

UDC 821

DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/2710-4656/2023.6/29>**Huseynova A. A.**

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THE INTERPRETATION OF THE LIFE AND THE DESTINY OF AN ENGLISH WOMAN IN PROSE BY ROSAMUNDE PILCHER

Rosamunde Pilcher became one of the popular woman writers in the world literature. In the novels of Rosamunde Pilcher there is no crime, cruelty, big money and everything that could attract attention to her much earlier, and not after decades of almost continuous work. The writer's books are beautiful and a little naive stories about love, happiness, friendship and finding yourself with a mandatory happy ending. The reader wants to read them as long as possible, enjoying the calm and peaceful atmosphere that Pilcher creates.

In her books there is a place for everyone: an elderly lady, a young girl, a busy clerk, a rebellious teenager, a chatty neighbor, a former businessman and other heroes who are united by an eternal value – family. This, according to the writer, is the secret of the success of her novels. They are about universal values, about what is dear and important to everyone.

Pilcher considers his audience to be adult and intelligent women who had everything in their lives: passion, flirting, quarrels, gossip. However, in the end, a person comes to understand that all this brings only temporary pleasure, and the main thing in life is completely different: family, warmth, affection, respect and kindness. Rosamunde Pilcher's books are pleasant to read at a young age too, they give a feeling of comfort, peace and awareness that everything will get better.

Rosamunde Pilcher's work can be divided into two periods: early and later. In the first Pilcher wrote mostly small novels, which are now published in separate collections ("The end of summer. An empty house. Snow in April", "Voices of summer. Stormy day. Start over"). There is a lot of romance and outdated images in these stories, for example, unemployed girls who dream only of marriage and are ready to marry the first person they meet or even a cousin.

*After the release of *The Shell Seekers*, Rosamunde Pilcher worked almost exclusively on major novels, which became a kind of transition to a new level for her. The works of late creativity gained the greatest popularity: "September", "Homecoming", "On Christmas Eve". It is with them that you should start getting acquainted with the works of the writer in order to fully enjoy her talent, warmth and sincerity.*

Key words: *English literature, writer, novels, classical traditions, twentieth century.*

Introduction. Rosamunde Pilcher played an important role in the history of English literature as one of the leading prose writers who revived and developed the best classical traditions of love prose and family romance. Having entered literature in the early 1950s and 1960s of the twentieth century, R. Pilcher managed to reflect the era of the war and post-war period and make her significant contribution to the evolution of the theme of love, friendship and family. She managed to create a kind of inner world of an English woman, convey unique English female images when revealing the love theme that forms the basis of her prose, as well as reflect the types of people in connection with their attitude to the events of post-war reality. Pilcher focuses on revealing the commission of an act by the heroine in a particular life situation. In the writer's works, an important role is played by the opposition in the structure of the plot of the conflict, manifested through the formulation

of the theme of good and evil. The problem of conflict, based on the disclosure of the spiritual, family atmosphere of life, contributes to the formulation and identification of important emerging character traits of the heroines. The main characteristic feature of R. Pilcher's narrative manner, starting from the early stage of creativity, becomes, as noted above, the statement of the conflict, revealing at its core the clash of the themes of good and evil.

The purpose of the article is to analyse the creativity of R. Pilcher and to show the place of English women in their life.

The main problem. The writer has an inexhaustible desire to comprehend the movement and scale of artistic aspirations of a female character. The appearance of R. Pilcher in post-war prose was associated with the need to tell about the relentless fury of women's passions, love feelings and experiences. In the space of her work, she was always biased, bitter and

irreconcilable, she was aimed at the expression of moral feeling while concentrating moral and ethical conflict in the disclosure of the female type of character in the plot of her works. Success comes after the publication of the family saga “The Shell Seekers”, published in 1987. She is the author of many novels, including “Sleeping Tiger”, “End of Summer”, “Empty House”, “Stormy Day”, “Wild Mountain Thyme”, “Carousel”, “Voices of Summer”, “Blue Bedroom”, “September”, “Snow in April”, “Homecoming”, “Winter Solstice”, “Start Over”, “Under the sign of Gemini”, “Winter Sun”. She wrote the plays “The Blue Room” and “Flowers in the Rain”. The novels of R. Pilcher, distinguished by the depth and clarity of thought, tell about the meaning of life, the purpose of a person in it. She carefully outlines both the main and secondary images, the environment surrounding them, descriptions of small towns. The novels “September” and “Winter Solstice”, written in the best traditions of classical English literature, are characterized by a leisurely narrative, detailed descriptions, subtle psychological drawing of characters, attention to the details of everyday life and nature. They show the life and fate of elderly people.

The novel “Winter Solstice” tells the story of the life of an elderly man – Oscar Blundell, who lost his wife and daughter in a car accident. The writer analyzes in detail the condition of a person who initially cannot cope with grief, trying to get away from society and people. Grief and heartache, awareness of the loss of life priorities lead to emptiness and unwillingness to live. Previously sensitive to the surrounding world, nature, music and painting, the hero loses the ability to hear and feel the beautiful. Violet Aird’s niece Lucy reminds Oscar of his daughter. Over time, looking at her, the hero is freed from the mental suffering brought to him by the memories of his daughter, Francesca [3, p. 496].

The writer emphasizes the intellectual superiority of her hero. He does not sink to the bottom of life, but continues to reflect, relying on the knowledge he has accumulated. Gradually he joins the art of literature, does not miss a single interesting event in the world of literature, reads Marquez. The stylistic dominant of R. Pilcher’s family novels in the postwar years is the artistic interpretation of the life and fate of an English woman.

The writer demonstrating a deep knowledge of women’s psychology, assigns a leading role in preserving the constants of the family space to a woman. Female images become the expression of the author’s ideas. Unlike Oscar, the main character of the novel “September”, despite her advanced age, does not lose

interest in life. Narrating about the life of an elderly woman Violet Aird, R. Pilcher explains the actions and thoughts of the main character with special vital and reliable care.

Having lived a long life, he does not lose the sharpness of sensations in her soul and continues to respond cordially to any manifestation of the surrounding world.

There is a lot of evil in the world. However, the heroine R. Pilcher obviously programs herself for good luck. Positive thoughts are the main guideline of her expectations. Violet perceives what is happening in her life not with doubt and regret about the unfulfilled. A wise woman perceives everything as a useful experience that has enriched her. Due to Violet’s deep involvement in the dynamic process of the surrounding reality, her individual character traits noticeably prevail over the socio-typical. Her whole environment fills Violet with energy. The spring sun charges with a cheerful mood and makes you forget about heavy winter sports clothes, and the fresh coolness returns the feeling of youth. She is cheerful, full of energy and active, despite the years. The weather does not change the established order in Violet’s life. Every morning she goes to the village to Mrs. Ishak’s store to buy the products necessary to support the life of an elderly single lady. “Unless in the middle of winter, when high snowdrifts were falling, and it became dangerous to walk on the ice, Violet, remembering that courage begins with caution, refrained from this journey” [4, p. 5–6]. R. Pilcher’s interest in her heroine is focused both on the external appearance, on the description of the details of the portrait, and on the features of her inner world. The portrait becomes an important element of creating an image and thereby conveys the author’s assessment.

The writer, drawing a physical and psychological portrait of the heroine, focuses on her special status, which is not inherent in elderly people at her age. The heroine’s face is red and wrinkled, like an old peasant woman. Violet’s straight posture shows firmness of character and correct perception of the world around her. The writer creates the image of a person who does not neglect precautions, who cannot be blamed for imprudence. Even in the most difficult circumstances, she controls herself and thinks logically. Everything went well in the life of the main character: she grew up in a wealthy family and knew no need, then lived for thirty years in a happy marriage, took place as a wife and mother. “I was very lucky in my life to marry someone I loved”, Violet says [4, p. 384]. Violet’s house is an abode of home comfort, strict rules and spiritual purity.

Archie Balmerino is the second male character in the novel "September". He is an aristocrat who inherited the title of lord, the owner of a large estate in Scotland. Initially, the hero appears to the reader as a young man, overflowing with vital energy and ready to share it with everyone. But the share of a mature man falls hard years of experiences. The worldview of the forty-five-year-old lord is more like an elderly man's vision of the world. R. Pilcher explains this by the fact that just before the end of his military career, he was sent to the conflict zone in Northern Ireland and witnessed innocent people, his comrades, dying there. Coming under heavy fire, Archie survives, but loses his leg and this determines his future lifestyle and occupation. R. Pilcher distinguishes two features in the character of his hero: lack of initiative and impracticality. Archie fails to increase his capital during the war years. The difficult financial situation encourages him and his wife Isabel to organize a small tourist business in their own estate: they meet and accommodate tourists, provide them with food, and engage in conversation.

The care of the estate and the endless chores associated with it take them most of the time. Despite this, they are in awe of their work. Family becomes the meaning of their whole life for them.

Family cohesion becomes the central idea of the novel "September", which runs through the entire work of R. Pilcher as a leitmotif. The writer psychologically subtly reproduces the dynamics of the confusion of thoughts and feelings of the main character – Violet: from anxiety to fear, from emotional tension to a state of panic.

The resolution of the main conflict of the novel and the disclosure of intrigues in the plot take place during a grand party at the Steintons, neighbors of the Airds, on the occasion of the coming of age of their daughter Katie. Violet is among the invited guests. The author describes in detail how diligently an elderly woman was preparing for this celebration, where a meeting of influential neighbors and young people was expected. Violet is guided by the desire to look elegant and well-groomed. R. Pilcher, dressing his heroine in everything expensive, gives a thorough description of her festive toilet.

It was made of expensive fabrics, which can be used to judge the financial situation of an elderly woman. The diamond tiara emphasizes her high social status. The portrait of the heroine is given not through the perception of other characters as a reflection of their impressions of what they saw, but through their own perception, which testifies to the skill of the writer who managed to create the artistic integrity of

the portrait. Violet is not happy with her reflection in the mirror, she is very self-critical and ironic about her own appearance. "Finally, going to the dressing table, I looked at myself critically. Before her was a large, fat old woman, for whom the word "solid" was the most flattering epithet" [4, p. 411]. The ability to make fun of yourself as a sign of intelligence and nobility is considered a typical feature of the English national character.

The main event in the heroine's life was scheduled for September, perhaps that is why R. Pilcher puts the name of this month in the title of his novel. September is a month of fun, feasting, it's a full house of guests.

To this end, the author resorts to the artistic technique of the antithesis. Violet realizes that she has come a long way in life and comes to the realization that the loss of vitality in old age is inevitable. That is why the nostalgic mood of the heroine is felt, her longing for bygone times is shown.

In the novel, Violet Aird's firm intention not to give up on age and not become a burden for her son sounds. The image of Violet Aird personifies the idea of nepotism and cohesion. R. Pilcher managed to create a multifaceted, bright and lively image of a strong, wise elderly woman, in whose veins flows the blood of wild Scottish highlanders, who firmly guards her own independence and the well-being of 60 relatives. It gives children the opportunity to look for themselves, their vocation, teaches them to find solutions to problems, rely on their own strength and make decisions independently, supports their choice, while not trying to protect them from difficulties. In life, we have to face many difficulties, and the younger generation should be ready for them. In her novels, R. Pilcher puts extreme situations in front of the characters, and a person, falling into them, manifests himself unexpectedly from different sides and fully reveals himself as a person. Family and family relationships are the main test of the characters' character. Along with the truthful display of family everyday life, the main thing in the writer's novels is also the image of the spiritual world of people, those subtle and complex relationships that develop in a family setting. In the novel "The Shell Seekers" R. Pilcher continues to strive to explore social and family truths and the causes of people's behavior in complex family conflicts. Here, different characters represent the deployment of the same type of hero and are their different stages in the manifestation of character [5, p. 750]. All the events in the novel are closely interrelated with the life circumstances and the people around her, revealed in the relationship with her.

Penelope is the central face of the novel, is a full-fledged dynamic image of a wise Englishwoman, the keeper of the hearth and family traditions. She has three adult children: her eldest daughter Nancy, busy with her family, her son Noel, who lives for his own pleasure, easily squanders the money he earns and does not think about the purpose of life, and her youngest daughter Olivia, a businesswoman who works as the editor-in-chief of a major London women's fashion magazine. They live a calm, measured life, visiting their mother from time to time. The portrait of a strong woman who survived World War II, who took away her greatest love in life, the writer describes from three angles; from the point of view of Richard Lowmax, who was in love with her at first sight, who, like Olivia, was able to appreciate Penelope's extraordinary beauty, and Nancy's cook, Mrs. Croftway, who considers her ugly. The cook had a very firm opinion about her mistress. In her perception, Penelope had an inflated conceit and honor. Penelope had thick silver hair pulled into a bun low on the back of her head, dark eyes sparkling with animation and fun. She was constantly hung with bags and baskets, dressed in an old dark blue cloth cape, which became a universal thing in her wardrobe and bought from an impoverished captain's widow at the end of the war. In fact, the cape was a navy cloak, which since then has always served her in all occasions of life, from weddings to funerals. The writer creates a vivid and memorable portrait of the heroine, while emphasizing her spontaneity, inner emancipation. R. Pilcher gives his heroine such character traits as cheerfulness, firmness of spirit, generosity, practicality and self-criticism

She is a loving mother, which is reflected in her actions towards children, although only Olivia is able to fully appreciate this. After the death of Penelope Keeling, there is discord among the family members. R. Pilcher, in order to resolve the overdue conflict over the inheritance, continues to narrate in the best traditions of the English classics. She keeps her readers in suspense, forcing them to think what the main character will do in this situation. According to the author, the measured rhythm of the family is disrupted by the news that collectors are interested in the works of Penelope's husband – pre-Raphaelite artist Lawrence Stern. Penelope has preserved his paintings, and among them her favorite canvas "Shell Seekers", which is a family heirloom for her. R. Pilcher masterfully describes the conversations and arguments of

Penelope's children about inheritance. The mercantile mundanity of dreams caused by the material side of children's interest leads them to separation from the family. Nancy and Noel, overwhelmed with a sense of individualism, inner superiority over others, hoping for the highest benefit, try to persuade their mother to sell the family heirloom. Nancy, who sought to receive from her mother not just material goods, but also symbols of prestige and high position in society, accuses her of selfishness and callousness. Penelope gave her eldest daughter everything that her other children had: a sense of security, home comfort, but there was not enough money for expensive things and goodies that Nancy was so drawn to. Her accusations against her mother were groundless, since Penelope, as a loving mother, adequately fulfilled her destiny. "The Shell Seekers" – a reflection novel, a novel revelation, a confession novel. R. Pilcher clearly poses a vital question: what decision will the heroine take to extinguish misunderstandings and disputes between children? The writer touches on the problem of moral choice in the life of the characters.

Conclusion. In the center of Penelope's spiritual quest, the main choice is hers. Kindness, in the understanding of the heroine, is a purely moral concept, and only moral concepts make a person a person. She peacefully resolves the problems that have arisen in the family. The painting should be returned to the museum, where she went with her father since childhood. Awareness of the need to forgive insults comes with age. Forgiveness is one of the steps of spiritual purification. This is very difficult and not given to everyone. Gratitude, overcoming difficulties on the way to achievements, self-belief, integrity, will and endurance fill the life of R. Pilcher's heroes, make them richer and better, help them find their way in life, the right guide in finding the answer to the question of the appointment of a person.

The world is cruel and unpredictable. It is not easy for such feelings as kindness, sensitivity and responsiveness to survive in him. And it is a miracle that they not only survive, but continue to carry out their wonderful mission. Everyone has their own way prepared by fate, but not everyone is given to go through their life path properly. You can not pass by an important and significant event, you need to stop and comprehend what is presented by life. The only "shelter" that allows people to escape from adversity is finding a family and a home.

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Гусейнова А. А. ІНТЕРПРЕТАЦІЯ ЖИТТЯ І ДОЛІ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ ЖІНКИ У ПРОЗІ РОЗАМУНДИ ПІЛЧЕР

Розамунда Пілчер стала однією з найпопулярніших письменниць у світовій літературі. У романах Розамунди Пілчер немає злочинності, жорстокості, великих грошей і всього того, що могло б привернути до неї увагу набагато раніше, а не через десятиліття майже безперервної роботи. Книги письменниці – це красиві та трохи наївні історії про кохання, щастя, дружбу та здобуття себе з обов'язковим щасливим кінцем. Читачеві хочеться читати їх якомога довше, насолоджуючись спокійною та умиротвореною атмосферою, яку створює Пілчер.

У її книгах знайдеться місце кожному: літній дамі, молодій дівчині, зайнятому чиновнику, підлітку, що бунтує, балакучому сусідові, колишньому бізнесмену та іншим героям, яких поєднує вічна цінність – сім'я. У цьому, на думку письменниці, є секрет успіху її романів. Вони про загальнолюдські цінності, про те, що дорого та важливо кожному.

Своєю аудиторією Пілчер вважає дорослих та розумних жінок, у яких у житті було все: пристрасть, флірт, сварки, плітки. Проте зрештою до людини приходять розуміння, що це приносить лише тимчасове задоволення, а головне у житті зовсім інше: сім'я, тепло, ласка, повага і доброта. Книги Розамунди Пілчер приємно читати і в юному віці, вони дарують відчуття комфорту, спокою та усвідомлення того, що все налагодиться.

Творчість Розамунди Пілчер можна розділити на два періоди: ранній та пізній. У першому Пілчер писав переважно невеликі романи, які зараз видаються окремими збірками («Кінець літа. Порожній будинок. Сніг у квітні», «Голоси літа. Бурхливий день. Почати спочатку»). У цих історіях багато романтики та застарілих образів, наприклад, безробітні дівчата, які мріють лише про заміжжя і готові вийти заміж за першого зустрічного або навіть двоюрідного брата.

Після виходу «Шукачів черепашок» Розамунда Пілчер працювала майже виключно над великими романами, що стало для неї своєрідним переходом на новий рівень. Найбільшу популярність здобули твори пізньої творчості: «Вересень», «Повернення додому», «На святвечір». Саме з них слід розпочати знайомство з творчістю письменниці, щоб повною мірою насолодитися її талантом, теплом та щирістю.

Ключові слова: англійська література, письменник, романи, класичні традиції, ХХ ст.