

**Honour Revenge for Justice in Annabelle Forest's 'The Devil on the Doorstep'**

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**Abstract**

The present research paper explores the theme of "Honor Revenge for Justice" in Annabelle Forest's *The Devil on the Doorstep*. Violence against women has been widely recognized as a pressing global issue that cuts across cultural, geographic, religious, social, and economic boundaries. It manifests in various forms, including physical and mental abuse, torture, and extreme atrocities like acid attacks, bride burning, honor killings, and rape. Such acts of violence are often perpetrated by men, leveraging their physical dominance to maintain control over women. Women frequently fall victim to social crimes such as human trafficking, forced prostitution, and sexual exploitation. Many young innocent girls are forcibly pushed into prostitution, stripping them of their dignity and ruining their lives. The psychological trauma endured by these victims shatters their self-confidence, making it difficult for them to rebuild their lives. In many cases, the relentless burden of their suffering drives them to take their own lives.

Even in the 21st century, violence against women remains widespread, and their voices continue to be suppressed. Despite progress in laws and awareness, the fight against gender-based violence is far from over.

**Keywords:** Violence, Honour Revenge, Victims, Psychology

**Introduction:**

This research paper explores various issues such as violence against women, their suffering due to social injustices, child abuse, self-empowerment, and the pursuit of justice through honor revenge. Through an in-depth study of this memoir, the researcher has analyzed and identified these critical themes. The memoir vividly portrays the hardships and oppression faced by women in today's society, highlighting the impact of social and religious constraints on their lives.

This paper highlights the plight of women who suffer due to discrimination based on gender, religion, creed, class, and caste. The concept of honor revenge sheds light on the harsh realities women face, offering deep and thought-provoking insights into their struggles for justice from various perspectives of life.

The objective is to promote awareness about the importance of tolerance and mutual understanding regarding women's rights on a global scale. Every individual deserves to live free from sociological, psychological, and physical distress. The dynamic between

men and women has historically placed men in a dominant role and women in a subordinate position. However, women are not inherently inferior; rather, societal power structures, predominantly controlled by men, have led to their subjugation.

The memoir *The Devil on the Doorstep: My Escape from a Satanic Sex Cult* (2014) by Annabelle Forest, which reveals the heartbreaking story of a girl who was forced into a sinister cult by her own mother at the age of seven. Over the following years, she was manipulated and indoctrinated by the cult's leader, Colin Batley, who controlled a group of devoted followers from a seemingly ordinary cul-de-sac, which functioned as their place of worship, in Kidwelly, Wales. Batley ruled the cult with an iron will, his twisted ideology based on Aleister Crowley's '*Book of the Law*', which informed their day-to-day lives. From the age of 11, Annabelle was repeatedly raped by Batley, and threatened with going to hell if she angered 'the gods' by refusing Batley's sick demands.

Annabelle revealed that she led a double life - 'a schoolgirl by day and a sex slave by night.' The only source of hope in her dark reality was the birth of her daughter, Emily. Determined to break free, she reached out to her relatives and found the strength to report Batley, her mother, and other cult members to the police. In 2011, her testimony played a crucial role in convicting 48-year-old Batley, who was sentenced to life imprisonment on 11 charges of rape and multiple other sexual offenses. Her mother, along with two other members of the so-called 'cul-de-sac cult,' was also jailed. Today, Annabelle lives a stable and happy life with Emily and her partner, yet the trauma of her past continues to cast a shadow over her.

### **Violence and Suffering of women through social evil**

Like many European novels, Annabelle Forest's memoir explores themes of human suffering and violence against women. Across societies worldwide, women have been subjected to exploitation and discrimination. Their social and economic rights have historically been controlled by their male counterparts. In a male-dominated society, women are often regarded as secondary and placed in a position of inferiority. Although discussions on women's rights across different continents have brought some awareness and progress, the changes in their status within the family and society remain minimal.

The memoir *The Devil on the Doorstep* portrays the harrowing journey of Annabelle, who endured unimaginable suffering from a very young age, lasting until she was eighteen. The traumatic experiences of her early years shattered her childhood and deeply affected her sense of self-worth. Annabelle's ordeal began at the tender age of seven when she was introduced to the so-called "laws of the church," which were designed to manipulate and exploit innocent children like her. Colin Batley, the cult leader posing as a priest, instilled fear in the children by using religious doctrine, threatening them with divine punishment and eternal suffering in the name of God and the pain of Abyss (a place of lifetime suffering).

Colin was allocated with the noble task of preaching in the church. It was his honest job. When he started having illegal physical relationship with Annabelle's mother, his hungriness was not filled up hence he had his eyes upon Annabelle. He wanted to maintain physical relationship with Annabelle hence

he used to frighten her in the name of God and its will. Colin knew the Annabelle would ignore and disrespect Colin for these tests, hence he applied the laws of the church as his ways of exploitation. For Colin, test simply meant, the way of maintaining sexual relationship with Annabelle. He hammered again and again about the purity of test. The test was designed in such a way that it possibly ruined Annabelle's life. The first test simply meant the first attempt of sex. Having evil intention in mind Colin would persuade her mind to make ready for sex.

The eleven years Annabelle was brutally sexed by Colin Bately. The innocent Annabelle had unbearable pain during the intercourse. She wanted to breakdown due to the burning inside her. It was the feeling of hell. The middle-aged Colin had sex with the innocence Annabelle who was not aware about what happened to her. She was just helpless before Colin's intention. Her virginity was broken even before she was matured enough to know about the physical relationship between man and woman. The test taken by Colin violated her early childhood and she was kept in the darkness.

'Are you prepared to pass the tests to go higher in the church? Just as it is written in *'The Book of The Law'*. Do you want to take these tests?

'Yes'.

'Do you have any questions?'

'No'.

He nodded again, seemingly satisfied: 'Good – now get undressed' (Annabelle.2014. Page no. 48)

After the first test, Colin continued with others. Religion and the church played a

fundamental role in Annabelle's downfall. Referring to *The Book of the Law*, Colin insisted that Annabelle had to undergo these tests. He manipulated her, claiming that participating in them would grant her a place in the higher church. Each time she agreed, Colin would demand sex, using these so-called tests as a means to satisfy his own physical desires, exploiting Annabelle in the process."

As Annabelle's so-called *master*, Colin controlled every aspect of her life under the pretence of serving the church. Determined to exploit her further, he decided to send her to Bristol for prostitution. Initially, Annabelle resisted, fearing for the well-being of her four-month-old child. With no one to care for her baby in her absence, she was reluctant to leave.

However, Colin manipulated her yet again, assuring her that he would look after her daughter. His words were not of genuine concern but of sinister intent, as he disturbingly implied that caring for the child would be *fun* for him. Annabelle was left with no choice, trapped in a horrifying situation where both she and her child remained at the mercy of Colin's twisted control.

### **Child Abuse**

The concept of child abuse is the basic theme of the memoir 'The Devil on the Doorstep'. Annabelle started sufferings of sex slavery at the age of seven. The priest of church, Colin completely ruined Annabelle's life. As a child, when Annabelle saw her mother and Colin while having sex, she did not understand anything but she felt to run away from there. It was Colin who exercised his techniques to hypnotize her.

‘I will have you one day, Annabelle.’  
His voice was low like a whisper.  
‘One day, when your periods start, I  
will have you.’ (Annabelle, 2014,  
Page no. 10)

The words of Colin indicate that he wanted to make her his sex slave. Colin took advantage of the innocent nature of Annabelle and started having physical relationship with her. Being a child, Annabelle had no sense of whatever was happening with her. She had accepted Colin’s sex cult because of his tear. Her presence in camp at church was the opportunity for Colin to use her physically.

‘The God has chosen, for you’  
(Annabelle, 2014, Page no. 48)

Being the priest of church, Colin had complete authority over church and its rules. He used to exploit the children and other members of church under the name of God’s wish. As a child, Annabelle was abused and later thrown into prostitution at the age of seventeen. Annabelle’s life was ruined and was made helpless due to her involvement into child abuse and harassment

### **Self-Courage / Self Voice**

Throughout the memoir, Annabelle finds herself trapped in a life of prostitution in Bristol, unable to break free from the cycle of exploitation. During this time, she gives birth to a baby girl named Emily, who becomes a beacon of hope in her otherwise dark world. Determined to provide a better future for her daughter, Annabelle begins to long for an escape from prostitution.

Mike, a close friend of Annabelle, deeply cares for her and wishes to marry her. Aware of her painful past, he believes she deserves a chance at a new life, free from the horrors she

has endured. As part of her work, Annabelle moves from one brothel to another in search of financial stability, but Mike follows her, driven by love and a genuine desire to see her break away from this life. His feelings for Annabelle go beyond mere affection - he sees her as someone in need of emotional and spiritual healing.

‘This isn’t the place for a girl like you.  
You are worth so much more and  
have so much to offer. I know you  
don’t like it here; I know you don’t  
want to be doing this. Let me support  
you for the rest of your beauty course  
until you are ready to become  
independent. This is no way to start  
your life; this is no way to raise a  
child. Please, please let me help you’  
(Annabelle, 2014, Page no. 178)

Mike genuinely wants to rescue Annabelle from the horrors of prostitution, believing that she does not belong to such a world. He understands her struggles and recognizes that she wishes to leave this life behind. With sincere intentions, he assures Annabelle of his unwavering support, promising to stand by her side until she gains independence. Mike remains determined to help her escape this nightmare, offering her hope for a future free from exploitation and suffering.

### **Honour Revenge for Justice**

The continuous sexual abuse and her deep concern for her daughter's future pushed Annabelle to seriously consider escaping from prostitution. Alan, an old friend of her mother, was known for his kindness and integrity. Annabelle strongly believed that he could help her break free from both the brothel and the oppressive control of the church.

With the assistance of Thomas, she managed to find Alan's contact information through his Facebook account. Though she felt ashamed of her life in prostitution, she knew it was not her fault. Despite many obstacles in her path, Annabelle remained determined to reclaim her life. Her inner strength and resilience drove her to seek freedom from the torment she had endured. Her decision to leave reflected her unwavering hope for a normal and dignified future.

Seeking Alan's help was Annabelle's first step toward escaping her traumatic past. Alan took her to Kidwelly, where he lived, and welcomed her into his home. Surrounded by his caring and supportive family, Annabelle finally experienced a sense of safety and warmth. However, the lingering fear of Colin haunted her, making her anxious that he might force her back into the brothel.

Over time, Annabelle gathered the courage to share her painful story with Alan and his wife. Listening to her horrifying experiences deeply shocked the couple, but they did not rush her into making any decisions. Instead, Alan's wife gently advised Annabelle to report the abuse to the police, encouraging her to take a stand against the atrocities she had endured.

On the advice of Alan's wife Annabelle made up her mind for her medical check-up. The checkup was meant for HIV.

'There was a pause and the nurse looked at me with real concern. 'You've been very lucky, you know. You were in the high-risk category.'  
(Annabelle Forest. Page no. 216-217)

When Annabelle medically got checkup completed, the nurse informed her that she was fortunately not at all affected of any

serious diseases including HIV. Annabelle was very much happy and started weeping. The words of Nurse 'Very Lucky' were echoing in her ear again and again.

The relief from the medical checkup gathered positivity in Annabelle. Now she was determined that she would break up her silence, and report Colin to the police station. It can be seen as the first strongest step towards honour revenge.

'Listen, Gavin,' I stopped him mid-sentence. 'I want to go to the police. I want to report Colin to the Police.'  
(Annabelle Forest. Page no. 217)

Annabelle's suffering was so horrific and heartbreaking that it deeply affected the police officers handling her case. Moved by her pain, they sympathized with her and offered their full support. Her true fight for justice began when she courageously provided her final statement, which was officially recorded by the police during their investigation. This marked the beginning of her battle to reclaim her dignity and hold her abusers accountable.

On the basis of the statement police arrested Colin and her mother. They were held on remand. In the initial enquiry Colin and Annabelle's mother denied all the charges against them. A week later when policewoman investigated Colin's house some doubtful things were recovered including a video in which a fifteen years old Annabelle was exposing herself on Colin's command. Without making any further delays police arrested Elaine, Shelley, Sandra who were the members of the church.

The first trial took place in February 2011, during which Colin denied all charges against him. The police lacked substantial



evidence to convict him. As a result, the trial did not go in Annabelle's favor. Additionally, the other girls in the brothel refused to testify, as they had been brainwashed.

At the judge's request, Annabelle provided her testimony via video link from another room. The prosecution recorded the entire testimony using a video camera. A DNA test confirmed Emily's biological connection to Colin, serving as crucial evidence of his sexual relationship with Annabelle and her exploitation within the church community.

At last Judge- Paul Thomas QC accused Colin of having sexual relationship with not only Annabelle but the other innocent girl children to whom he later sent them into brothel to earn money out of them. The judge sentenced twenty-two years of jail and her mother handed a sentence of twelve-year jail. Elaine received eight years' jail where as Shelley was put behind the bars for five years.

Annabelle's struggle for revenge was far from simple. Her early life was filled with suffering, and even after escaping the brothel, she endured painful police investigations and

trials. Throughout it all, her tolerance, perseverance, and resilience were tested at every stage. It was her daughter, Emily, who gave her the strength to confront the evils she had endured.

### Conclusion

This research paper explores key issues such as male dominance, patriarchal culture, violence against women, social evils, child abuse, self-courage, and the pursuit of honor revenge for justice. It highlights the universal challenges faced by women across different societies. Through a detailed analysis of the text, the researcher examines these themes and draws conclusions. The memoir not only portrays the suffering of women but also underscores the bravery of the protagonists in seeking justice through honor revenge.

This memoir is not only a powerful example of how women can break free from traditional identities but also serves as an inspiration for women across all continents to expose the realities of a dominant, orthodox society. Annabelle, the central figure of this memoir, is undoubtedly a true hero for youth, women, and society as a whole.

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