

## Gender In “Invented Space”: History-Fantasy Interface In Jeanette Winterson’s *Sexing The Cherry*

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**Abstract:**

Contemporary British writers display a tendency to blur boundaries in their fiction, mainly because of the complexity of approaching the contemporary world. This is more so evident in many female writers including Jeanette Winterson who has addressed questions regarding gender politics, sexuality and body as an assessment of individuality through her novels. For subverting the dominant discourses on gender, Winterson creates an imaginary or alternative space in which history is rewritten and re-approached from a neutral perspective. This paper examines one of her novels titled *Sexing the Cherry* from a fluid viewpoint whereby the novelist, in the line of a historiographic metafiction, stresses on the “silences” of historical discourses, basically written and viewed from the perspectives of men. This alternative space, however, is also crucial to the understanding of a female novelist like Winterson who is often dragged on to discussions on queer literature. The paper thus highlights how Winterson’s style of writing, mixed with history, irony, fantasy, fairy tales and dreams, as well as her narrative strategy establishes her resistance to closure of any kind with regard to gender construction.

**Keywords:** Gender, History, Body, Fantasy, Identity