

## **Quest for Identity in Jennifer Egan's A Visit from the Goon Squad**

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### **Abstract**

Individuals struggle in their entire life to learn the one important matter along which they have the ultimate complicated and very close relationship and their own personal self identity. This elusive and fluid idea is complicated to understand, but it act as the important part in human beings life . The path through which our people look for their identity influence the track they are possible to live and function psychologically. The turbulence of perception of identity using time exploded in the novel A Visit from the Goon Squad by our author Jennifer Egan. The characters present in the novel chew on the Quest for identity in life . The much they are wrong or neglect their real selves, the minimum perfectness they are able to realises. Sasha and Bennie practises the well known conversions of identity as that the novel develops itself. In this work our author particularly highlights using the characters that the energetic struggle for their identity in the society is futile.

Quest for identity in A Visit from the Goon Squad is created with good meaningful ideas. Anthropologist Victor de Munck highlights the significance of identities, telling that “the primary function of the “self” is to employ self-consciousness on an identity. Identities are sites of perspective, each is a self-organizing site of cultural models which provide it with dimensionality (de Munck 182).

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on an identity. Identities are sites of perspective, each is a self-organizing site of cultural models which provide it with dimensionality (de Munck 182).

From the point of view of literary critic Lois Tyson presents, “the family...is the most important source of our early emotional experiences...those that affirm our being and those that harm as psychologically...it is in the family that our sense of self and our way of relating to others are first established” (Tyson 83). The sense of self, and simultaneously the family develops the character of a person from childhood and are thus fragile. Tyson continuously tells “our sense of self(can be) insecure or unstable if we are unable to sustain a feeling of personal identity...[or]knowing ourselves” making those individuals “very vulnerable to the influence--for good or ill—of other people”(Tyson 84).Both Bennie’s and Sasha’s hopeless and faithless search for identity completely changes their sense creating them to bear answerless behaviour to which both are not interested to accept.

Sasha’s is compelled to have the paper is favoured by the theory of Holtorf’s that “wear and tear, decay, and disintegration are material manifestations of pastness and have long attracted particular appreciation as such” (Holtorf432). Sasha did not have any valuable reason to weigh the small this piece of paper, but its decomposition points out that it has a history, a past that was valuable enough to hold in mind that Alex keep it in his wallet with him always. There is few matter original regarding this note, suggesting perfect feel and practice.

Anyhow Sasha is rejected to inlet that his internal conscious interest exists. Sasha as a thief steals ,scraps ,and speaks herself; I’ll actually be doing him a favour by getting it out of the way” (Egan 18).Sasha feels different and dislike to have stealing for compulsion be a part of her self identity nor she is willing to accept the underlying encouragements for these impulses. This type of rejection is only because of numerous reason. One of the article of Jennifer Bosson’s presents “Concealing To Belong, Revealing To Be Known: Classification Expectations And Self-Threats Among Persons With Concealable Stigmas on such concepts as homosexuality and ethnicity. Her concept can be extrapolated to apply to A Visit From the Goon Squad, as well. She clearly tells us,

People with concealable stigmas may find themselves’ damned if they do, damned if they don’t when it comes to decisions about revealing their stigmatized identity to others. Should they reveal, they may experience threats to their social status, relationships, or even physical safety; should they conceal, they cannot be known for themselves, for who they really are. (Bosson 1)

According to the views of society Sasha was seen effectively as one of the acquest and one who is unable to function. She has the faith that she has the power to control her and knowing it she can convince herself that she did not have any impulses. Bennie too enjoys an outcast identity. In the “The Gold Cure”, the second chapter he covers his necessity of gold as the result for his erectile which did not function. It comes true that he frustrate for the drawbacks that damage the effect of impressions that others will have of him should they know either of the failure in functioning or his trial to correct it.

Impotential in sex for Bennie is effectively viewed with sympathetic background. In the entire chapter shame and embarrassment is mentioned permanently in different fields exposing Bennie's psychoanalytic problems of bearing an unsecure and oscillated sense of self. Bennie's son's dignity is injured when it is found that he had lice has lice, "hurt him physically, as if the memory were racking over him and leaving gashes" (Egan 31). Bennie's heart was highly injured because of the innocent and fairly occurrence due to the reality that "other people were staring," and brought negative comments about his life.

Difference in the narration allows the readers to learn Sasha's and Bennie's history from various suggestions, the readers comes to understand the characters And unsecure regardless. The audience are highly intelligent to understand how Bennie and Sasha observe them following on the track they are highlighted and are understood by others. In the first chapter, the third person concentrates on "Found Objects," gives a needed preface into her life when she is at a low point, still afflicted by Kleptomania. The difficulties if Sasha's life have damaged her perception of self identity which was understood by the readers at the end. The chapter "Goodbye, My Love," for instance, expressed by Sasha's uncle Ted's opinion that Sasha left her family at her childhood age due to their parents conflict. With a split family, Sasha struggles to find her identity by facing various kind of problems. Tyson presents that, "it is in the family that our sense of self and our way of relating to others are first established" (Tyson 83) With evidence it is proved that Sasha have a problematic and an unstable family background which forces her to kill herself, and forced to do some unlawful activities during the search for her identity .

In the entire lives, Sasha and Bennie searching for their identity. Their perceptions of their identities are very intimately connected to their perceptions of others and they feel impossible to look who they are, without comparing their life with others. This approach to identity oppositely damages self-respect and is an important reason in the internal problems that the characters moves on. In the article "Axis of Criticism Model" highlights, there is the "notion of the looking -glass self" which "posits that self-knowledge is predicated upon society's attitudes towards individuals..." This creates individuals' perceptions of their senses of self to be much strongly influenced by the mentality: "I Know what I should be because I fall short of it" (Shahar 241). Sasha and Bennie always highlights in front of others while they internally realise un comfortable. Sasha "wanted badly to please Coz" and therefore did not bring out all of her thinking and feel on the period of therapy.

Equal growth in the perception of identity is experienced by both Bennie and Sasha. At the closing part both of them Bennie and Sasha have a happy and comfortable life with a new family which is created for a happy life by themselves. The fundamental reason for the conversion is some matter that they strictly reject themselves until they accept a new life. At the end it is brought to the readers that Sasha was married with two children. Sasha's own perception, did not give any solution to the readers. Her daughter projects in the chapter "Great Rock and Roll Pauses" gives message about Sasha's perception of identity on the way that she at present lives and takes care of her family.

The formation of productive, creative projects are channelled by Sasha's rush received from stealing.

The passage of time can have damaging affects on oscillated senses of identity. Bennie's and Sasha's faces various problems, encounters it with how to perceive their own self identity, struggles. Their rejection highlighted wrong and not satisfactory identity in the same period, and the standard of their lives and relative circles suffered at the end. Neither character could find success while they subjugated their true senses of selves. Their search for identity was fooled based on the expectation of the traditional life style. Sasha and Bennie search for their identity by facing various problems in the society. Their search continues though they are tortured by various external forces.

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