



A Study of the Abject in Annie Baker's The Flick

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Abstract

The abject is literally defined as the rejection of what comes of oneself of bodily fluids and bodily waste. It is also true of the dirt in the environment , dirt in bathroom , the garbage , etc. .While abjection is the reaction one shows at realizing an abject.

Annie Baker's The Flick (2013) portrays a trio of theatre employees, who are carrying out marginal jobs of sweeping , cleaning up the garbage left by the audience and projecting movies on screen respectively . They are underpaid and through carrying out marginal jobs , they are discarded by movie –theatre audience and thus tend to be figuratively abjects .

The aim of present paper is to analyze the abject figuratively in Annie Baker's The Flick in the light of Julia Kristeva's work ,Powers of Horror : An Essay on Abjection

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المخلص

يعرف البؤس حرفيا على انه رفض ما ينتج من الجسم من فضلات سائلة وصلبة كذلك يستخدم للإشارة إلى الوسخ في المكان، الوسخ الذي في الحمام والقمامة وغيرها. بينما يعرف الاحتقار على انه ما ينتج من ردة فعل حين مواجهة البؤس. تصور مسرحية *The Flick* لاني بيكر ثلاثي من العاملين في دار العرض السينمائي وهم يقومون باعمال هامشية من ازالة الاتربة وتنظيف القمامة التي يتركها الجمهور وادارة جهاز عرض الافلام على التوالي. بقيامهم بهذه الاعمال الهامشية يتقاضون اجور قليله وبذلك يسهل على الجمهور التخلص منهم وانكارهم ويتحولون بلاغيا الى البؤس. تهدف الدراسة الحالية الى تحليل البؤس بلاغيا في المسرحية في ضوء نظرية جوليا كريستيفا في البؤس والاحتقار في عملها قوى الرعب: مقالة في الاحتقار 1981-1982.

The abject is part of psychoanalysis which deals with things we reject of bodily fluids , shit and tend not to mention . Their rejection is necessary for our human existence . Kristeva describes the abject as disgust , of what is repressed , of things we do not want to look at or smell . It is further viewed as a process to separate from one's physical environment what " is not me " (Creed, 65) .

Kristeva(2) specifies where the abject lies to avoid confusion with the object .The two share one quality that is "being opposed to I".The corpse , a reminder of human's inevitable demise , is a typical abject given by Kristeva signifies an imaginary border between the abject and object . It is an object as a human flesh but once it ceases to be , it is no longer realized as an object . It tends to be an abject to be rejected insofar as it threatens realization of one's identity. If the abject is the rejection of waste , of loathsome hair on milk , of corpse then , Kristeva calls the process whereby the waste is get rid of as abjection . It is also the process of marginalizing what is no more part of oneself of waste , of menstruation , etc.

Abjection as one's reaction at realizing disgust is diagnosed by bodily symptoms which vary from facial expression , loathsome , spasms , having the body quiver in sweat , dizziness and nausea (2-3).

On the basis of Kristeva's theory of the abject , the structure of Baker's *The Flick* is about the abject figuratively which could be explored through the relationship between the movie theatre employees , who are on the margin , and movie –theatre audience as a target to please , and having them pay to keep the movie theatre working.

The action of the play takes place in a movie –theatre which is also named the Flick in the suburban county of Massachusetts. The setting is of red –coloured

seats arranged in ten to fifteen rows which are placed face to face with rows of the play audience seats . There is a red carpeted aisle where movie-theatre cleaners , Sam and Avery are often seen sweeping from different sides . At the back of the movie-theatre seats there is the projection booth where Rose invisibly projects movies on screen.

The play revolves around the repetitive boring labour of the movie –theatre cleaners who are not seen much in the act of pleasure through watching movies than in the act of cleaning the movie theatre as a place of pleasure .Sam is a grown up Caucasian Jew in his mid thirties and Avery is a young black guy in his twenties. They are restrained to put on the same uniform of maroon polo shirt with Sam recognizably seen in Red Sox Cap and Avery is bespectacled. As a projectionist , Rose is exempt from uniform and so is seen in a sort of oversized clothes , with no make up and a dyed hair of forest green .

It turns out that Avery has been just employed to help Sam sweep and clean up the movie –theatre . They are seen sweeping different sides of the carpeted aisle with a push broom and a dust pan each one has of his own. Kristeva (4) conceptualized the abject as" what disturbs identity, system ,order " . It threatens a collapse in rules and borders. So , it must be rejected.

Since fast food, purchased from the theatre itself or brought it secretly in , is what the audience consume pleasantly while watching movies , food wastes are mostly abjects Sam and Avery sweep as a threat to order , system of movie theatre which must be clean and tidy as a place of pleasure . The sweeping and cleaning activities Sam and Avery do are obviously marginal still they are necessary for maintenance of order , of pleasure for ordinary , non marginal audience .

Baker describes in detail food wastes such as popcorn kernels along with sandwich wrappers which must be cleared off as abjects , a threat to order and meaning of movie theatre as a place of pleasure. Another feature which contributes to Kristeva's concept of the abject is what Miller (45) sees as "dirt as a matter –out-of-place".

Had the popcorn kernels or sandwich wrapper been left elsewhere than in the movie –theatre ,they would have been less loathed upon as abjects to be cast off. Baker tries to make her audience and readers familiar with each type of food waste in particular , the way they look , the qualities they share as abject and the theatre cleaner's reaction in getting rid of each . As a matter of disgust ,

Kristeva does not associate the abject with cleanness than with violating rules of order, meaning and system . Douglas (47), discusses food which does not fit into category and by violating order tends to be abject .

The is true in the shattered pieces of lettuce which are neither solid nor liquid , but are sticky . To be in between then is a threat to order , an abject to be cast off. Avery's facial expressions while encountering lettuce pieces ,stick on the floor , are obviously indicative of distaste which mirrors abjection.

Through out the portrayal of routine job of cleaning , Baker's focus is on the process of cleaning itself as time consuming for employees to come to terms with picking up popcorn kernels or shattered lettuce pieces which could be hardly recognize by Avery to sweep .Indulgence in providing details of how they sweep , the waste they talk about ,using soda machine and clean it all contributed to place the audience in the same place of theatre cleaners and to experience boredom over their repetitive cleaning labour.

Baker's mention of spilled chocolate pudding serves to create suspense dramatically particularly for Avery who mistakens it for shit. Obviously , as a dark brown chocolate spilled on one seat, neither wrapped nor in container is out of place dirt which implies threat to order and thus tends to be abject.

Avery is conscious of it even though Sam carefully examines the spot declaring that it is " Definitely not shit ". Taken it mistakenly as shit , Avery voices phobia at encountering shit sight describing himself as kind of " Shit phobic(Baker, 18).

Sam , in turn , describes jokingly the experience some people have of "pleasure in perversity " (Creed) through sharing pictures of their shit on websites. Avery who has already described himself as "shit phobic" abhors it all that he would start vomiting all around if he really encounters such pictures. In the natural cycle of eating and consuming , producing waste is something to be expelled as a threat to human body and to render it healthy. As no more part of body , it is rejected as it exists within boundaries which separate the self from the other (Kristeva , 2). However , producing and getting rid of waste is something shameful and embarrassing so people try to hide it or not mention it .

When disgust is associated with a sort of joy or "jouissance " in Kristeva's terms , it is a sign of regression on part of those people while unconsciously recalling the infant's playing with the taboo , not realizing disgust. In early stages of development , even before rejecting the mother as an abject , a threat

at realizing identity, the infant feels no restraint to play with parts of the body or even with his shit.

Insofar as food waste is to clean against violating order and tidiness of the movie –theatre as a place of pleasure , Sam and Avery argue over the reasons which made the audience leave food like popcorn scattered all over the floor or seats of the movie –theatre along with empty bags of sun chips .Sam, later on , attributes it simply to the audience's ignoring or not realizing the garbage can.

However, Sam has once the experience of being a theatre-goer who also leaves tamales behind after sneaking it in . The situation brings Sam face to face with the movie-theatre audience in their repeated act of rejecting what is left of food in hand and so leave it scattered which he detests as a theatre-cleaner.

Sam reveals to Avery that he was pressured to leave tamales thrown under his seat to change it to another in the presence of a smelly woman who made it all horrible to sit any more and watch the movie.

According to Kristeva , smelly people represent abject since stink or bad smell is the result of having the skin infected with bacteria or diseases which render the body unhealthy and loathsome . While encountering the smelly woman , being herself an abject , Sam's abjection finds expression in casting off tamales behind bringing in turn another threat to the tidiness of the environment of the movie-theatre , another abject to be cast off.

In addition to food waste , Baker does not miss the chance to mention other garbage left by the audience , of dirt out of place . It turns out that somebody left "nasty nasty old New Balance shoe "(Baker,40) . Dirt as "something located in an improper place as inaccurate and unpersuasive "(Kolnai,55) obviously endangers the rules and meaning of the movie theatre as tidy and well-arranged ,so it must be cast off as an abject .

Being left in improper place is what makes it "nasty nasty " , the repetition of the word "nasty" emphasizes the disgust with which Sam holds the shoe form its lace and drags it into trash can disdainfully confirming that it is disgusting .Indeed, had the shoe been left elsewhere , it would have been less loathed upon.

Through exposing the theatre cleaners to clean suspicious spot of spilled chocolate and a nasty old shoe to drag into trash can , Baker prepared for a climax –like encounter with shit to clean in the bathroom. The audience as well

are prepared to the cleaners' reaction through their exposition of Avery as "shit phobic " and Sam being sensitive to smells.

Avery ,about to faint, describes to Sam and Rose how someone left shit in the bathroom and the worst he did by spotting it all over the walls of bathroom .

As an abject , bodily waste ,must be cast off as a threat to human body to live and be healthy . People have to eat , consume ,produce waste and get rid of it . As mentioned already , producing and getting rid of waste is something people are ashamed to mention so they tend to hide and marginalize it with in all their experience. However , descriptions of how the person seemed to play with shit to spot it all over walls bears link to what Sam mentioned of people invoking pleasure in disgust by sharing pictures of their shit on websites . In both cases, people including the one who plays with shit in the bathroom are showing regression to an early infant's development where in the infant is in no restrain to realize the abject yet be it his mother as threat to realizing identity or even to know meaning of disgust . Thus , an infant could be seen playing with parts of the body or shamelessly playing with his own shit.

Exposure to clean bodily waste for Avery culminates in response which goes further than showing disgust to vomit all around the bathroom. Avery who has already voiced his phobia at shit , is overtaken to flee to his theatre –employees for help. Baker is interested in depicting the smallest details to help us imagine , as readers, the employees' collaboration to unite no where better seen than here against the abject as a threat to collapse the system and rules of cleanness and tidiness of the movie –theatre as a place of pleasure. As if they were in a battlefield and in a sense they are , Sam and Rose are ready to assist Avery . Sam takes the responsibility to set things clean with his mop while he commends Rose to take care of Avery.

Against his sensitivity to smell , Sam takes on to clean the waste even though Avery apologizes of vomiting all along the floor of bathroom .

Sam views it as something habitual to come across loathsome waste and puke in a movie-theatre .It seems that against the meaning and system of a movie-theatre as a place of pleasure , ordinary people are thinking of only pleasing themselves by attending the movie theatre , eating fast food while watching movies , consuming , producing waste even to the extent of invoking regressive feeling in playing with the taboo.

However , when people go to a movie - theatre , they expect to see things clean , have garbage cleaned out their way , and have things tidy and finished . Cleanness is not natural here . It is based on the efforts of the theatre cleaners , which are carried on invisibly . The audience do not think of who made things clean and tidy ,who made possible for them to sit , watch and enjoy themselves. In other words , the audience do not think of workers who clean the setting up and have the projector work, in case of The Flick as a movie-theatre still runs through old projection . The invisible labour of cleaning things up and having the projector work is not considered by the audience themselves since they take the results of this invisible labour for granted . Eyes are on the finished or fruits of this invisible labour of cleaning things up and having the projector work. The process of cleaning things up and running the projector must be carried invisibly too lest the audience will not be encouraged any more to attend the movie –theatre. What is invisible of labour to be carried on by theatre cleaners and projectionist the audience enjoys its fruits visibly by having the setting clean , tidy and projecting movies on screen.

Avery , on his first cleaning shift , is conscious , embarrassed of how to carry on things if the audience would stay to the end of the credits. Sam , who has been employed much earlier than Avery , reassures him that once he starts sweeping , the audience would get the message and leave : " sometimes, people stay until the end of the credits . But , then they go And they'll get the message when you start sweeping " (Baker,11) Throughout the action of play , it does not occur that the audience are there while Sam and Avery are sweeping except for The Dreaming Man who falls into sleep and, upon waking up by Sam, he commented with " oh. sorry " (44). The Dreaming Man , when nothing else is known about him except his allegorical name , could be taken figuratively as representative of the un eventfulness of the cleaners' life while leading a monotonous job with scarce hope for future change . The only who seems to wake up at the end of the play is Avery who would start to find himself one day when Sam would very possibly keep on monotonously leading this job for life.

Moreover , the theatre -employees , Sam , Rose and Avery are on the margin to sweep , clean things up and project movies on screen respectively . They are equally not realized by the audience of the movie -theatre whose eyes are on the fruits of the invisible labour the theatre workers are in charge of. They are on

the margin to realize , acknowledge by the audience . Still , they are at the centre to clean the movie – theatre , attract the audience , win their approval and get material gains which are mostly for the benefits of the theatre management to have the company work . In return , they are poorly paid.

The invisible labour carried on by theatre -employees to attract the audience and keep the theatre working while they are on the margin makes them easily discarded by the audience of the movie theatre . In other words , they tend figuratively to be abject themselves.

To support this argument on the marginality of movie theatre employees wherein they tend to be abject is the playwright's reference , through Sam's revelation to Avery , to other theatre workers, Rebecca and Brian with focus on the latter. Those characters, do not appear on stage are obviously carrying on marginal labour. still it is necessary to keep the maintenance of order of the movie theatre and further maintenance of pleasure for its audience. Sam describes to Avery how a huge chunk of tile falls from the theatre ceiling . Had it fallen only to inches more to the right of an old woman ,the woman would have been dead. Steve , the manager who never appears on the stage too , is to blame by Sam . Taken as miser , Steve is unwilling to pay an extra penny to improve the theatre . Being exposed to such risk would obviously discourage the audience to attend any more which means collapse to the theatre company . Besides highlighting Steve as miser to blame , the marginal labour carried out by Brian to keep order and maintenance of pleasure for the audience , the old woman here is brought to the surface. Brian is described by Sam as "magician like "(62) on relying on personal traits only to calm the woman down . It seems that he is not authorized by Steve to give the woman free ticket to safeguard silence over what happened .Still, he could manage things by offering the woman a voucher for six free popcorns and six free sodas whom in turn is simple –minded enough to accept while resuming pleasure in watching the movie. Brian is as marginal as his fellow employees , in carrying out marginal labour the fruits of which are taken for granted yet he is, not realized by the audience and so is discarded as an abject.

Much of the play's action exposes the marginalization of the characters ,through revelations they share about each or confessions through which they unfold their stories with the narrative within the main narrative of the play . What the characters unfold about themselves is known for us , as readers as well as the

play's audience while they are untold to the movie-theatre audience , they remain on the margin.

As a matter of fact , the audience usually have an idea about the movie they watch as having a well-plotted story and caste that are identical to them through advertisement . But , the situation is different for the theatre -employees who work invisibly and all their talks and revelations are only known to them and to readers while the audience of movie theatre know nothing about it .Baker portrays characters who are of different social class, education , race where Avery is African American and Sam is a Caucasian Jew though no much focus was paid on religion.

Sam ,we are told , is not well educated and is not in possession of good money to pursue one at his own . He has not established himself and still lives with his disease family having a retarded older brother. When Avery naively asks him for the job he would take when grown up , Sam feels offended. He is brought face to face with the truth that he is now a grown up and is degraded to work as theatre-cleaner. Through a revelation to Avery , while carrying out their routine labour as in the case of most revelations , Sam is thwarted at getting promotion . Had he been promoted , he would have become the projectionist . Steve is to blame for prejudice to Rose to make her the projectionist even though Sam has been employed months earlier , than Rose. He assumes that Steve would even make Avery an alternate to Rose but not him because he hates him . When no other details are given by Baker to support Sam's claim , it seems that Sam is showing a sign of paranoia , a paranoid Jew who is hated by his manager and thus prevented promotion.

Further , Sam's thwarted ambition at getting promotion contributes to conflict with Avery over the idea of training on the projection and could only be resolved through crucial confrontation . Part of the invisible labour carried on by the theatre employees is projecting movies on screen which is Rose's part . Insofar as the audience of the movie theatre take for granted the fruits of the invisible labour , having the projection work here , the person who lets it work , who projected movies on screen is not realized , not known by name for them so he /she remains on the margin . When Sam accidentally knows about Avery's training on projection by Rose and the latter's intent to make Avery her alternate on occasion , Sam is caught in conflict . On the one hand , he is frustrated to be reminded of his lost chance to get promotion and become the

projectionist . On the other hand , he is jealous of what he describes as " flirting banter" (58) between Avery and Rose whom he is desperately in love with.

Rose , though dishonest in her claim , denies to know his desire to be trained and Avery , overtaken with guilt , explains his real intention for training on the projection only because he loves it and not as Sam's rival to be future projectionist. Soon , his frustration mingled with jealousy over Rose's intimacy with Avery , though Avery does not feel at ease with her ,bursts into a confession of an unrequited love to Rose. His anger at Avery , in turn , finds an outlet in throwing a half popcorn bag on Avery's side of the aisle to clean as a punishment.

On Sam's confession of love to Rose , frustration is on the surface . He describes himself as a forlorn lover who could not figure out reasons beyond his fascination . Rose , it turns out, does not mind his confession much . She sees him only as performing the role of a lover in a piece of drama which he denies forcefully. When she asked him for the end he is heading to in his love he does not have a specific answer to give than soothing his chest by having this confession out. Rose in turn is honest to declare that the image Sam fantasizes about as her has nothing to do with her true self .

Mistaken her as a "lesbian" (27) , Sam is desperate to the un fulfillment of his potential to have Rose and the fact that he has not established himself yet contributes further to the unattainability of union with her.

Rose , in her twenty four years old , is a university student who works part time in the movie –theatre, The Flick , to gain living . She does not appear in make up . with the only feminine touch of dying her hair in forest green.

The scene Rose describes as " Dance party " (81) unfolds many revelations about Rose and Avery who are involved in the scene to watch amovie at the weekend . Rose is seen dancing extremely excited music. Her desire not to be put on restrain explains her putting on the sort of oversized clothes. Avery is sweeping for a short while obviously embarrassed not to join in dancing for which he apologized. In climax like encounter , Rose explicitly attempts to seduce Avery who sits totally "Frozen " (90) while his attention is focused on the movie on screen.

Rose apologizes for what she thinks as invading Avery's privacy and Avery is almost overtaken with shame . The two exchange revelations , they shared apart

from Sam , they are voiced to readers and audience of the play while are kept untold for audience of the movie theatre.

Rose , mistaken for lesbian by Sam , reveals that she had an ex-boyfriend while she had been with girls at other times . This explains that what Sam voiced about her is just part of truth while he intentionally or not obscures her image as lesbian to deny somebody else's attachment.

Daringly enough , she reveals to Avery that she is not to get along in any everlasting flirting relation for longer than four months . The revelations she made give grounds to her claim to Sam that she has a totally different image from the one he fantasized about.

Avery ,who seems often conservative not to mention much about himself , is a student at Clark where his father is employed as a Professor of Linguistics and Semantics , also is in part time employed in The Flick to nourish his love for movies.

His depression , however , comes to the surface to recall that it is his first anniversary at attempting suicide after his only male friend had abandoned him . As it is common among gays , being exposed to mingled feelings of shame and guilt culminates in depression which often results in suicide. Rose who left home at the age of twenty one is also in miserable situation at failing to realize desire through mixing with males and females at different times . But , unlike Avery , she does not think of suicide probably out of having a curiosity for future hope which finds expression in dying her hair in forest green.

Much revelations are made by Baker , later on , which mirrored Avery's being psychologically troubled and so is having therapies to overcome depression at times . However , it is not shared with his fellow employees and only known to the readers and audience of the play through a phone call Avery made to his therapist .

Avery's mother contributes to his depression as he disclosed once to Sam that she deserted him along with his father and went to live with an ex-boyfriend whom she was connecting with on Facebook . This in turn brings him into rejection of Facebook connection as a reminder of his mother's abandoning family and leaving to live with boyfriend.

Further , Avery discloses to Rose his frustration at waking up in the morning to join in the movie -theatre as a theatre –cleaner especially that he had no idea how to hold a push broom and how he struggled with frustration and could

overcome against his fears of losing job. This brings him into self contradiction . We know that he joins working in The Flick in part time because he is in love with movies with much knowledge of cinema besides the idea of having The Flick still runs with projection interests him even more.

Through Avery's situation , Baker finds room to spotlight on the inability of youth to realize themselves or their true identity . In this concern , Hoelscher (4) refers to Baker as mainly interested in "discrepancy " between the image an individual presents to the world as his /her image and the image of his /her true self so as to obscure certain lack of potential or deficiency in personality traits he /she feels safe to hide. Avery exposes to Rose his problem to come to terms with his true self or true sense of identity . The image Avery presents to his fellow employees is that of a well educated student at Clark where his father is the head of department and who has a considerable knowledge of movies which is only part of truth about himself beyond which he could obscure the image of a frustrated gay succumbed to depression and suicide : " Who's Myself [Avery] ? Apparently there's some like amazing awesome inside of me or something ?I have no idea who that guy is "(Baker,99). Thus , one can see much truth in Sam's comment on Avery's fascination with movies as a compensation for a sort of "disability "(27) taken for depression at realizing certain potential.

Moreover , Sam , Avery and Rose seem to be marginalized on the side line of existence . They are underpaid since Steve is a miser who is often criticized by them for his unwillingness to pay well for them , to give Sam the promotion he deserves ,or even to spend some extra money for improving the movie-theatre. We are told , through revelation , that Sam and Rose tend to fool the manager, Steve , through what Rose describes as " Dinner Money "(34) scheme by reselling torn ticket stubbs after each shift only to have some extra money to feed themselves. It turns out that the torn ticket stubs are the only garbage the theatre –cleaners are not to drag into trash can rather they made use of to get some money. It is unfolded that an ex-employee had first used it and later on leaving his job to join the Marines he trained Rose and Sam on this tradition against the meager wages they are paid .

Obviously , the scheme is based on Machiavellian idea of using illicit means of reselling torn ticket stubs to justify the end that is feeding themselves . The scheme , Machiavellian as it is , is important for theatre employees to gain extra

money , but it is kept on untold for the audience of the movie-theatre. Rose suggests to Sam to have Avery involved in the scheme probably to further intimacy with him as fellow employee and to safeguard his silence over the secrecy of the scheme . However , a note on racial prejudice is on the surface when Avery refused taking part in the scheme against fears of being fired by Steve. Avery declares that Steve is a racist who refused to employ employee Avery as a theatre –cleaner because he is black.

So , if the scheme is disclosed , Avery will be taken in charge of the whole thing as a black guy . However , Avery's fears of being caught and blamed as black is foreshadowing of his later being fired on the discovery of the scheme by the new manager.

Soon , the theatre-employees , particularly Avery are caught in conflict over selling the movie-theatre and turning it into digital. For Avery who prefers old movies over modern movie technology though "It is where film is going " (47) , transition into digital does not appeal to him . Avery in this concern discloses the main reason which made him work in The Flick because it is among the very few movie -theatres in USA to be still run by old projection film. He feels that had it really been turned into digital , he would have quit.

It is at the new management of the Flick and discovery of dinner money scheme that Avery comes to break with his fellow -employees.

We , as readers , are told of Avery's pleading letter to the new manager not to turn the movie theatre into digital . But , the pleading letter is not considered by the manager and the movie -theatre is really turned in to digital .

The change the movie -theatre underwent does not mean much for Sam and Rose than for Avery who sees it as a sort of disaster. It appears that they are still underpaid and there is no way left except to get along with this change for surviving their living needs . Sam and Rose in particular are upset at feeling confined to put on a new uniform with certain modifications and obligations . The trio of theatre employees are seen in a uniform of yellow polo shirt instead of a maroon with The Venue inscribed on its pocket. Rose is no more exempt from putting on a uniform as projectionist and Sam is no more allowed to put on the Red Sox Cap he likes while Avery is seen in new uniform for the last time before he is fired.

The change into digital along with change in employees' uniform does not mean much for the audience of the movie -theatre which carried the name The Venue

under the new management . The movies the audience come to watch are still well advertised and well-plotted whether they are projected on screen through old projection film or having it projected digitally . While the change in uniform is not realized even since the employees are carrying out their labour invisibly.

Discovery of dinner money scheme under the new management crucial as it is for Avery who takes on the whole blame as a black guy remains marginal for the audience of the movie theatre. It turns out that the theatre employees are troubled at the discovery where in Avery falls victim to be judged as thief , as the only employee in charge of the scheme only because he is black.

Avery even though he has part in the scheme wants his fellows to defend him by declaring their parts in the scheme equally . Avery thinks the manager would let it go had he learned about their partnership .

Other revelations about Sam and Rose are unfolded on their refusal to defend Avery . Rose in particular refuses to take the risk lest she would be fired along with Avery ,she brings Avery face to face with facts about his belonging to a well to do family , and having his father as a Professor who could pay for him while she is indebted to pay for student's loan and her mother is only a secretary who is in shortage of money. Rose even speaks on behalf of Sam who still lives with his family and is in urgent need of money to make living . Sam , though less fierce than Rose , reminds Avery of his claim to quit the job had the Flick been turned digital. Insinuatingly , Sam intends to show unwillingness to defend Avery who has already had in mind to quit the job when Sam has no further opportunity to be employed elsewhere. However , Darwin's struggle for survival is seen in Sam and Rose's unwillingness to defend Avery against fears of being equally fired and lose their job which meager as it is , still they need it to feed themselves.

As a substitute for Avery , a new theatre -cleaner appears , Skylar.

Nothing is aired about him except that he had the experience of being employed in Cinema World . He appears in an oversized uniform of the same yellow polo shirt as Sam and Rose. Having the experienced of being employed as theatre cleaner , Skylar appears quick even quicker than Sam in carrying on his labour of cleaning up the movie theatre which hits a nerve for Sam as a future rival or a substitute at worst . We, as readers and the audience of the play, are brought again face to face with burdens shared by theatre cleaners , their repeated talks

about cleaning substances such as Windex to be followed by almond hand soap in cleaning the bathroom , the use of soda machine which are minor details for us still are necessary to share talk about by theatre -cleaners . Not only Sam's fears to be substituted by Skylar appear on surface but also fears of a sort of attachment or intimacy with Rose. So , when Skylar, upon finishing sweeping shift , looks for a while at the movie screen , comes to touch it slightly , Sam bursts in anger at Skylar who in turn apologizes attributing the reason of having just an " urge "(166) to touch it . Sam's anger could be safely attributed to his identifying Rose with the movie screen as projectionist . Since , he is still desperately in love with Rose, he denies anybody else's attempt to touch Rose , or the screen as a metaphor to her .

The image of Sam and Avery sweeping different sides of the carpeted aisle when Sam takes the lead initiating talks to help intimacy with Avery soon comes into mind . Sam starts talking to Skylar,referring to the theatre employees team and Avery in particular as an ex- theatre cleaner but Skylar does not seem interested nor concerned .

The audience of the movie theatre themselves do not mind the change as having Skylar employed as Avery's substitute since the labor is still as ever carried on invisibly when the eyes are on the fruits of the labour , by having the movie theatre well arranged , clean and tidy while discarding equally the employees who carry out the labour invisibly where by they tend to be abject themselves.

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