy was not happy with his life on earth living in poverty. He finally reached freedom when he passed away. Lili did not judge her husband for committing the act and was not disappointed at him when he left her and Little Guy. Little Guy was in shock when he stood over his father's dead body. He did not say anything besides his lines for the play. Little Guy's voice tone was angry and confused. In conclusion, there are two people in this world: those who can deal with life's challenges and those who cannot. Guy could not face the fact of staying in poverty and decided to escape and find freedom elsewhere. Lili dealt with life's challenges so she could give their son a better life than what they had. Danticat did a fantastic job by incorporating a historical reference to this story. The similarity between Boukman and Guy were identical. Sources Danticat, Edwidge "A Wall of Fire Rising." The Norton Introduction to Literature. Ed Alison Booth, et al. Portable 10th ed. New York: Norton, 2011. 232-244. Print. This process is automatic. Your browser will redirect to your requested content shortly. Please wait a few seconds. 'A Wall of Fire Rising', is one of the short stories from the collection of Edwidge Danticat titled 'Krik? Krak!' The chosen short story for this particular purpose, 'A Wall of Fire Rising', is set against the backdrop of the Haitian Revolution against the French Colonial rule. In this particular analytical essay, the discussion shall be focusing upon the analysis of the chosen short story against the Marxian theoretical premise with special focus on concepts such as alienation, false consciousness and ideology. In the following sections of the discussion the focus shall be on providing a brief summarized account of the story and the analytical part against the backdrop of Marxian theoretical premise with special focus on concepts such as alienation, false consciousness and ideology shall be provided. The short story, 'A Wall of Fire Rising' is based upon the lives of a nucleated family consisting of three members Guy being the man of the house, Lili being his wife and their son Little Guy. The family of three leads a life with limited means, they reside in a shanty at a marginalized location in the Haitian countryside in an impoverished neighborhood. Little Guy is a school student, his mother a home-maker and his father indulges in odd jobs to ensure that the family runs well. One day Guy was supposed to share a piece of news on his return, but the enthusiasm of Little Guy to share his piece of news had tended to overwhelm that of Guy. Little Guy had broken the tidings to his parents with a lot of excitement as he had got the opportunity to play the role of the Haitian Revolutionary Dutty Boukman who had fought for the independence of his nation from the yoke of French colonialism. Little Guy had with all the fervor enacted the part he was supposed to play at his school and the act was highly appreciated by his parents. The family led a very frugal life consisting of humble meals of corn mush and the large government installed television at the local sugar mill for entertainment, which was used for watching news. After the television program used to get over, the congregation of the people used to complain about the government. However the fascination of Little Guy and his parents had been captured by the Hot Air Balloon, which rose high up in the sky, owned by the Assad family of Lebanese Haitian origin. It was imported from America. The Assads were rich, they were the owners of the sugar mill, and they had the liberty to purchase expensive commodities. Finally, one day Guy gets to break the news to Lili that he wished to for a long time but couldn't do so because of interruptions from their son, which was about his frustration for not getting a permanent and decent job at the sugar mill of the Assads, instead he had secured the job of a toilet cleaner. Guy had also expressed his wish to get their son a job at the sugar mill so that he could secure a better position by the time he grows up and procure all the bourgeois comforts of the world. Lili refuses and Guy also agrees as the job at the sugar mill was all hard work and very less money which would not let their son break away from the shackles of poverty. The imagination of the couple was highly dominated by the hot air balloon of the Assads as their idea or consciousness about a good life was limited to procurement of materialistic requisites of life which was mainly economic in nature. One day Guy tries his hand at flying the hot air balloon and he falls to his death. His dead body lied on the ground facing the sky with his eyes wide open through which he saw the balloon fly away into the horizon. On being asked if his wife Lili wanted to close his eyes, she replied no, as her husband loved to fly high up in the sky (Danticat). Having provided a synoptic view of the short story, the analytical part focusing on relating the story to the Marxist premise of alienation, ideology and consciousness shall be provided. The story makes the division between the rich and the poor very manifest which is tantamount to alienation. The poor people of the Haitian countryside worked in the sugar mill of the Assads and thus enabled them to get richer while they themselves remained poor. The fruit of the labour of the poor people were being alienated from them as they themselves did not benefit much from it rather the Assads procured the maximum amount of benefit out of the labour of the workers. The Assads owned the hot air balloon due to the labour of the workers enriching them while the workers ate frugal meals and for entertainment only had the government installed television at the sugar mill. With regard to the factor of ideology and consciousness it can be said that in every society a hegemony functions and that contributes to the stability of the society. In this particular story the hegemony exhibited was that of reconciliation to the bourgeois interests and bourgeois way of life. Guy was frustrated as he did not get a permanent job at the sugar mill and it was because of the consciousness that prevailed in the society among the common people that life was all about getting a stable job at the sugar mill. Guy and Lili were occasionally mesmerized by the revolutionary speeches that their son enacted creating a sense of counter consciousness in the minds which was contrary to the bourgeois way of life but the realities of life made them return back to their fascination for the hot air balloon of the Assads and a life of materialistic bounty secured through economic power. The attempt to create a consciousness through ideological hegemonization that the bourgeois way of life is false consciousness and the true consciousness lied in bringing about a revolutionary change in the society to do away with the capitalistic dominance was very weak in the story, exhibited only through the play of Little Guy (Ritzer & Stepnisky). References Danticat, Edwidge. "A Wall of Fire Rising." Krik? Krak (1996): 51-80. Ritzer, George, and Jeffrey Stepnisky. Modern sociological theory. Sage publications, 2017. In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask that you confirm your identity as a human. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Edwidge Danticat's short story "Rise of the Fire Wall" represents the gap between the desire for freedom of man and the reality and fantasy created by desire. Two different perspectives for evaluating life bring confrontation between the little ones parents Guy and Lili. Throughout the story, Guy meant that people wanted to do things like thinking about him, but Lily, against Guy, solved this guy and found that they were in the usual I attempted to follow my daily lives. Born in 1969 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, he emigrated to the United States under the guidance of his parents (taxi driver and textile worker). She is the author of three theaters and seven novels. In 2007 she edited the book and published a memoir of "Brothers, I am dying." Did she announce Krik in 1995? A collection of her only short stories including "A Wall of Fire Rising" which is part of a literary theme and Danticat's private background, Krak! You can find it in "Interview with Edwidge Danticat" in literary analysis. 158 pages Edwidge Danticat's short story "Rise of the Fire Wall" represents the gap between the desire for freedom of man and the reality and fantasy created by desire. Two different perspectives for evaluating life bring confrontation between the little ones parents Guy and Lili. Throughout the story, Guy meant that people wanted to do things like thinking about him, but Lily, against Guy, solved this guy and found that they were in the usual I attempted to follow my daily lives. Lili is positive, adventurous and reckless. Lily is realistic and responsible. Firewall is a figurative representation of the boundary and divides two different types of people. See more When reading Krik from Edwidge Danticat? KRAK! - And I'm looking forward to talking to her at the USC party this weekend - my favorite story is "rising fire wall". The story is a basic, father's shame, an unforgettable story of mother's love, and a child's innocent belief. All of them will develop mainly on promising themes impossible in the classroom drama on Haitian heroes and hot air balloons. Danticat depicts the reality of this young family life very professionally. This is actually the reality of almost every Haitian life. Permanent unemployment, hunger, poverty. However, in the character of Mother Lily, there is hope and parents to educate their sons for the eternal wish of living a better life. Even the name of a child means that his father wants the child's life better than him and always wishes that there is a generation of progress. Lily is proud of her husband, "She is judged by his actions," she told him.

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