Role of women in Dracula

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Dracula presents two different kinds of women of the era of Victorian that is Mina Harker and Lucy Westenra. The Victorian era is when there is the emerging of a movement of “New Woman.” In the Dracula novel, the role of a woman is present in their actions, which have reasons for them (Bell, 2016).

Women in the Dracula are described as decent and are home-loving, who are very devoted to the family. The woman has full support towards her husband, and she has dedicated herself with sacrifice not to ever compete with her husband. The virtues of the woman are purity, dignity, innocence, and integrity. In the Victorian era, the most significant aspect of a woman was marriage as to most of the wedding was a survival condition. The society also was not in support of women making a living on their own; they were supposed to live dependent on the income of men. State laws and customs bar the woman from getting involved in trade and professions from which they could be able to support themselves. The women are also restricted not to own any property; hence they were only left with one means of survival, which was marriage (Straight, 2017).

Women had to be virgins in the Victorian era, free from any thoughts of love and sexuality to be termed as a potential wife. However, this kind of absolute purity was only applied to women, and not men as men had freedom and could engage in premarital sexual relationships. After marriage, the property, rights, and the woman’s identity were under the man’s total control. Marital beatings and rape were legal. Any property that the woman brought with her into the marriage automatically changed ownership and belonged to the man. Marriage was a kind of slavery for women (Straight, 2017).
During the Victorian era, prostitution was termed legal. It was a representation of the second category of women or the first was pure chastity mother and wife. There was the sexually crazed kind of woman who used to serve sexual desire and fantasy of men. This seemed to be the only professional activity for the women, which were basically protected by the law. Most men saw prostitutes as the evil that is necessary to protect the pure who otherwise might unknowingly provoke the man to rape them. In other words, the women in this era had no right to whatever thing due to the discourse of patriarchal. On the other hand, they had to be the kind kind of woman who would play as angels in the house. Luckily such unfair kind of a system eventually broke, and a new movement of feminism emerged (Bell, 2016).

Later in the Dracula novel, Mina becomes more feminized in the role of tradition. There are fewer praises on her for having a ‘man’s brain’ than being the delicate beauty she should be. While Mina escapes the fate of Lucy, she is often out of doing what they call work for men, and she receives directions when to go to bed, and she is commonly crying without any apparent reason.
References
