The Gender lie: Women and men are not equal.

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Abstract

Equality between women and men is just a huge lie told by society to keep peace. Women have been brainwashed with this lie that equality exist and there equal to men. Society will never fully accept women being equal to men and be able to do the same as men without any judgment or stereotypes to follow. There are many examples how this lie of equality is exposed upon different situations but yet women are to blind or scared to admit to realize it.

This paper will be about that no matter how much women have fought to be equal to men and have the same freedom it has all been simply a lie. Society will never accept equality between men and women hundred percent the way women would like it to be. Women have been told that they have received freedom and special privileges over the centuries but all it has been is minor improvements to calm women down and give them a sense of ownership. I will be researching how women are still not equally treated or respected by society or have acceptance. Society has given women freedom to do certain things but the judgments that follows over shadows it, receiving negative feedback instead of positive. Exactly where the lie appears about equality between men and women. Change is supported and encouraged but once women start to take action society wants to slay them into pieces, because the thought of women being equal to men actually taking place is mind blowing and offensive. Women rights have improved throughout the years but women are still limited to the things they are allowed to do that men do without being judged upon and harassed. It has happened in the past when the rules didn’t bend at all and sadly still happening in today’s world where society is advanced but yet still ignorant To inform you about this lie about gender equality I will be using different resources such as Chopin’s *The Awakening,* Chesnutt’s *The House Behind the Cedars* and articles on Feminism, the Napoleonic code and Celebrity/ Actor Emma Watson.

In Chopin’s novel the awakening the main character Edna is a married women with kids who is miserable in her current life in New Orleans, which any women in her shoes would have been a happy women. Throughout the whole book Edna is finding herself that is referred as her awakening and her true desires a women, which wasn’t the typical women desired. Edna didn’t want to be a mother or wife she simply wanted to be herself, happy and accepted. “In short, Mrs. Pontellier was not a mother-woman. The mother-women seemed to prevail that summer at Grand Isle. It was easy to know them, fluttering about with extended, protecting wings when any harm, real or imaginary, threatened their precious brood. They were women who idolized their children, worshiped their husbands, and esteemed it a holy privilege to efface themselves as individuals and grow wings as ministering angels.” (Chopin 4.3) This is one of the main reasons why Edna must dies at the end of the book because she was asking for too much from society, something society did not understand and would not accept at the time. Every woman was meant to be motherly and only desires in life must be to serve her kids and husband. Edna wanted to love and embrace herself first she didn’t want to sacrifice losing herself to a routine and way of living that she felt did not fit into and a lifestyle that wasn’t meant for her. Edna felt trapped in a world where she knew she belong to she felt she deserved better. Something the people in her town couldn’t wrap their head around, such a bizarre and selfish idea. Edna would have died eventually because she was not going to get the freedom to do what she desired and her soul would have been crushed and die slowly. Reason being that she could have divorced her husband Leonce but she would not be able to leave her kids that she did not like behind with her husband to start a new life with her new love Robert. Something a man would do throughout centuries, just pick and go and carry on with their lives but yet expected for a women to do. So proves how woman are allow to move on to another relationship like men do, but not abandon their kids like men do because society doesn’t accept it from a women. That the lie of equality between men and women appears again. Edna also had to die because she was not going to allow herself to become Robert property or prize again she wanted complete freedom such as the man gets when he leaves his wife and kids behind. “You have been a very, very foolish boy, wasting your time dreaming of impossible things when you speak of Mr. Pontellier setting me free! I am no longer one of Mr. Pontellier's possessions to dispose of or not. I give myself where I choose. If he were to say, 'Here, Robert, take her and be happy; she is yours,' I should laugh at you both."(Chopin, 36.) Society would have expected her to marry Robert and carry on with her life with her kids too, exactly what Edna was against she wanted the freedom that comes with her awakening and just break away from everything that was holding her back throughout the years. Edna wanted to move forward she refused to move backwards which was what she saw happening slowly with Robert. So Edna decision to die was her own personal choice and her way of being free and not trapped just moving forward, not allowing herself becomes a prisoner again by Robert and society. The only way Edna could have break through the lie of gender equality was to give herself up to nature and dying because she felt that was her only way to escape this lie that was being told and women were accepting.

Emersion whole idea of self-reliance and Chopin’s idea of awakening are very similar even if their audience were the opposite sex. Emerson self-reliance shows how society is stuck living in a lie of equality and acceptance. Reason being that society encourages people to be self-reliant and find themselves but once the few strong minded individuals expose themselves and have a awakening like Chopin describes society outcast them and doesn’t accept them. “Envy is ignorance, Imitation is Suicide.” (Emerson, Self-Reliance) Society kills the whole positive and shining moment of the awakening and finding your purpose in life into bits of pieces because it cannot accept the fact that there are individual strong enough that chose to be different stand alone and this brings fear to society. Once again this lie that has been told encouraging people voices to be heard and give them freedom but once action take place it’s not accepted because its misunderstood and brings fear to society about something that can lead to change and reach out their hands. Such as when Chopin started talking about Edna awakening it gave women something to think about for the first time that they had a chance in gender equality and didn’t have to follow the plan that was setup up for women to follow for centuries. It was okay to think about different options and be a bit rebellious and not want to believe in marriage and kids the way society had brain washed them to. Chopin writing about this awakening she was referring to was not accepted at all by society how dare she write such a thing giving women the idea that they can be equal to men or not need a man in their lives it was a crime. This is where the gender quality lie plays a role again because it was accepted for Chopin as a women to be an author and write novels but once she introduced this idea of the awakening it wasn’t a positive thing she thought she had the freedom to write what she desired but yet little did she know society had given boundaries that were not supposed to be crossed.

Next we have Chesnutt that wrote about a young mulatto women named Rena who just wants to accepted but can’t because she a mulatto which is a mixed blood individual who is white and African American women she had trouble finding her place in society. Chesnutt show many examples of the gender equality lie in this novel one starting off by allowing Rena brother John another mulatto the chance to have freedom and find acceptance as a white man throughout the novel. It’s an example of the gender equality lie because both Rena and John that are siblings and mulattos struggling with the same issue of acceptance but yet don’t have the equal chance in the white community, it’s much easier for John as a man to be accepted and fight his through the white man world. But for Rena it’s much harder for her acceptance she needs man help into the white world to even be considered or noticed. Rena doesn’t have the freedom like her brother John to pick up and go, she must stay behind and take care of her mother because she hasn’t had the chance to serve as a wife or mother yet. So again society feels that Rena only has two options in life, which are become a housewife and mother or stay home and take care of her parents. This gender equality lie of women and men being equal is just all a lie because Rena only mission should be to find acceptance in one of the two communities either the white or African and find a husband to marry. Not like John that leaves town to become a successful and accepted passing white man. Another example of gender equality lie is how Rena is encourage to get an education by her brother John so she can learn how to lady and pass a white lady in the white community. But once Rena decides to become more educated and want to become a teacher and help others it becomes an issue no mulatto women should be that educated or want to help other or even have desires to teach her purpose her acceptance and becoming a wife, which cost Rena her life in the novel. When on the other hand her brother is educated and accepted in the white community and there’s nothing wrong with a mulatto man to have an education and be well respected. Rena’s education was only met for her to learn to become a lady and not anything more this why she gets killed. Rena awakening that leads her to wanting to educate others and breaking away from the typical life style routine of a women having the freedom to do what she desires with her own life and this is issue and the lie that’s been told about women and men being equal when they truly not or will never be.

Another example of the gender equality lie would be the Napoleonic code that was created in the 1700s by Napoleon himself lying to women and claiming that women had rights and ownership for their property back in the 1700s. The reason why I say it was lie is because with the Napoleonic code it states that women have ownership of their own land and good but once they get married it all goes to their husband and be managed by their husbands. Women had a say but the final decision was up to their husbands and what they felt was the best. “Married women were incapable of validly accepting a succession or donation without the authority of their husbands or an act of law if he refused.”(Hicks pargraph3) So women didn’t have much freedom thanks to the Napoleonic code it was just a lie and some adjustments to make women feel a little superior. Another thing about the Napoleonic code that shows how gender equality is a lie is how women can divorce their husband but only if he is unfaithful and brings his mistress home for her to meet. So not matter as women you know your husband was not being faithful you were allow to divorce him and if the divorce was approved women weren’t allow to be married again for at least a ten month period. The Napoleonic code gave women some kid of rights and freedom but again equality between men and women, because even if as a man you are unfaithful and your wife divorces you there were no restrictions or punishment for being unfaithful.

Then there is feminism an organization of women fighting for women's rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality to men. But due to this gender equality lie a lot of women have lost faith in feminism and its purpose because they allowed themselves to be brainwashed to believe there is equality between men and women. “I think it is right that socially I’m affording the same respect as men. But sadly I can say there is no one country in the world where all women can expect to receive these rights. No country in the world can yet say they achieved gender equality.” (Emma Watson 5:29) Actor Emma Watson explains how nowhere in the world there is equality between women and men which proves how society has lied and keeps lying to women all around the world saying women have rights and women can do the same as men. Ask an American women if she equal to man she will say yes because society has been lied to her and brainwashed her to feel like she is but yet she will never receive the same respect as a man and will always be judged upon for her action. Women have begun to accept and live in this lie instead of becoming a feminist and fighting for women rights because feminism has gotten a bad reputation. Throughout the years being a feminist meant you were women that were aggressive, anti-men, and too strong of a woman that is looked as a negative thing in society. A lot of women in today society feel feminism is not needed in today world because they have allowed themselves to fall into this lie of equality between genders. “Many young women don’t remember the struggle to secure rights to vote or get paid equally as men for the same jobs. The option to have choices is actually what feminism brought about.”(Soledad O’Brien) explains why women especially in America take for granted and have forgotten the little bit of freedom they have to thank feminist for who fought long and hard for such privileges.

Society has made up this lie and illusion of gender equality that does not exist even after all the years of women’s right movement and feminist hard work to bring equality it just doesn’t live or is accepted nowhere in the world. Women around the world have earned special privileges and bits of pieces if freedom but not gender equality, that society claims women have. It’s all a lie and a trap that women have fallen into and learn to adapt to, women are living in a fairy tale false life thinking they are equal to men because they know it’s all false and all the backlash they get from society if they try to cross the boundaries the gender lie has created. Instead of accepting and living in such a lie women with the support of men should reach out to their feminist community who need all the support possible to continue to make changes. Help destroy this gender equality lie and expose it. Women should take action and not allow this lie to continue to spread through generations instead women should come together in making the fact where women one day can or in one country be allowed to be treated equally in all aspects receive the same respect and no judgment to follow it.

MLA CITATION

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