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The Genius of Donna Tartt

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The importance of reading lies in the fact that this process provides the opportunity to expand knowledge in various spheres. Additionally, it is important to mention that the different kinds of literature have the other qualities, for instance, they are good at entertaining and possess aesthetic value. The genius of the author greatly depends on the ability to combine the afore-mentioned qualities in literary works. In scope of the current essay I am going to present my favorite writer, Donna Tartt, explain why I consider her literary works as masterpieces, and highlight what I have learned from her about the essence of literature.

First of all, it should be highlighted that Donna Tartt is an American writer, who is specialized in writing prose. Despite the fact that she has created only three novels, each of them has become a bestseller and has been greatly appreciated by the critics. The works *The Secret History*, *The Little Friend*, and *The Goldfinch* are created in the special neo-romantic style, which resembles the stylistic peculiarities of the prose of the nineteenth century. The literary themes, which are considered within Tartt`s texts, include the problems of social classes, aesthetics, and different psychological issues, such as the sense of guilt (Adams).

The novel that impressed me the most is *The Secret History*. Having read this book, I have understood how the masterful novel must be compounded and presented. According to the literary critic Adams, “*The Secret History* proved a rare occasion of a novel justifying its hype: technically precise, Victorian in its scope but very much of its moment – a perfectly pitched murder story” (Adams). In fact, the novel can be characterized as the successful combination of the interesting, detective plot and exquisite literary style.

Having read *The Secret History*, I have understood how the successful plot must be elaborated. The author masterfully presents the murder story, which is thrilling, full of anxieties, unusual, mysterious, but does not seem unnatural. More specifically, Donna Tartt provides the opportunity to immerse in the inner world of the students, who are greatly interested in Greek language and culture of ancient Greece. As Cwik successfully describes, the novel “depicts the knavery, ecstasy, and agony of... classics students at a liberal arts school in Vermont...whose collective thirst for edification is seemingly insatiable, and inevitably leads them to evil (Cwik). The author managed to light the instability and gradual changes of the psychological state of the erudite students, who, being greatly impressed by ideology of Ancient Greece, planned the murder of their common friend. The plot develops gradually similar to Greek tragedies, possesses the culmination, and ends logically and dramatically.

The other issue that should be addressed is the aesthetic aspect of the work of Donna Tartt. As Mullan highlights, “Tartt’s narrator seems little interested in sex, but is readily intoxicated by beauty: human, natural, or poetic. The novel notices how important beauty is to us, yet how rarely anyone speaks of it” (Mullan). In fact, the novel describes the beauty of Classical literature, Greek myths and tragedies, the pagan ecstasy of the Dionysian cult, and mystery of fate.

To conclude, the modern American novelist Donna Tartt has created three novels, which are considered as masterpieces. One of them, *The Secret History*, provides a great impression on the reader with the help of its well-developed mysterious plot and exquisite literary style. The author illustrates how the quality literary work should be written and inspires readers to learn about the beauty, presented in Classical literature.

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