

**Resilience and Resistance: Feminist Themes in Stephen King's
*The Shining***

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Abstract

The characters and themes of Stephen King's "The Shining" deftly depict female tenacity, loneliness, and the subversion of conventional gender norms while also delving into feminism. The main female character, Wendy Torrance, comes out as a survivor, exhibiting resourcefulness, maternal strength, and emotional resilience. She challenges conventional gender norms as her character transforms from one of vulnerability to empowerment. The book also highlights Wendy's sense of isolation from her husband and from the outside world, both of which are hostile environments. It employs the Overlook Hotel's eerie features as a metaphor for the difficulties and hidden traumas that women could experience. The narrative also questions gender norms by showing Danny, a male child, as someone who uses his psychic skills to transcend social expectations. "The Shining" critiques toxic masculinity and conventional gender norms while showcasing the strength and depth of its female characters in order to present a comprehensive analysis of feminism within the horror genre.

Keywords: feminism, female resilience, isolation, gender roles, maternal strength, toxic masculinity

Introduction

Stephen King's "The Shining," deals with the pervasive theme of the fundamental struggle between good and evil, which manifests in various forms, where characters confront not only external malevolent forces but also the darkness within themselves. Beneath the surface of this psychological collapse and supernatural horror, there

lies a subtle story that explores the complex ideas of feminism. This iconic novel creates a complex tapestry of female resiliency, loneliness, and the subversion of conventional gender roles even if it isn't explicitly a feminist piece of literature. The protagonist of this tale is Wendy Torrance, a character whose transformation from helplessness to strength defies gender expectations as she faces the atrocities of the eerie Overlook Hotel. By highlighting the power and nuance of its female characters and challenging toxic masculinity and conventional gender norms, "The Shining" offers a multifaceted examination of feminism in the context of the horror genre via Wendy's journey. We will explore "The Shining's" feminist undertones in this paper, highlighting how it subverts gender norms, explores themes of solitude, and presents women as survivors.

Unveiling Wendy Torrance: A Portrait of Female Resilience

In the *Cambridge Companion to Gothic Fiction*, Steve Bruhm deemed *The Shining's* Wendy Torrance as "little more than a pair of walking, talking breasts" (265). In fact, the majority of the critics believe that Wendy exemplifies King's conservative view of women. Despite these severe criticisms, Wendy's enormous strength precludes the reader from simply regarding her as 'present.'

Wendy Torrance emerges as a survivor, in the novel. Indeed, she ranks among King's strong female characters. As the wife of the character Jack, she faces both physical abuse and mental abuse from him. However, Wendy's unwavering determination to safeguard her son, Danny and her relentless efforts to escape the Overlook Hotel illustrates a demonstration of a woman's resilience in overcoming challenges and shielding her family.

Wendy shows strength as she faces the emotional abuse, from her husband, Jack who becomes increasingly unstable and aggressive under the negative influence of the Overlook Hotel. Despite her fear, Wendy demonstrates resilience in dealing with Jack's deteriorating state. Her main priority is to protect her son, Danny from the escalating danger even though it pains her to witness her husband's transformation into an unfamiliar person. Wendy's unwavering determination to ensure Danny's safety reveals the depth of her fortitude.

The capacity for tough decision-making and self-determination displayed by Wendy demonstrates her emotional resilience. In an attempt to save herself and her son

Danny, she chooses to end her violent marriage to Jack. Her choice demonstrates her resolve and her refusal to stay in a risky circumstance.

A key component of Wendy's resilience is her job as a mother. Throughout the entire book, it is clear that she is ferociously determined to keep Danny safe from the horrors of the Overlook. She acts to keep her child safe after realising that the motel puts him at risk.

Wendy's portrayal as a survivor is greatly influenced by her maternal instincts and her unshakable dedication to her son's well-being. She is willing to confront supernatural forces and her own husband to ensure her child's safety, which reflects her inner strength and determination.

Wendy encounters several difficulties and terrifying things in the haunted hotel throughout the narrative. Despite the evil forces that threaten her safety and sanity, she perseveres through these difficulties. Her will to survive the event and protect her son demonstrates her emotional fortitude.

As Wendy encounters potentially fatal circumstances inside the haunted hotel, her bravery and resourcefulness become more and more evident. Instead of giving in to her crippling fear, she takes action, locking Danny and herself in the bathroom to keep them safe from Jack's violent outbursts. Despite the dangerous circumstances, she too goes outside into the snowstorm to ask for assistance. Wendy's will to live is demonstrated by her capacity to act quickly and face her anxieties head-on.

Wendy tries to get out of the hotel's dangerous situation by using her inventiveness. She adjusts to the circumstances by utilising the resources at hand and her wits in order to live and defend her son. Her ability to be inventive is evidence of her emotional resilience and flexibility. The combination of her husband's spiral into insanity and the paranormal activities at the hotel causes Wendy a great deal of emotional distress. She does, however, manage to keep her cool and stand by her son, offering emotional stability in an extremely erratic setting.

In addition to Jack's physical and mental assaults, Wendy faces other worldly horrors at the Overlook Hotel. Her portrayal as a survivor is enhanced by her capacity to withstand these paranormal atrocities. Wendy's emotional fortitude presents a strong, independent woman who declines to accept her situation as a victim, according to feminist theory. She shows that women are capable of taking charge of their lives, making tough choices, and standing up for themselves and their loved ones. Because Wendy refuses to be

weak or obedient in the face of peril and misfortune, her character defies conventional gender norms and expectations.

The narrative highlights Wendy's increasing autonomy and self-sufficiency along her journey. It dawns on her that she cannot depend on Jack for safety or assistance as she watches his spiral into insanity. Determined to make sure she and Danny survive; she needs to take charge of the situation. It is evidence of her survival instincts that she went from being a dependent wife to an independent and guarded mother.

Isolation and Empowerment

A topic of female solitude may be seen in Stephen King's "The Shining," particularly in the story of Wendy Torrance and the location of the Overlook Hotel during the winter. The story and the characters are greatly influenced by this seclusion. One of "The Shining's" main themes is Wendy's solitude. During the winter, she and her family are stranded in the distant Overlook Hotel due to the snow. This physical seclusion highlights the protagonists' detachment from the outer world and fosters a sense of captivity and claustrophobia. Another important factor is Wendy's increasing emotional and psychological separation from her husband Jack as he spirals out of control. The story is set in the distant and desolate Overlook Hotel, which has a lot of snowfall throughout the winter and keeps it cut off from civilization. Wendy's emotional and psychological isolation is represented metaphorically by her geographic seclusion.

As Jack gives in to the evil spirits of the hotel, Wendy experiences an increasing amount of emotional distance and abuse from her spouse. He responds with violence and hatred when she tries to contact him for help. One of the main plot points is her psychological seclusion in her marriage. Her battle to keep her own sanity and keep her son, Danny, safe in this setting emphasises the psychological cost of being alone.

The Overlook Hotel represents the oppressive and isolating atmosphere because of its ghostly past and evil supernatural forces. This nasty atmosphere that Wendy is locked in is getting worse. The reality that she cannot count on anyone in the hotel, not even its staff, makes her feel even more alone.

As Wendy realises how serious their predicament is, her loneliness becomes a motivating factor. She understands that leaving the remote, hazardous motel is their only chance to guarantee their lives. Her will to escape the Overlook with Danny demonstrates her

resourcefulness and the importance of leaving this imprisonment behind.

In the end, Wendy gains empowerment from her seclusion in the hotel. She decides to take on the horrifying supernatural beings and the more insane Jack. She finds inner reserves of courage, determination, and resourcefulness in the face of peril and uncertainty. She demonstrates that isolation can occasionally result in personal development and empowerment by relying on her own skills to keep Danny and herself safe. One of the story's most important character arcs is her change from a helpless and lonely lady to a resourceful and resolute defender.

Examining Wendy's isolation in "The Shining" from a feminist standpoint offers a chance to consider how horror stories can either challenge or uphold gender stereotypes. Within the horror genre, Wendy's persona serves as a prism for examining themes of autonomy, agency, and the possibility of empowerment.

Wendy's Mother and the Fear of Role Failure

Wendy's fear of failing to fulfil feminine gender roles is embodied by her abusive mother, whose tactics of abuse relate to nuclear gender roles. She abuses Wendy to cope with her own inability to fulfil her role as the nuclear wife. She kicks Wendy out of the house while Wendy is in college because she thinks Wendy is "responsible for her divorce" (King 65). However, the divorce, which Wendy's father initiates, is later implied to be Wendy's mother's fault; her husband left her because she "hounded" him too much (King 359). Thus, the reason for their divorce is the wife overstepping the boundaries of her role by giving orders to the patriarch instead of being submissive to him. Wendy's mother ultimately allows Wendy to return home because when Wendy "crawls back begging forgiveness", her mother "can go on making believe the divorce was Wendy's fault" (King 65). As divorce was seen as going "against the image" of "a well-balanced, two-parent, nuclear family", Wendy's mother's denial enables her to avoid accepting responsibility for the failure of her nuclear family. The fact that she allows Wendy to keep "crawling back" she can continue to blame her daughter demonstrates the precarity of her denial and the baselessness of her claim; she relies on Wendy's continued presence to convince herself that the divorce is Wendy's fault instead of her own. This demonstrates how the stigma of divorce—the mark of the failed nuclear family—is so great that Wendy's mother must avoid accepting responsibility and consequently engages in a consistent process of denial.

Moreover, the fact that her denial manifests as verbal abuse towards Wendy prevents Wendy from considering her mother as a victim of the unrealistic expectations the nuclear family sets for women. Wendy's mother also insults her daughter by calling her a "home-wrecker", further demonstrating how she uses her emotional abuse to blame Wendy for dissolving her nuclear family (King 74). Characterizing Wendy as a "home-wrecker" presents Wendy's mother, in opposition, as a loyal wife who has been wronged by another woman.

Moreover, positioning Wendy in opposition to the "home"—the domain of the wife in the nuclear family—it presents Wendy as the transgressor of traditional gender roles rather than her mother.

Thus, Wendy's mother's abuse displays the pressure on women to fulfil traditional gender roles; Wendy's mother feels this pressure so intensely that she feels the need to deny her transgressions and displace responsibility for them onto her daughter. However, by presenting Wendy as a threat to the nuclear family, she intensifies the weight of this pressure on Wendy. Her emotional abuse and its resonance with Wendy thus become representations of Wendy's overwhelming fear of role failure. For instance, Wendy's mother makes Wendy feel like "an inadequate mother" when Wendy takes her son Danny to her mother's house (King 67). Wendy's mother achieves this by always remaking Danny's diapers, frowning over his formula, and spotting the accusatory first signs of a rash on the baby's bottom or privates. The fact that Wendy perceives these actions as an insult to her mothering abilities even though "her mother never says anything overtly" to that effect shows how fragile her confidence is in her capabilities as a mother (King 67). The burden of fulfilling this role causes her to interpret everything as a sign of failure—for instance, seeing a diaper rash as "accusatory" or her mother's actions as an indication of her poor mothering skills rather than a tactic of abuse. Moreover, Wendy describes the feeling of inadequacy that her mother induces in her as a "price" that she "maybe always will" pay for seeking her mother's help (King 67). The fact that Wendy, years later, still feels this inadequacy—and believes that she will continue to feel it in the future—shows the lasting impact that a moment of failing to fulfil a gender role can have on a woman. The enduring effects of Wendy's mother's abuse reveal how uneasy the rigid roles of the nuclear family can make women feel about their ability to fulfil their role in their family; anything that can be perceived as a sign of role failure can become an everlasting mark of inadequacy in their

minds.

Breaking Down Boundaries: Gender Roles

In Stephen King's "The Shining," gender roles play a crucial role, especially through all major characters. The novel explores traditional gender roles and their huge impact on the characters and their family domain.

Jack's spiral into lunacy and violence can be interpreted as a critique of toxic masculinity and patriarchal norms, which can result in abuse and violence within families. As such, the story takes on traditional gender roles.

We first come across typical gender norms and stereotypes in the novel. As a husband and father, Jack is supposed to be the one who protects and provides, while Wendy, his wife, is supposed to take care of the house and kids. This establishes the framework for looking at how these positions are questioned and transformed. Jack is a multifaceted individual who embraces some facets of conventional masculinity. Although he is required to support his family, his past of aggression and failure haunts him. One could see his spiral into insanity and aggression at the Overlook Hotel as an indictment of toxic masculinity. His failure to play the part of the domineering, controlling male figure ultimately ends him.

Terror as black as midnight swept through her. She looked over her shoulder and saw Jack getting slowly to his feet. His back was bowed over, and she could see the handle of the kitchen knife sticking out of it. His eyes seemed to have contracted, almost to have lost themselves in the pale, sagging folds of the skin around them. He was grasping the roque mallet loosely in his left hand. The end of it was bloody. (King, The Shining, 590)

The above passage paints a picture in readers' minds of a crazed, lost man intent on harm. These words reveal a man who seems determined to follow through a violent act he has already initiated.

Wendy, on the other hand, embodies these roles. She loves her son Danny so much and will stop at nothing to protect him. She acts to defend her family because she has strong maternal instincts. She challenges the stereotype that women are primary carers and incapable of defending their loved ones by taking an active and decisive part in guaranteeing their child's safety. Her experience defies preconceived ideas about female passivity and demonstrates how, in the face of hardship, women may defy gender norms. By developing into a resilient and powerful persona in the face of peril, Wendy's character challenges the

perception that women are submissive and weak.

Throughout the narrative, Wendy's persona experiences a change. As the risk increases, she transforms from a rather passive and dependent lady to a more independent and forceful person. This shift calls into question the conventional view of women as defenceless victims and emphasises their ability to bounce back and become strong.

It is possible to see Wendy's empowerment and her refusal to submit to Jack's violence as a subversion of conventional gender roles. She disproves the idea that women are exclusively dependent on male protection with her resolve to defend herself and her son, even in the face of paranormal threats.

Danny's persona brings an intriguing perspective to the examination of gender norms. Known as "the shining," his psychic powers are unconstrained by conventional gender conventions. Actually, Danny's skill enables him to communicate with others on a profoundly psychic and emotional level while transcending the constraints of his gender. This highlights the value of empathy and understanding while challenging the idea of being a boy or a girl.

The Overlook Hotel's influence might be seen as a symbol of the repressive parts of traditional gender conventions, which are challenged and subverted by the characters of Jack, Wendy, and Danny. This study explores how Jack and Wendy's responsibilities have changed within the framework of a solitary and eerie place. It looks at how gender norms are being destroyed and how Wendy's character is empowered since she doesn't follow social norms.

This exploration not only gives the story more depth but also demonstrates how literature has the power to subvert and reinvent gender norms in a more thought-provoking way.

Entrapment within Patriarchy

The Shining also shows how the nuclear family's gender roles reinforce patriarchal authority at women's expense. Wendy judges her worth based on how well she fulfils the gender roles in her nuclear family—an evaluation that relies on her husband Jack's assessment of her skills as a wife and mother. Consequently, Wendy cannot derive her self-esteem internally, and Jack has the power to manipulate her self-worth, which makes her vulnerable to abuse from him.

Wendy's method of alleviating her doubts about her mothering abilities demonstrates how her self-esteem is tied to others' judgment of her role fulfilment. These

“fears of inadequacy are erased” when Jack “leads her into the bedroom” for sex (King 68). Thus, Wendy makes up for her failure as a mother through her success as a wife, which she achieves by sexually pleasing Jack—the patriarch whom it is her role to serve. Thus, she can only alleviate her fear of role failure and gain confidence when she pleases her husband. This forces her to rely on Jack to derive self-esteem.

Wendy’s reliance on external affirmation to support her self-esteem produces insecurity and doubt, as demonstrated by Wendy’s self-criticism. This typically manifests in comparisons between her own emotions and behaviours and those of her mother. For instance, when Wendy criticizes Jack for accidentally dropping baby Danny while drunk, she “hears so much of her mother talking to her departed father in her own voice that she is sickened and afraid” (King 71). Wendy compares her own voice to that of her mother challenging her father’s patriarchal power. Thus, her aversion to becoming like her mother arises from her fear of similarly failing in her role as the submissive wife. This fear even surpasses concerns about perpetuating the cycle of abuse. Her fear of role failure arises to punish her for protecting Danny from Jack because defending her son goes against her job in the nuclear family of submitting to her husband’s authority. Consequently, she experiences an anxiety so intense, it causes her to doubt an action meant to protect her son from an abusive environment. Wendy’s distress about becoming like her mother reveals the damage the nuclear family’s gender roles can inflict on women; the constant pressure to meet these roles’ expectations creates anxiety, doubt, and insecurity for women when any threat to role fulfilment arises.

Moreover, Wendy’s tendency towards self-criticism causes her to accept responsibility for Jack’s flaws. When Jack begins to develop a problem with alcoholism, Wendy blames herself for Jack’s behavior and the dangers it poses to her family. Her self-doubt begins to spiral: “was she not holding her husband right? Why else would he take his joy out of the house?” (King 70-71). This demonstrates how Wendy’s insecurities within the nuclear family benefit Jack, the patriarch, at her expense; her self-doubt causes her to absolve him of blame for his actions that harm the family—a blame which she then attributes to herself. As her success in fulfilling her role relies upon her husband’s judgment, she interprets Jack’s problems as evidence of her role failure.

Despite Wendy’s prior knowledge of the dangers Jack poses to Danny—besides his alcoholism, Jack exhibits violent tendencies when he breaks Danny’s arm and

attacks one of his students—her self-doubt prevents her from taking action to protect Danny from Jack. For instance, when bruises appear on Danny’s neck—which Danny claims were caused by an attack from a female ghost living in the hotel—Wendy’s concern for Danny’s safety competes with Jack’s accusation that she unfairly blamed him for producing the bruises: “Had she wanted to think Jack was to blame? Was she that jealous? It was the way her mother would have thought, that was the really horrible thing” (King 359). Trapped in a hotel with no one other than herself, Jack, and Danny, it makes perfect sense that she would assume Jack caused Danny’s bruises. As she knows she did not cause the bruises herself and is currently unaware of the presence and power of the Overlook’s ghosts, Jack is the only other party present to whom she can attribute Danny’s injury. Furthermore, because of Jack’s history of violence, it is not unreasonable for Wendy to believe that he could have lost his temper again and hurt Danny. However, she is unable to consider these points because the idea of doubting Jack—of disputing his authority as her husband—immediately gives rise to a comparison to her mother. She sees accusing Jack of causing the bruises as “the way her mother would have thought” manifesting in her own thought process rather than recognizing that, given her current knowledge, Jack is the most logical person to blame. She characterizes her mother negatively by referring to her as “jealous”—a word that reinforces Wendy’s mother’s animosity towards her husband and thus her misalignment from the ideal of the doting, submissive wife. Wendy’s fear of being like her mother thus appears to be synonymous with her fear of role failure: she cannot even conceive of the possibility of Jack’s abuse without failing in her role as the obedient wife. However, this fear renders her unable to protect herself and Danny from Jack’s abuse. Thus, her anxiety about role failure not only enables her husband to get away with abuse but also brings shame upon Wendy for considering the possibility of abusive behavior from him.

Jack also weaponizes Wendy’s fear of role failure to manipulate her into submission. When she disobeys him—and thus defies his authority as the patriarch—he insinuates that she is failing to fulfil her role in the nuclear family. One tactic he uses is comparing Wendy to her mother when she stands up to him. For example, after Wendy accepts that Jack did not create the bruises on Danny’s neck, she reasonably assumes that the woman who strangled Danny is a human squatting in the hotel. At this point, she is unaware of the supernatural presence within the Overlook. When Jack decides to look for this woman, Wendy—afraid of the dangerous person inside the hotel with them—orders him to stay:

“Don’t you dare leave us alone!” she shrieked at him. Spittle flew from her lips with the force of her cry. Jack said: “Wendy, that’s a remarkable imitation of your mom.” She burst into tears then, unable to cover her face because Danny was on her lap. (King 368)

Wendy’s request to not split up the family to best ensure their protection is reasonable and her emotional response makes perfect sense given the frightening situation she is in: she believes she is trapped in a hotel with a stranger who just attacked her son. However, since she is disobeying Jack’s wishes, Jack employs a comparison to her mother not only to upset her but also to claim that she is trying to usurp his patriarchal authority and therefore is failing in her role as the wife. His success—making Wendy burst into tears—illustrates how distressful role failure can be for women.

Furthermore, this example highlights how nuclear gender roles only permit women to evaluate themselves through their husbands’ perspectives. When Jack claims Wendy has failed in her role by comparing her to her mother, it deeply upsets Wendy because she believes that he is right—despite the contrary evidence that could affirm her success as a mother. In this scene, she puts Danny’s needs above her own; when she cries, she is “unable to cover her face because Danny is on her lap”. By not removing Danny to serve her own emotional needs, she demonstrates her devotion to her son and thus fulfills her role as a mother. However, she is unable to recognize this achievement or derive self-esteem from it because Jack is scolding her for her supposed failure to fulfill her role in the family. Jack, being the authority figure and decision-maker of the family, holds a similar authority over determining Wendy’s ability to fulfill her duties to the family. Wendy’s caring behavior towards Danny is meaningless in improving her opinion of herself as a mother because Jack chooses to insult rather than praise her mothering abilities. As she can only assess her success or failure through Jack’s evaluation, she cannot empower herself through her own self-assessment to overcome his abusive insinuations.

Another way Jack insults Wendy’s abilities as a wife and mother when she defies his patriarchal authority is by calling her a “bitch” (King 545, 556, 587-588, 590). This “ideology behind women as sensitive and caring” reinforces the nuclear family structure, as it “justifies men’s absence from housework and child-care” by presenting women as better suited to that kind of work (Kleinman et al. 59). Thus, by calling Wendy a “bitch”, Jack claims that she is not caring enough to fulfill her roles as wife and mother. Additionally, by

using this word, he makes another comparison between Wendy and her mother; both he and Wendy describe Wendy's mother as a "bitch" rather than an abuser (King 56, 206, 384). This presents Wendy's mother as someone who merely transgresses her gender role, rather than someone who emotionally abuses her child. Consequently, this word renders Wendy unable to distinguish between her mother's abusive behaviors—such as harassing her father—and her own reasonable deviation from the norm of the nuclear wife: telling Jack to stay to protect her family from an outside threat. As the role of the nuclear wife encompasses both being kind and being submissive, words like "bitch" that equate all role transgressions present women's assertive actions as acts of cruelty, which encourages submission to patriarchal authority.

Female Friendship or Rivalry

Examining the relationships and dynamics between the female characters in Stephen King's "The Shining" is made possible by the concept of female friendship or rivalry, which offers a deep and complex perspective. A deeper examination of the significance of the few female characters—Wendy Torrance in particular—and how their interactions and relationships reflect aspects of both friendship and rivalry is necessary, even though the main plot mostly centres on the struggles the Torrance family faces in the remote and haunted Overlook Hotel is crucial.

Wendy is the primary character in the story, "The Shining" and she has main interactions with the male characters especially her husband Jack, the supernatural entities within the Overlook Hotel and her brief encounter with the ghostly woman in Room 217 serves as a starting point of discussing the topic of female friendship or rivalry.

The scene in "The Shining" where Wendy meets the ghostly woman in Room 217 is one of the most eerie and memorable. The woman represents the evil energies of the hotel and has unsettling, decaying features. As Wendy tries to shield her son Danny from the ghostly apparition, their interaction is tense, frightening, and competitive.

Wendy's bond with her son Danny hints at the story's theme of female friendship. Her steadfast dedication to shielding him from the hotel's paranormal horrors is evidence of her intense maternal love for him and their special bond. As a mother, Wendy exemplifies a deep kind of female friendship and support by showing that she is prepared to go to tremendous measures in order to guarantee her son's safety. On the other hand, the

rivalry is evident in the interaction with the ghostly woman in Room 217. Wendy starts to feel terrified by this presence, this evil entity inside the motel. There's tension and friction, almost like a competition, because of the ghostly woman's attempts to hurt Danny and her hostile actions towards Wendy. Wendy's will to defend Danny and finally defeat this paranormal threat is a testament to her fortitude and resiliency in the face of difficulty.

Gender dynamics and power struggles can also be used to analyse Wendy's interactions with the ghostly woman. One could interpret the ghostly woman—who stands in for the hotel's sinister past and malevolence—as an example of patriarchal oppression and dominance. Wendy, on the other hand, represents a kind of feminine empowerment and resistance as she faces this evil force in order to save her kid. In this particular situation, the struggle for power represents more general themes of female autonomy and the capacity to resist oppressive circumstances.

It should be noted that though the encounter with the ghostly woman serves as a pivotal moment, the theme of friendship and rivalry goes beyond the supernatural elements of the plot. A crucial element of the dynamics of the plot is Wendy's marriage to Jack. Wendy is up against a different kind of rivalry—an emotional and psychological one—as Jack's mental state deteriorates. She faces the difficulty of shielding her son and herself from her husband's increasingly unpredictable and dangerous actions.

The idea of female friendship or rivalry in "The Shining" can also be interpreted symbolically. It is possible to interpret Wendy's experiences with the paranormal beings in the Overlook Hotel as analogies for the difficulties and obstacles that women suffer in a patriarchal culture. The spectral woman in Room 217 can be seen as a representation of women's historical subjugation and imprisonment, while Wendy's defiance stands for opposition to these repressive powers.

The storyline of "The Shining," penned by Stephen King, lends itself to a feminist analysis by focusing on female friendship and rivalry. The interactions between Wendy and the supernatural beings, along with her emotional and psychological rivalry with her husband, Jack, offer a nuanced exploration of female agency, empowerment, and the ability to resist oppressive forces, even though the story primarily centres on the terrifying experiences of the Torrance family in the haunted Overlook Hotel.

Conclusion

The study of feminism emerges as a subtle undercurrent in the dimly lit hallways of Stephen King's "The Shining," lending complexity to the story of paranormal terror and psychological decline. We see the metamorphosis of a helpless woman into a determined survivor who defies the gender norms of her age through the character of Wendy Torrance. Wendy's adventure in the evil Overlook Hotel comes to represent her fortitude and bravery in the face of mistreatment, loneliness, and paranormal dread.

"The Shining" offers a distinctive perspective for analysing topics related to feminism, emphasising the strength of mothers and the defiance of conventional gender roles. Within the confines of the hotel and the upheaval in her marriage, Wendy's persona surfaces as a symbol of defiance, surpassing conventional norms and ultimately enabling her to empower and liberate her son, Danny.

Beyond its horror genre, "The Shining" tackles more general issues of gender, resiliency, and identity by exposing toxic masculinity and highlighting the complexity of female perspectives. It amplifies women's voices and presents them as more than just victims by reflecting the underlying traumas and difficulties they experience through the paranormal. It searches a deeper evil, the addictive nature of the human psyche which can cause a lot of harm to those you love or yourself. "The Shining" explores themes of clinical violence and abuse. King reminds us that power may come from the darkest depths in this book, making a small but important contribution to the examination of feminism in literature.

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