

Menstrual Blood and The ‘Monstrous Feminine’ in Stephen King’s *Carrie*

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Abstract :

The monstrous feminine is a recurrent archetype in speculative fiction whereby female sexuality and patriarchal fear of the same are in constant conflict. This conflict rises from a neurosis which postulates a phallogocentric fear of female genitals and the power females can exert by claiming their sexuality. *Carrie*, Stephen King’s first published novel in the year 1974, delves into the tabooed subject of menstruation and the subsequent dysphoria the eponymous heroine suffers from. The blood motif will be studied to understand the fear of the patriarchal symbolic order. The apathy, hatred, repugnance, fear of the (female) monster Carrie is the reflection of the ideological conflict of the body-fearing patriarchy. Yet at the same time it is also an empathetic male writer’s attempt at feminism.

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