

Berkley's Blog

Sunday, April 5, 2015

Male Dominance in Trifles

In Trifles by Susan Glaspell, we get a big sense of male dominance at this period in time. The characters enter into a house where a man was murdered, possibly by his wife. The men enter into this house thinking of it as a crime scene while the women see it as a home. The county attorney immediately criticizes Mrs. Wright's home when he tries to wipe his hands on dirty towels. Mrs. Hale defends Mrs. Wright by saying there is a lot to do on a farm and also that her husband just died so cleaning her house was probably the last thing on her mind. Mrs. Hale also hints that maybe the men assuming that Mrs. Wright wasn't very clean isn't true but instead that Mr. Wright was the reason why she wasn't able to keep things clean. Also when Mrs. Wright's jars of fruit break the women are discussing the fact that Mrs. Wright knew they would break. Mr. Hale continues to say that "women are used to worrying over trifles," or unimportant things. Mrs. Hale continues to stand up for Mrs. Wright by saying how wrong it was for the men to be intruding and searching inside Mrs. Wright's house. It is easy to see that the men in this play thought they had more power than the women.



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