

Nathanael West's Miss Lonelyhearts : A
Manifestation of Modern Man's
Psychic and Spiritual Death

رواية نتانيل وست الأنسة لوني هارت : تجسيدا
لموت الإنسان الحديث النفسي والروحي

By

Instructor: Hadeel Hatif Jassam

Diyala University

Diyala Toefl Centre

المدرس : هديل هاتف جسام

جامعة ديالى

مركز التوفل

رقم الموبايل: ٠٧٨٠٦٦١٩٨٤٩

الايمل: hadeelhatif@yahoo.com

Abstract

The research shows and aims at the predicaments facing modern man , the decay , the pestilence and the sterility of the modern American world during the 1930s both on psychological and spiritual levels . The research also exposes the tension deep inside Miss Lonelyhearts , the novel's protagonist , and its title character ; how he is torn between his instinct and conscience , his soul and body , the conflicting forces responsible for his imbalance and tragic downfall . Miss Lonelyhearts , as a representative of modern man , has abandoned God and become indulged in worldly pleasures and moral corruption , the consequences of which he has to face .

Set in the early 1930s , Nathanael West's Miss Lonelyhearts (1933) presents a vivid picture of American life during the Great Depression , “ the worst and longest period of high unemployment and low business activity in modern times .” ¹ As a period , it brought about many changes in the attitude of American people towards different aspects of life or in lifestyles . In fact , West wrote this novel as a response to what had happened in America during this era which brought into existence human sufferings , and made it a reality of all American people .

Nathanael West's Miss Lonelyhearts : A Manifestation of Modern Man's Psychic and Spiritual Death

West believed that the American dream was “ betrayed both spiritually and materially .”² The big dream that Americans often dreamt of had become a nightmare , an idea that was , many years after West's death referred to by the English poet W. H. Auden who “ coined the term ‘ West's disease ’ to refer to poverty that exists in both a spiritual and economic sense .”³

West was very keen to show what the world was like during the 1930s and , therefore , his novel did not only examine “ the reverse side of liberty ,”⁴ and corrupt dreams , but also what Isaac Rosenfeld called “ the secret inner life of masses .”⁵ In this world of complete loss , modern man finds no alternative other than to have false dreams in the hope that such dreams can end his problems and the confusion he lives in . Being a symbol of modern man , West's Miss Lonelyhearts also puts himself in such a situation . The novel tells of the harrowing story of ML , The New York Post – Dispatch advice columnist who spends his life struggling to cope with the sufferings of his correspondents whom he seeks to help . Overwhelmed by the misery of his correspondents , and the horrifying letters that they send him and what they encompass , ML comes to feel the burden of his job that he has initially started as a joke . This is clear in the following quotation :

But he found it impossible to continue . The letters were no longer funny . He could not

go on finding the same joke funny thirty times
 a day for months on end . And on most days
 he received more than thirty letters , all of them
 alike , stamped from the dough of suffering with
 a heart – shaped cookieknife .

(ML , Miss Lonelyhearts , help me , help me , p . 7)⁶

The first letter that ML receives is from “ sick-of-it-all .” Like ML, “ sick- of-it-all ” is not given a name . She is an abstraction . In her letter , she informs ML of her problems which “ revolve around sex and religion .”⁷ Her problem is that she is being tortured by her husband , who due to his faith in Catholicism which prevents abortion , has forced her to bear him children despite the hurt that pregnancy may cause her . The irony of this situation is very obvious . Though religion is supposed to give her “ comfort in her distress and a reason for living ,”⁸ it , ironically enough , destroys her . The letter , too , explains how a woman is considered . For her husband , “ sick –of-it-all ” is no more than a sex object and in the words of Thomas H. Jackson , she “ has been reduced to the status of pleasure – and – child – machine by her husband’s sexual appetites combined with his religious ‘ convictions ’ .”⁹ Unable to find a satisfactory answer to her problem , ML “ threw the letter into an open drawer and lit a cigarette .” (Ibid. , p . 8) As for the second letter , it is from “ desperate ,” a sixteen year old girl born without a nose . Her question with which she ends her letter , and “ which surely plagues Miss Lonelyhearts ,”¹⁰ is whether she ought to commit suicide for not having found the person who can love her . ML’s response to this letter is not different from that of sick –of – it – all .

The third letter that he receives is from Harold S. who “ writes about his thirteen-year-old deaf-and dumb sister ,” ¹¹ Gracie , who is recently raped and who has to overcome the consequences .

In fact , all these letters concentrate on one point , or idea – the idea of female suffering . In ML , women are dealt with as objects rather than human beings , subject wholly to man’s uncomfortable lust . They are presented as victims in this cruel and hostile universe .

Feeling tired , ML “ stops reading and calls upon Christ as the answer ,” ¹² whom he soon comes to think as ineffective in solving the problems of his correspondents for he knows that if he discusses Christ , he will “ get sick , ” and be mocked by his feature editor and friend , William Shrike who considers Christ as his “ particular joke” – the mock prayer that West opens his novel with :

Soul of Miss L , glorify me .
 Body of Miss L , nourish me .
 Blood of Miss L , intoxicate me .
 Tears of Miss L , wash me .
 Oh good Miss L , excuse my plea ,
 And hide me in your heart ,
 And defend me from mine enemies .
 Help me , Miss L , help me , help me .
 In Saecula Saeculorum . Amen .

(ML , Miss Lonelyhearts , help me , help me , p . 7)

The letters that ML receives illustrates the perverse relationship of ML to the “ Christ business .” Commenting on these of suffering and their effect upon ML , James W. Hickey says :

ML has selected these letters because they permit him to indulge in his Christ fantasies . They are prayers for salvation which have been sent to him , ... , but which he uses only to conform his own inability to achieve the Christ identity of his dreams . Past attempts to achieve such a self – image have evidently resulted in emotional and physical illness which ML can not ignore but refuses to recognize as pathological. It is this tension between ML’s craving for the Christ identity and his psychological rejection of it which is at the core of the book’s action .¹³

Going back to the prayer that opens the novel , it is very clear that it is addresses to ML , who is asked to help . It , as Irving Marlin believes , “ reinforces the paradoxical nature of the opening chapter .”¹⁴ Rather than being a plea for help , it is seen as a brutal attack on “ man’s aspiration towards Christ ,”¹⁵ whose myth Shrike considers as “ the most absurd .”¹⁶

After coming across Shrike’s parodied prayer , one can gather or guess what kind of personality he has . He is a very cynical and emotionally dead person , a disbeliever and a joke machine . As his name suggest , he is seen as a symbol of “ the butcher bird that impales its pray on a thorn or twig

while tearing it apart with its sharp hooked beak .”¹⁷ Incapable of love and showing emotion , he makes fun of and laugh at the moving letters of the helpless who have no alternatives other than going to ML whom they feel they can trust and put their hopes in .

Quitting his work , ML decides to have a walk with Shrike in the park . As a matter of fact , it is not surprising that even nature is presented as grotesque , unpleasant , dead , sterile and arid as ML and all his associates , including Shrike . This reflects the decadence of the modern world ; how empty , infertile and shallow it has become . In this sterile world , ML “ searched the sky for a target . But the gray sky looked as if it had been rubbed with a solid eraser .” (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts and the dead pan , p. 11) His tendency to search the sky is perhaps attributed to his quest to find meaning among the chaos he lives in , for he , using the words of Lawrence W . DiStasi , “ perceives that the literary distance which has allowed him to regard the letters of suffering humanity as a joke is no longer operative”¹⁸ This process is central to ML’s quest and his “ ironic integration .”¹⁹

Leaving the park , they set forth to Delehanty’s , the speakeasy where ML meets his fellow newspaper –men and is introduced to Miss Farkis by Shrike , the nihilist who is “ capable of such blasphemy ,”²⁰ like “ I am a great saint ’ , ... ‘ I can walk on my own water . Haven’t you ever heard of Shrike’s passion in the luncheonette , or the Agony in the Soda Fountain ? ’” (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts and the dead pan , p. 14) In this

episode with Miss Farkis , Shrike goes on with his attacks by “ applying the deflated concepts of Christianity to his own sexual needs ,”²¹ ending his sermon with aggression and violence only , and here lies the irony : “ His caresses kept pace with the sermon . When he had reached the end ,he buried his triangular face like the blade of a hatchet in her neck .” (Ibid . , p. 14) This scene is highly paradoxical in that Christianity , instead of “ providing a relatedness without violence , appears to promise only increasing levels of violence for Miss Lonelyhearts .”²²

Similarly , West in his next chapter entitled “ Miss Lonelyhearts and the lamb ,” presents his protagonist as a religious failure . In a dream , he finds himself in his college dormitory , “ arguing the existence of God ,” (Ibid . , P. 16) with two of his friends . After spending all night drinking , they decide to buy a lamb and “ sacrifice it to God ,” while wandering in the wood . Unable to sacrifice it with a knife , ML crushes its head with a stone , leaving the carcass in an ignoble state devoured by flies swarming “ around the bloody altar flowers” (Ibid. , p. 17) Again this religious ritual ends with sadistic cruelty . This “ botched sacrifice”²³ of the lamb demonstrates the failure of religion in the modern world .

Skillfully enough , West links the end of this episode with that of the next chapter entitled “ Miss Lonelyhearts and the fat thumb .” Aware of the irrationality of his world , ML remembers Betty , his fiancée , whom he considers as “ the embodiment of order ,”²⁴ and who “ had often made him feel that when she straightened his tie , she straightened much more .” (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts and the fat thumb , p. 18) ML’s need to have

someone to take him out of the confusion and chaos he puts himself in and tropism for order reflect his mental instability . Back to his self-consciousness , he comes to feel “ that only violence could make him supple .” (Ibid .) Conscious of her passivity as approaches her , ML makes Betty his second victim :

She made no sign to show that she was
a ware of his hand .He would have welcomed
a slap , but even when he caught at her nipple ,
she remained silent .

(ML , Miss Lonelyhearts and the fat thumb , P. 19)

As a response to her questions whether he has got sick , he says ,
“ Well , I’m not sick . I don’t need any of your damned aspirin .I’ve got a
Christ Complex . Humanity ...I am a humanity lover .” (Ibid ., p. 20) What
ML does to Betty also shows the paradox deep inside him in the sense that
he , only through violence , “ can bring to life the unborn Christ .” ²⁵
Commenting on this incident and what purposes it serves , Hickey says :

It dramatically unifies the themes of Christ
complex , order , obsession and hysteria
through the sadistic , semi - literal rape of
Betty .Furthermore , it defines ML’s perverse
dependency on Betty as consoler and
scapegoat .ML physically acts out his mental
disorder and subsequently explains it until he
arrives so close to the truth of the matter that
he must retreat to a self- image that is becoming

less and less acceptable .²⁶

Again the scene shift to the speakeasy , the place where ML meets some of his friends . Finding no victim other than a clean old man , he together with one of his drunken friends , as scientist , starts to hurt and torment him with questions that concern his “ homosexualistic tendencies .” (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts and the clean old man , p . 25) Going on in their nasty behavior , ML comes to feel “ as he had felt years before , when he had accidentally stepped on a small frog ,” whose “ spilled guts had filled him with pity , but when its suffering had become real to his senses , his pity had turned to rage and he had beaten it frantically until it was dead .” (Ibid .) Like all the preceding scenes , this one , too , ends by “ inflicting bodily violence on ”²⁷ this old man whom ML identifies with “ all the sick and miserable , broken and betrayed , inarticulate and impotent .” (Ibid . , P. 26)

His “ sadistic desire to hurt and laugh in the face of suffering illuminates an openly human complex of conflicting responses associated with the grotesque ,”²⁸ whose outer reality mirrors his broken , damaged and corrupt interior and expresses , at the same time , ML’s sense of guilt , which DiStasi thinks , “ dominates Miss Lonelyhearts’ aggression ,”²⁹ that he feels towards the sufferers .

In this world of “ terribly limited possibility ,”³⁰ ML finds no other way to turn to except to sexual violence and drinking . Thus, he , as a dead man , comes to think that “ only friction could make him warm or violence

make him mobile .” (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts and Mrs. Shrike , p. 28) As a response to what he feels , he spends his next evening with Mary Shrike , Shrike’s wife , who uses her breasts and the medal that she wears to tantalize and excite him :

He tried to excite himself into eagerness by thinking of the play Mary made with her breasts . She used them as the coquettes of long ago had used their fans . One of her tricks was to wear a medal low down on her chest . Whenever he asked to see it , instead of drawing it out she leaned over for him to look .

(ML , Miss Lonelyhearts and Mrs. Shrike , p. 28)

In a world like America , violence abounds , a fact that West , long before the publication of his novel , conforms and speaks of in his “ Some Notes on Violence ” :

In America violence is idiomatic What is melodramatic in European writing is not necessarily so in American writing . For a European writer to make violence real, he has to do a great deal of careful sociology and psychology . He often needs three hundred pages to motivate one little murder . But not so the American writer . His audience has been prepared and is neither surprised nor shocked if he omits artistic excuses for familiar events .³¹

ML's illicit relationship with Shrike's wife is best shown in the horrifying scene in which " ... he tore away her underwear until she was naked under her fur coat , " (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts and Mrs. Shrike , p.33) going on talking and repeating herself in the hope that her husband will not suspect that there is something that induces their sudden silence .

The next day ,ML , while at work , receives a letter from a woman named Fay Doyle , who asks to meet him . Finding no " moral reason , " to refuse her invitation , he concludes that if " he could only believe in Christ , then adultery would be a sin , then every thing would be simple and the letters extremely easy to answer . " (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts on a field trip , p . 36) Soon after her arrival at his apartment , she pursues him and he finds " a strange pleasure in having the roles reversed . " (Ibid . , p . 37) Again , he gets disillusioned into thinking that through sex , he can escape the reality of his world . Just as alcohol " fails to relieve his agony , " ³² – in his response to the clean old man – so does sex . Listening to her life story , he is overwhelmed by it : " It was as if a gigantic , living Miss Lonelyhearts letter in the shape of a paper weight had been placed on his brain . " (Ibid. , p. 39)

Due to this failure , he gets physically sick , spending two days in bed . Overcome by his tension that is , with time , increasing , he , driven by his own imagination , finds himself in a pawn shop " full of fur coats , diamond rings , watches , shotguns , fishing tackle , mandolins ... the paraphernalia of suffering , " (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts in the dismal

swamp , p . 40) the material objects that he , because of his quest for order , tries to give a form . His confusion is embodied in the following quotation :

First he formed a phallus of old watches
and rubber boots , then a heart of umbrellas
and trout flies , then a diamond of musical
instrument and derby hats , after these a circle,
triangle , square , swastika .

(ML , Miss Lonelyhearts in the dismal swamp , p . 41)

Knowing that ML is physically ill , Betty visits him to relieve him of his sickness , advising him to quit his job as a columnist and “ work in an advertising agency .” (Ibid . , p . 42) But his trouble is that he can’t for even if he is able to quit , he will not “ be able to forget the letters .” (Ibid.) Nevertheless , he momentarily accepts Betty’s simple and limited world , accompanying her to the Connecticut farm , the place where he , because of his awareness of the nature of her world being unconscious of spiritual suffering , he , for the second time , reaches her sexually . However , soon after their coming back to the city , and as they reach the Bronx slums , he comes to realize that “ Betty had failed to cure him and that he had been right when he said that he could never forget the letters .” (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts returns , p . 50) His conscience gives him a push to think that “ Although dreams were once powerful , they have been made puerile by the movies , radio , and newspapers .” (Ibid.) “ Among these betrayals ,” is his failure at the Christ dream that he feels , is attributed not “ to Shrike’s jokes

or his own self-doubt ,” but to “ his lack of humility .” (Ibid.) Soon he is given “ the opportunity to play out his Christ fantasy ,”³³ the moment he encounters Peter Doyle , Fay Doyle’s crippled husband , an emblem of the suffering humanity , in Delehanty’s . Filled with love and humility , he is able to identify himself with the crippled , pressing his hand “ firmly with all the love he could manage .” (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts and the crippled , p . 59) Leaving the speakeasy , these two drunken men set forth to the Doyles’ house . There , ML attempts at a reconciliation between Peter and Fay Doyle , “ the estranged couple .”³⁴ Searching for a message , he brings in Christ , proclaiming that “ Christ is love ,” (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts pays a visit , p . 62) but again he fails to convey his dream , feeling that he is “ like an empty bottle ,” (Ibid .) for not using his own rhetoric but Shrike’s .

Once her husband at her command leaves the apartment to bring some gin , Mrs. Doyle seizes the opportunity to excite ML , a situation that he can’t tolerate and because of which he is made to feel like , “ an empty bottle that is being slowly filled with warm , dirty water ,” (Ibid. , p . 63) leaving the house after violently beating her “ until she releases her hold on him .”³⁵

After this incident , ML stays in bed for three days , isolating himself and “ refusing all contact ,”³⁶ with the external world outside his room . His withdrawal makes him become like a rock , incapable of feeling and unmoved by Shrike , who has come to invite him to a party , his cynical jokes and Betty , who has come to tell him that she is pregnant : “ He did not feel guilty . He did not feel . The rock was a solidification of his feeling , his conscience , his sense of reality , his self – knowledge .” (ML , Miss

Lonelyhearts and the party dress , p . 69) But the next day , ML welcomes the arrival of fever and “ the rock became a furnace .” (ML , Miss Lonelyhearts has a religious experience , p . 70) In a state of complete madness , ML pictures himself “ as a Christ – like figure ,”³⁷ sent by God to “ perform a miracle ,” (Ibid . p . 71) rushing down the stairs to meet and embrace Peter Doyle , who comes to avenge himself on ML with whom he thinks his wife has an affair . Thus , the novel ends , ironically enough , with the accidental shooting of ML at the hand of Peter Doyle , whom ML is supposed to succor “ one of those desperate creatures who have led him to his ordeal and his mystical experience .”³⁸

Conclusion

Nathanael West in his novel , *Miss Lonelyhearts* , sheds light on the necessity of love . His protagonist's problem is that he is unable to share in the love of God , and , therefore , to love his fellow men . For James F . Light , “ the ultimate barrier ,”³⁹ that prevents ML to realize the Christ dream , is pride , whose “ simplest manifestation is in man's revulsion from his fellow man .”⁴⁰ The novel also emphasizes the importance of living with clear conscience . Having a troubled conscience , ML spends his lifetime struggling “ to define himself and his function in the face of a universe that is at best indifferent , and at worse hostile to human dreams and suffering .”⁴¹ First taking his job as a joke , he is unable to comprehend his correspondents' suffering . Soon overcome by their pain and their need for help , this empty nonsense , that “ he serves up , begins to eat away at his soul ,”⁴² and consequently he comes to feel that “ he is the victim of the joke and not its perpetrator ,” (ML , *Miss Lonelyhearts* in the dismal swamp , p . 42) an idea that clearly goes hand in hand with ML's tragic end at Doyle's hand as the novel closes .

Notes

¹ Robert Sobel , “ The Great Depression ,” 1998 – 2003 . 8/ 12/ 2008 . Concord Learning System , Concord , NC . << [http : // www . laughtergenealogy . Com/bin/histp-rof /misc/depression.html](http://www.laughtergenealogy.com/bin/histp-rof/misc/depression.html) . >> .

² Anonymous , “ Nathanael West ,” nd. 10 / 7 / 2008 << [http :// en.Wikipedia . org / wiki/ Nathanel- West . html](http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathanel-West.html) . >> .

³ Ibid.

⁴ Anonymous , “ Nathanael West (1903 -1940) – original name Nathan Weinstein (until 1926) ,” 2004 .10/7/2008 . np. << [http : // www . Kirjasto . Sci . fi / nwest.htm](http://www.Kirjasto.Sci.fi/nwest.htm) . >> .

⁵ Cited in Robert I. Edenbaum , “ To Kill God and Build a Church : Nathanael West’s Miss Lonelyhearts ,” in Miss Lonelyhearts: A Collection of Critical Essays , ed. Thomas H. Jackson (Englewood Cliffs , N.J. , Prentice-Hall , Inc . , 1971) p . 64 .

⁶ Nathanael West , Miss Lonelyhearts and A Cool Million (Harmondsworth , Penguin Books Ltd. , 1961) . All subsequent references appear in this text .

⁷ Cited in Irving Malin , Nathanael West’s Novels (Carbondale and Edwardsville , Southern Illinois University Press , 1972) p . 33 .

⁸ Edmond L. Volpe , “ The Waste Land of Nathanael West” in Miss Lonelyhearts: A Collection of Critical Essays , p . 84 .

⁹ Thomas H . Jackson , “ Introduction” in Miss Lonelyhearts: A Collection of Critical Essays , p . 9 .

¹⁰ Malin , p . 33 .

¹¹ Stanley Edgar Hyman , “ Nathanael West” in Modern American Novels : An Introduction , ed. William Van O’Connor (New York , The University of Minnesota , 1964) p . 222 .

¹² Malin , p . 34 .

¹³ James W. Hickey , “ Freudian Criticism and Miss Lonelyhearts” in Nathanael West : The Cheaters and the Cheated : A Collection of Critical Essays , ed. David Madden (Deland , Everett / Edwards ,Inc, 1973) p. 118 .

¹⁴ Malin , p . 32 .

¹⁵ James F. Light , “ The Christ Dream ,” in Miss Lonelyhearts: A Collection of Critical Essays , p . 25.

¹⁶ Ibid. , “ Varieties of Satire in the Art of Nathanael West ,” 2002 .
10/7/2008 . np . << [http:// www. Compedit. Com/ var- of – satire.htm](http://www.Compedit.Com/var-of-satire.htm). >> .

¹⁷ Volpe , p . 84 .

¹⁸ Lawrence W. DiStasi , “ Aggression in Miss Lonelyhearts : Nowhere to Throw the Stone ,” in : The Cheaters and the Cheated : A Collection of Critical Essays , p. 84 .

¹⁹ Ibid .

²⁰ Light , “ Varieties of Satire in the Art of Nathanael West .”

²¹ DiStasi , P . 87 .

²² Ibid .

²³ Ibid . , p . 98 .

²⁴ Hickey , p . 123 .

²⁵ Robert J . Andreach , “ Nathanael West’s Miss Lonelyhearts Between the Dead Pan and the Unborn Christ ,” in Miss Lonelyhearts: A Collection of Critical Essays , p . 55.

²⁶ Hickey , p . 130 .

²⁷ Jane Goldman , “Miss Lonelyhearts and the Party Dress : Cross – dressing and collage in the Satires of Nathanael West ,” nd. 10/1/2008 . np . << [http :// www. arts . gla.ac.uk/SESLL/STELLA /CoMET/ glasgrev/ issue 2 / goldman . htm](http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESLL/STELLA/CoMET/glasgrev/issue2/goldman.htm) . >> .

²⁸ Tim Long , “Miss Lonelyhearts, ” 11 January 2007 . 10/ 1/ 2008. np.<< [http:// www. thingdom . com / blog/ 2007 /01/ miss –lonelyhearts .html](http://www.thingdom.com/blog/2007/01/miss-lonelyhearts.html) . >>.

²⁹ DiStasi , P . 90 .

³⁰ Jackson , p . 8 .

³¹ Cited in Light , “ The Christ Dream ,” p . 21 .

³² Volpe , p . 88 .

³³ Hickey , p . 126 .

³⁴ Volpe , p . 90 .

³⁵ Ibid. , p . 91 .

³⁶ DiStasi , P . 95 .

³⁷ Andreach , p . 58 .

³⁸ Light , “ The Christ Dream ,” p . 20 .

³⁹ Ibid . , p . 27 .

⁴⁰ Ibid .

⁴¹ Anonymous , “ The Christ Dream : The Quest for Significance in the Universe of Nathanael West’s ML ,” nd . 10/1/2008 . np . << <http://www.speedypapers.com/college-papers/literature7-shtml> . >>

⁴² Anonymous , “ Miss Lonelyhearts (1933) ” 1998-2008 .9 / 22/ 2008 . np. << <http://brothersjudd.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/reviews.detail/book-id/htm> . >> .

Bibliography

Andreach , R . J . “ Nathanael West’s Miss Lonelyhearts Between the Dead Pan and the Unborn Christ .” in Miss Lonelyhearts: A Collection of Critical Essays , ed. Thomas H. Jackson . Englewood Cliffs, NJ . : Prentice-Hall , Inc . 1971 .

Anonymous . “ The Christ Dream : The Quest for Significance in the Universe of Nathanael West’s ML .” nd. 10/ 1/ 2008 . << [http:// www. speedypapers. com/ college –papers / literature 7-shtml](http://www.speedypapers.com/college-papers/literature-7-shtml). >> .

Anonymous . “ Miss Lonelyhearts (1933) ” 1998 – 2008 . 9 /22 / 2008 . << [http:// brothersjudd. com /index. cfm/ fuseaction/ reviews. detail / book –id/htm](http://brothersjudd.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/reviews.detail/book-id/htm). >>

Anonymous . “ Nathanael West (1903 -1940) – original name Nathan Weinstein (until 1926) ” 2004 . 10/7/2008 . << [http:// www. Kirjasto. Sci . fi / nwest. htm](http://www.Kirjasto.Sci.fi/nwest.htm). >> .

DiStasi , L. W . “ Aggression in Miss Lonelyhearts: Nowhere to Throw the Stone ,” in : The Cheaters and the Cheated : A Collection of Critical Essays , ed. David Madden . Deland : Everett / Edwards .Inc. 1973 .

Edenbaum , R. I. “ To Kill God and Build a Church : Nathanael West’s Miss Lonelyhearts .” in Miss Lonelyhearts: A Collection of Critical Essays .ed. Thomas H. Jackson . Englewood Cliffs , N.J. : Prentice-Hall , Inc . 1971 .

Goldman , Jane . “Miss Lonelyhearts and the Party Dress : Cross -dressing and collage in the Satires of Nathanael West .” nd. 10/1/ 2008.
<< <http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESL/STELLA/CoMET/glasgrev/issue2/goldman.htm> .>>.

Hardwick , Elizabeth . “ Funny as a Crutch .” November 6 , 2003 . 10/1/ 2008 . << <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/16734.htm> .>>

Hickey , James W . “ Freudian Criticism and Miss Lonelyhearts .” in Nathanael West : The Cheaters and the Cheated : A Collection of Critical Essays . ed. David Madden . Deland :Everett / Edwards , Inc . 1973 .

Hyman , Stanley Edgar . “ Nathanael West” in Modern American Novels :

An Introduction , ed. William Van O'Connor . New York : The University of Minnesota . 1964 .

Jackson , Thomas H. “ Introduction” in Miss Lonelyhearts: A Collection of Critical Essays , ed. Thomas H. Jackson . Englewood Cliffs, NJ . : Prentice-Hall , Inc . 1971 .

Light , James F . “ The Christ Dream ,” in Miss Lonelyhearts: A Collection of Critical Essays , ed. Thomas H. Jackson . Englewood Cliffs , NJ . : Prentice-Hall , Inc . 1971 .

..... “ Varieties of Satire in the Art of Nathanael West . ”
2002 . 10 /7 /2008 . ” << [http:// www. Compedit. Com/ var- of –
Satire . htm](http://www.Compedit.Com/var-of-Satire.htm) . >> .

Long , Tim . “Miss Lonelyhearts . ” 11 January 2007 . 10/ 1/ 2008 .
<< [http:// www. thingdom .com / blog/ 2007 /01/ miss –lonelyhearts.
Html](http://www.thingdom.com/blog/2007/01/miss-lonelyhearts.Html) . >> .

Malin , Irving . Nathanael West’s Novels . Carbondale and Edwardsville : Southern Illinois University Press . 1972 .

Sobel , Robert . “ The Great Depression .” 1998 – 2003 . 8 /12 / 2008 .

<< [http :// www . laughtergenealogy. Com / bin / histp - rof / misc/depression.htm](http://www.laughtergenealogy.com/bin/histp-rof/misc/depression.htm) |>> .

Volpe , Edmond L . “ The Waste Land of Nathanael West . ” in Miss Lonelyhearts : A Collection of Critical Essays , ed. Thomas H. Jackson . Englewood Cliffs, NJ . : Prentice-Hall , Inc . 1971 .

West , Nathanael . Miss Lonelyhearts and A Cool Million . Harmondsworth : Penguin Books Ltd. 1961 .

الخلاصة

يتطرق هذا البحث إلى المآزق التي تواجه الإنسان الحديث ، و حالة الانحطاط ، و انتشار الوباء و عقم العالم الأمريكي الحديث خلال الثلاثينات على الصعيدين النفسي و الروحي فضلا عن ذلك يعكس البحث التوتر داخل أعماق شخصية الأنسة لوني هارت Miss Lonelyhearts ، بطل الرواية ، والذي يحمل هذا البحث اسمه ، وكيف أصبح ممزقا بين غريزته وضميره ، روحه وجسده ، والقوى المتضاربة المسؤولة عن عدم اتزانه ومن ثم سقوطه المأساوي . إن هذه الشخصية كممثل للإنسان الحديث وهو يتعد عن الله وينغمس في الملذات والمتع الدنيوية والفساد الأخلاقي ، ما يوجب عليه تحمل عواقبها .

ولان هذه الرواية قد كتبت في أوائل الثلاثينيات ، فإنها الأنسة لوني هارت (١٩٣٣) ترسم صورة واضحة عن الحياة الأمريكية خلال الأزمة الاقتصادية العالمية ، " أسوأ وأطول فترة من البطالة وانخفاض النشاط التجاري في العصور الحديثة " ^١ . تسببت هذه الفترة في العديد من التغيرات في مواقف الشعب الأمريكي نحو جوانب الحياة المختلفة لقد كتب نتانيال وست Nathanael West عن هذه الرواية لكونها استجابة أو رد فعل لما حدث في أمريكا خلال ذلك العصر ، العصر الذي قاد إلى المعاناة البشرية ، مجسدا حقيقة الشعب الأمريكي بجميع شرائحه وأطيافه .

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.