

Dystopia in Contemporary British Fiction

Bello Usman¹, Barde Musa Bate²

Senior Lecturer, Department of General Studies, The Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu, Nigeria

Lecturer I, Department of General Studies, The Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu, Nigeria

Abstract: An attempt will be made in this essay to look at the effects of major changes in the environment on human – nature relationships. The essay would also highlight how human beings respond to an abnormal situation. *The Carhullan Army* by Sarah Hall, *The Machine* by James Smythe, and *Watchman* by Ian Rankin presented a world setting in which society was confronted with catastrophic phenomena. The change from the normal to the abnormal has not been smooth. The study is significant because the British society which these novels are portraying has undergone fundamental changes within the twentieth century right into the first decade of the twenty-first century. The Second World War saw the collapse of the British Empire and the concomitant effects of that socio-political and cultural upheaval. It is therefore an urgent matter for literary artists to draw critical attention to the effects of rapid modernisation on man and the environment. Issues such as global warming, insecurity, and techno science need to be properly confronted if our world would be protected. Although there have been studies done on these novels especially, *The Carhullan Army*, the approach has been Eco dystopia and Feminism. This study would use dystopian theory to underline the evolution in the different settings presented in these novels. The thesis is that a dystopic society usually evolves when the dream of a utopian setting is taken to an unmanageable level. In a constructed ideal setting the extremes of a few will tip the balance and then, dystopia and the ensuing chaos will ensue.

Key words: dystopia, flooding, global warming, IRA, technology, utopia.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Carhullan Army by Sarah Hall, *The Machine* by James Smythe, and *Watchman* by Ian Rankin are all contemporary British novels whose major concern is the British society and how this society is being affected by fundamental changes. Both Sarah Hall and James Smythe have speculated on a possible post-apocalyptic British society. They created an abnormal futuristic setting in which a major catastrophe has wreaked a monumental havoc on both the environment and human beings. What we encounter in these two novels is a dystopian world where life is a constant peril. Ian Rankin presented another form of abnormality in his novel. British society is the present but, a present in which life is quite insecure and unpredictable. He highlighted a dystopia that was created by terrorism and a corrupt, immoral and despotic administration. The IRA are waging an insurgency against the British government. The British secret services are racing to prevent the next bomb attack on innocent people. Ian Rankin however, is concerned about the internal workings of British secret services and how truly committed and patriotic they are in protecting the society. In all the novels however,

there is a veritable link in the fact that they are all presenting societies that are far from normal. The novels are specifically, speculating on a Britain in which stability and order has been compromised either as a result of heightened insecurity, or a major environmental catastrophe such as flooding, caused by global warming. Another critical issue that permeates all the novels is the virtual absence of efficient government structures which would normally, restore order in the seeming chaos. All the issues raised in the novels are ingredients of a setting that is dystopic. The intention of the essay is to critically look at ways societies and people tend to be affected when certain fundamental activities by man is taken to extreme levels. The relationship between man and nature is always at the core of literary narratives that tend to speculate about a future scenario in our world. Catastrophes such as flooding and a change in weather conditions such as we encountered in Hall's and Smythe's narratives are a result of the imbalance created in the human-nature relationship. Another critical aspect in these types of narrative is the role that technology plays in the daily life of characters. In *The Machine* for instance, Victor McAdams 'Vic' was emptied of all memories especially, those that his doctor felt would affect him. But inevitably, the whole process rendered him completely empty. He became a shell virtually, emptied of his core essence. He became a vegetable. Meanwhile, his memories have been downloaded into the Machine. In this context, technology has attempted to create a new post human entity from the original one (which was Victor McAdams) that was destroyed in a war. Technology thus, became an instrument used by man to change the natural order of nature. This usually, comes at a heavy price to both man and the environment.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 *Evolution, Modernisation, and Dystopia in the three novels*

The settings in the three novels – *The Carhullan Army*, *The Machine*, and *Watchman* – is highly indicative of a fundamental shift in the way things are. There was a palpable change in both the environment and its relationship with man. Thus, the change brought about by this imbalance in the nature – human relationship has affected everything negatively. The characters within the three novels are struggling to come to terms with these changes. In essence therefore, readers are confronted with a situation in which the need for survival leads to choices which are both hard and deadly. For instance, in *The Carhullan Army*, The Authority enforced birth control measures on the population: “The nurse

clenched her fist around the coil to signify a womb, and she smiled at us. We could all expect heavier periods after insertion, she said, and perhaps a fraction more pain.” (Hall 27). In the absence of a stable government, The Authority in Sarah Hall’s dystopian world decides everything for people in Rith and other parts of the country. According to Dundar:

One of the most central ideas of dystopian imaginings is the regulation of human birth. Everything from controlling population so as not to overpopulate the nation to deciding career patterns (a career is substituted to what one can do to benefit society)... (Dundar 5).

Regulating human birth has proven to be a most difficult option for governments over time. In a dystopian setting however, this decision is usually taken for the people by an authoritarian set-up. The careers of people is also something that would be decided in this abnormal society.

He stopped before he got to the exit and sat down and placed the amputated limb across his knees. I went over and knelt beside him. ‘I was a teacher,’ he said quietly. ‘I was a teacher. A teacher.’ There was a look of shock in his dilated eyes. I knew he could not feel a thing. (Hall 54).

This was an incident that happened in a factory where Sister works for The Authority. The wheel blade of a machine cut off a man’s arm. He was forced to become a factory worker even though in his previous life he was a teacher. In a dystopia round pegs are put in square holes and usually, this will cause problems. All the three novels gave a vital insight into the very near future of a Britain where things have essentially, become chaotic. Dundar went further to state that: “...dystopian literature as a reflection of society...The goal of dystopian novels is to depict a future where society has crumbled and descended into more or less totalitarian states...” (Dundar 6). What we encounter in dystopian fiction is not something removed from the society but rather, a mirror image of a society that has become dysfunctional without any central democratic structures. This dysfunction is quite apparent in the last century when the two major World Wars brought about tremendous physical and psychological damage to both man and nature. “Nonetheless it is generally conceded that in the twentieth century dystopia becomes the predominant expression of the utopian ideal, mirroring the colossal failures of totalitarian collectivism.” (Claeys 108). These failures are indications of an evolution of societies towards a world constantly embroiled in insecurity and uncertainty. The core position that techno science enjoys in the scheme of things tend to negatively affect other spheres of human endeavour such as the humanities. Through advanced research in genetic engineering man is now attempting to create a post human being who will either live forever or will live a very long life through organ replacement and enhancement techniques. These are scary scenarios. The age of the computer where the very essence of a human being can be downloaded into it while, the physical human body is undergoing a sort of rehabilitation is already upon the human

race. Another aspect of a dystopian setting is the fact that they are usually filled with horrific scenarios. However, “...the emphasis of the work is not horror for its own sake, but on forewarning.” (Malak 10). This is therefore, an advanced warning to readers that there will be a major catastrophe if nothing is done to avert it at the present. Genetic engineering with all its potentials for improvement in the area of regenerative medicine could spiral out of control if specific guidelines are not laid out for its research. The extreme application of technology such as we encounter in Smythe’s *The Machine* is a timely warning to a world that has been deeply enamoured with the computer and its components such as handset. *The Machine* highlighted the dystopian over-reliance on a computer device which can lead to catastrophes like murder and dementia. Technology can also deceive postmodern man into thinking that the core essence of the naturally created human being can be replicated using computer simulations or other advanced procedures. Again the novel clearly underscored the issues at stake – the destructive nature of over-reliance on technology.

Dystopias dramatize the external conflict between individual choice and social necessity: the individual resenting the replacement of his private volition by compulsory uniformitarian decisions made by an impersonal bureaucratic machinery... (Malak 10).

In settings such as the ones we have in these three novels there are clear references to incidences where decisions are taken on/for individuals without recourse to what they want or whether their input to the matter is critical or otherwise. All the major characters in the three novels are not exactly positive or assertive thus, providing a sort of hope for the reader. This is so because they are contending with both external and internal forces that render them ineffectual.

III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The essay will be using dystopian theory in the analysis of the three novels – *The Carhullan Army* by Sarah Hall, *Watchman* by Ian Rankin, and *The Machine* by James Smythe. The settings of these three novels can be described as dystopic in the sense that fundamental changes have occurred due to global warming, terrorism, and the misuse of technology. Each of these life-changing phenomena has had a deep impact on man and nature. There is a close relationship between dystopia and utopia. In all the three novels readers would note that it was in the quest for an ideal life – or utopia – that the dystopic situation came about. This presupposes that a dystopian scenario usually ensues when man is in search for utopia. Literary artists such as Rankin, Hall, and Smythe are issuing a timely warning that in his search for an ideal life man’s activities could have a catastrophic effect not only on the environment but also on his very existence on the planet.

3.1 Utopia and Dystopia

These two terms are closely related as has been pointed out. We see the latter occurring when the search for the former has

failed. Utopia is regarded as a place, condition or state that is ideal especially in line with issues such as government and politics, laws, culture and the general conditions of life. In terms of setting, a utopia reflects a perfect balance between nature and man. This condition is usually sought after by human beings. However, it is naïve to expect perfection in an otherwise imperfect world as pointed out by Claeys: “Most utopias however do not demand or anticipate perfection as such, but accept considerably improved behaviour as an attainable norm.” (Claeys 108). Looking for something better usually leads man to a catastrophe. In our reading of these novels Claeys pointed out that:

There is of course something in the argument that, just as one person’s terrorist is another’s freedom fighter, so is one person’s utopia another’s dystopia. Indisputably, thus, whether a given text can be described as a dystopia or utopia will depend on one’s perspective of the narrative outcome. Nonetheless it is generally conceded that in the twentieth century dystopia becomes the predominant expression of the utopian ideal, mirroring the colossal failures of totalitarian collectivism. (Claeys 108).

The idea of utopia could therefore be based on an individual’s perspective as Claeys has observed above. The underlying factor is however, the negative aftereffect of what has followed the dream of perfection and improvement such as the massive chaos that ensued during the 1st and 2nd World Wars. In the search for advancement and improvement man has created the atomic bomb. The rise of the city and industrialization has led to intense consumerism in the latter part of the last century and in the current century.

Dystopias essentially deal with power: power as the prohibition or perversion of human potential; power in its absolute form...tolerates no flaws in the pattern it imposes on society. Dystopia’s thus show, in extreme terms, power functioning efficiently and mercilessly to its optimal totalitarian limit. Interestingly, war or foreign threats often loom in the background, providing the pretext to join external tension with internal terror. (Malak 10).

The centrality of a controlling force in a dystopian setting is of paramount importance in our attempt to understand and properly situate this theory. The totalitarian control of man by an individual or a small select group tends to perpetuate and enhance the abnormality of the dystopian setting. In the novels under study we see the centrality of power and absolute control in both Jackie and the Authority in *The Carhullan Army*, and the secret services in *Watchman* and the Machine and the government in *The Machine*. “Dystopian societies, consumed and controlled by regressive dogmas, appear constantly static: founded on coercion and rigid structures, the system resists change and becomes arrested in paralysis” (Malak 11). A typical case in one of the novels under study is *The Carhullan Army*. Both the farm in Carhullan and the town of Rith have become quite stagnant. Nothing new and fundamental seems to be taking place other

than the constant drudgery of life in Rith, and the dictatorial leadership of Jackie and her Carhullan army.

IV. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

All the three novels – *The Carhullan Army*, *The Machine*, and *Watchman* are set in Britain. *Watchman* is more contemporaneous because it was narrating events that are still making headlines in Britain and Ireland. The other two novels are set in a futuristic Britain. The events in the novels gives us a picture of a world that has undergone an evolution.

4.1 General Setting of the Novels

Each of the authors in these novels is highlighting a scenario in Britain. The picture is of a dire situation that has evolved into a dire condition and that people and other life forms are at risk living within their individual communities. Ian Rankin in *Watchman* is presenting the political problem between the British government and the IRA. In a bid to counter the constant terrorist attacks on civilian soft targets within London, the British secret services are mounting surveillance on suspected targets and their supposed links to global terrorists and IRA cells. Rankin gave the reader a rare glimpse into the seedy underworld of espionage. He also underlines the corruption of top officers within the British secret services. These scenarios set the stage for the unveiling of a world that is clearly distorted not only for the main character Miles Flint, but also for those around him and the whole country. While the internal wrangling borne out of hypocrisy and secrecy is being played out, deeply embedded IRA terrorist cells are detonating bombs in public places and civilian casualties are mounting. Thus, in Rankin’s Britain we encounter a populace that are living in a state of palpable fear, uncertainty, and death. The government on its part does not seem to know what these select group of saboteurs within the secret service are up to. In *The Carhullan Army* we encounter a Britain that has undergone a complete transformation due to the effect of global warming and war. The central government has collapsed and the Authority has taken over. There is also another community which has been in existence before the catastrophe that the rest of the country faced. The Carhullan farm is a utopian community set up by Jackie and Veronique for women only. This matriarchal setting promises a utopia for women from the patriarchal control of the rest of British society. For many years the farm was virtually, ignored by the outside British society. They were viewed as an odd community but, they were allowed to live their own separate existence. When the flood came and the vast majority of Britain was submerged in water and there was a total lack of oil to manage large industries and to power vehicles; rationing of basic amenities and services became the norm. Meanwhile, due to Britain’s involvement in foreign conflicts, the army and the government are so weak that a new power called The Authority took over the running of the country. The weather is highly unpredictable. The rains come suddenly and heavily thus, changing Britain’s climate to a hot tropical temperature with a monsoon – like rains. The Carhullan farm was situated

on a high ground. Its temperature and general condition is much better than the rest of Britain. When Sister reached the farm she met a situation in which the earlier utopia envisaged for the settlement was virtually absent. A dystopia such as the one she left behind in Rith was quite evident at the Carhullan farm. Jackie has assumed the absolute position of an unquestioned leader together with her select group of women soldiers. *The Machine* highlights a situation that is much the same with the one the reader encounters in *The Carhullan Army* especially, in terms of the weather conditions and the privations of living in a post-apocalyptic Britain. The weather in Britain has become a tropical one with heavy monsoon rains. Due to the effects of global warming, Britain experienced catastrophic flooding and most of the country was under water. In this novel we read of a Britain that has been fighting a war in Iran and wounded soldiers are brought home and are used for an experiment which was sanctioned by the government. Victor 'Vic' McAdams was a Captain in the British Army who was wounded in War in Iran. In order to treat his Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) he was attached to a machine and some of his memories were wiped off, while others were altered. In the end however, the machine destroyed him and he became a vegetable. This state led his wife Beth to try to reverse his condition through the use of the same machine that initially caused the damage. The central thesis in this narrative however, is that over dependence on techno science can lead to catastrophic consequences for man and even the environment.

4.2 War and Insurgencies in the Novels

In a dystopian society there is chaos, catastrophes, diseases and the natural environment has turned harsh. Man is usually at the receiving end – both from the elements and from his fellow human beings. In all the novels under consideration there is war, insurgencies, suffering and death. These are caused by man. "He said that they gave him heavy stuff after the IED went off and put its shrapnel in his shoulder and his neck..." (Smythe 17). Victor 'Vic' McAdams was wounded in a war in Iran. He was brought home and he became a subject for an experiment by the government. The chaos can be seen in the attack on people by insurgents in London:

He was fumbling for the bunch of keys in his trouser pocket when, staggering backwards, he began to choke, his tongue swelling to fill his throat, brain squeezed with blood. The professional within him knew in a final moment of lucidity that he did not have time to resist the cheese-wire which now melted through his neck...The Arab, job done, did not even smile this time. (Rankin 16)

London is a scene of bombings and silent killings by underground terrorist groups. The mercilessness and relentlessness of the insurgency tend to underscore seriousness of the situation. In this type of society death is a constant possibility.

No one had been killed, that was the miracle. But over the next ten days everyone became more cautious than ever. An

empty shoebox could not sit for long in an open rubbish-bin without one of the bomb disposal teams being summoned. (Rankin 38).

The uncertainty and the fear of the unknown was quite palpable on the streets. Everyone was on edge and the security agents such as Miles Flint were kept busy trying to figure out where the next attack or bomb blast may likely come from. War and other calamities are also evident in *The Carhullan Army*. "...and that an ongoing war is presently being fought. Previous wars and calamities have led to a collapse of the old government..." (Kisro 1). In this novel also there is a raging war being fought by Britain and this has affected the general scheme of things in the country. Jackie organized her women to move against Rith. She trained her women in the art of war. She first of all sent a veiled message to the inhabitants of Rith through the use of a thorny flower and then emptied Carhullan farm of its inhabitants: "For two weeks we made night runs into town. We were not caught. We did not remain there long enough to witness the cutting's discovery, or reveal ourselves in the process of delivering them...I was not among those who escorted the non-combatants off the farm." (Hall 194-197). Jackie's search for power was the reason for her insurgent attack on Rith and the headquarters of The Authority. She was not ready to relinquish her authority at Carhullan farm to The Authority when she intercepted The Authority's signal and learnt about what they have decided to do. During the attack on Rith Jackie was fatally wounded: "Megan and I carried her inside, away from the line of fire. Her midriff was soaked red, and though she had taken hold of the pale fletches of her own ribcage, she could not hold her flesh sufficiently closed." (Hall 206). In a dystopian society war, death, and a general destruction is apparent. Jackie was killed along with her women soldiers due to her greed and lust for power.

4.3 Weather and Environmental Conditions in the Novels

Weather and the state of the environment are critical factors in any dystopian setting. In these novels the effects of global warming has led to flooding and high heat waves in the country. The environment has been affected in terms of soil yield. Thus, the populace depend on imported can foods from other countries.

I still recall the fresh ticking of hail on my face in March as I stood to catch the bus to school. And autumn blusters, when objects large and small were bellowed back and forth. The deep-vein chill of January; my hands and feet numb under fleece and wool...You don't believe the world can really be broken or that anything terrible will happen during your lifetime. Even the rain is different now; erratic, violent, not the constant grey drizzle of old postcards, jokes, and television reports. Its rain that feels wounded. There's seldom any snow on the fells..." (Hall 6).

Sister reminisced about the weather in the dystopian world of Hall's narrative. The weather circle had dramatically changed. It is no longer the weather she grew up knowing. Everything

has changed and had become erratic and not constant like in the past.

I stood up from the concrete stand and looked around the village. As I moved something cat-sized flashed away into the ditch next to the cottages – a fox, or a badger, I wasn't sure which. I suddenly realised the hedgerows and trees were full of birds. They were not singing but every few moments one would flutter out of the greenery and flutter back in again. They were yellow-eyed, red-beaked. I did not recognise them. (Hall 34).

The eerie atmosphere that Sister encountered in the village on her way to the Carhullan farm is quite indicative of how the dystopian situation within the novel had affected the natural environment. The birds are behaving as if they knew something was terribly wrong. Their physical appearance has also been radically changed. They are a new species that have evolved as a result of the emergence of this dystopia. The weather condition is the same in *The Machine*:

Beth can't sleep because of the rain. It's so heavy that it sounds unholy: the windows shaking, the beating of it against the ground outside. Looking down from her bedroom window to the Grasslands she can see that they've become a slop, as the run-off from the hard ground has caused the water to accumulate there. (Smythe 43).

The heavy monsoon-like rains are new to Britain. These type of rains are common in Tropical climates. The effect of global warming has changed the weather condition and thus the raising sea level and the heavy rains combine to cause real havoc to the environment.

The next day is hotter still. The predictions were for it to nudge up in to the high thirties, which is more and more common. Beth dresses the same, coats herself in antiperspirant. She drinks glass after glass of water to keep from dehydrating. (Smythe 90).

In Smythe's dystopian England the weather tend to get worse and worse. Dire predictions are given of the continued spike in temperatures. The situation does not seem to be improving. Daily living and chores are becoming increasingly difficult and tedious for Beth.

During the days, Collins wandered through the fields and around the farm, keeping himself to himself. He had agreed to allow Miles an amount of freedom, and so Miles, too, walked the farm, inspecting the carcasses of rusting cars and machinery, watching the wooden planks of the cow-shed crumble to dust beneath his palm, rotten with woodworm. Everything here had run down in accordance with the rules laid down by nature itself. Soon, the rusting scrap would be covered by earth and grass, wild seedlings of oats and barley, bright flowers. (Rankin 177-178).

The internal insecurity occasioned by the IRA insurgency against the British led to the abandonment of farms. The palpable decay is quite obvious to Miles Flint when he ran

into a farm being managed by the IRA as a safe house for its operatives. Everything on the farm shows the abnormality of the situation. Things are running to seed due to man's heinous activities. Nature seems to be in the process of rejuvenating itself out of the decay and rust.

4.4 State of Government and its Institutions in the novels

Anyone who had not participated in the census was now off record. Anyone living beyond the designated sectors was considered autonomous, alien. They were discounted. They had chosen not to help with the recovery, and they were no longer part of the recognised nation. The Authority simply called them Unofficials. (Hall 15).

In Hall's dystopia the old government has collapsed and The Authority is in charge. They conducted a census of people in the post-apocalyptic Britain and then put them in quarantine. The Carhullan farm and all the women there are not part of the new government of The Authority. The implications of this is that the basic rights of the people are curtailed.

The Carhullan farm is initially presented as a utopia – in contrast to the totalitarian city of Rith – but soon it morphs into a suppressing political structure itself. Initially, the protagonist Sister is reborn and liberated in Carhullan, but she ends up following another authority, albeit a matriarchal one. (Kisro 2).

Kisro is here reiterating the obvious fact that although, Sister has successfully escaped one form of dystopia, she had entered into another one where Jackie is the sole authority.

"Miles Flint was a watchman. It was his job to look and to listen, and then report back to his section chief, nothing more." (Rankin 8). Flint is a spy and he is working for the British secret service. His world is one that is very dangerous and uncertain. It is also a world that is full of deceit and intrigue. It is an abnormal world where death is an ever real possibility when any mistake can be deadly.

'But you see, it goes back a lot further than that, a whole lot further. It goes back nearly five hundred years. Ireland was Catholic, you see, just when it shouldn't have been. That was its only mistake. And the people wouldn't change their religion, so Protestants had to be brought in instead, and they were given the land which had belonged by right to the Catholics' (Rankin 173).

The above summarizes the Irish problem which Rankin's novel is highlighting and which has led to many deaths in Britain. The IRA's spate of bombings created chaos and a deep sense of uncertainty and insecurity in the whole country.

They've blurred his face and down-tuned his voice, like he's a criminal or a snitch; only it was so that he himself would never see it by accident, post-treatment and start to ask questions...They made an assessment and offered Vic the Machine. (Smythe 49-50).

In the technologically-controlled dystopic world created by Smythe computers are used on humans to wipe memories that are seen to be problematic especially, to patients such as Vic who is suffering from trauma as a result of war. The government has approved the use of the Machine on Vic and later others like him.

She knows that he's not being bathed enough. The only times she's complained they've told her to be here more, to do it herself. They're understaffed. They aren't, they tell her, paid enough. (Smythe 60).

In this dystopia it is apparent that the government does not care for the welfare of both its workers and other citizens especially, those like Vic who fought for the country and are supposed to be treated as heroes.

V. CONCLUSION

The three novels speculated about a Britain in which a major catastrophe had occurred. Global warming, insecurity and war. These events has created a dystopia and human and nature balance has been disrupted. In *The Carhullan Army* we see how Carhullan farm degenerated into a dystopian setting in direct contradiction to its earlier ideal of creating a perfect place for women to escape patriarchal domination. Jackie's totalitarian rule gradually changed the Carhullan farm into an abnormal society just like the dystopian setting at the city of Rith. In a sense however, Carhullan farm has always been a dystopia in that it practices the same vices that the founders of the farm – Jackie and Veronique – are purporting to reject; the women in Carhullan farm used men abominably – as sex objects. Jackie also refused to allow the men to join her army because she does not want any challenge to her powers over the other women. A society totally populated by women can be nothing other than abnormal. It is therefore, pertinent to note that Carhullan farm has always been a dystopic and sick

society just like Rith. *The Machine* highlights the abnormality in the absolute reliance of techno science. When the government approved the use of the Machine on Victor McAdams, it shows how man has descended to the level of depending on computers for a cure of deadly ailments. Unfortunately, in this dystopian scenario technology woefully failed. Victor McAdams became a vegetable robbed of his human essence. The government that approved the experiment abandons him to the mercy of an inefficient health system. *Watchman* underscores the chaos, uncertainty, violence and death of terrorist attacks in densely populated areas. The IRA insurgency has been a nightmare to the British government and especially, to secret service agents in the field such as Miles Flint. The novel highlights the corruption, hypocrisy, secrecy, and sabotage that is inherent in the British secret services. These scenarios are typically dystopic – far from an ideal setting. Miles Flint had to struggle for both his life, family, and work in this abnormal world.

WORKS CITED

- [1] Claeys, Gregory. "The Origins of Dystopia: Wells, Huxley and Orwell." *The Cambridge Companion to Utopian Literature*. Claeys, Gregory. Ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. 107-134. Print.
- [2] Dundar, Hayri. *Dystopia as a Vital Peek into the Future: The importance of dispatching antiquated morals and establishing new ethics*. Diss. Hogs School, Gavle, 2013. 5-6. Print.
- [3] Hall, Sarah. *The Carhullan Army*. London: Faber and Faber Ltd, 2007. Print.
- [4] Johan, Kisro. *Finding Dystopia in Utopia: Gender, Power and Politics in The Carhullan Army*. Diss. Stockholm University, 2014. 1-2. Print.
- [5] Marks, Peter. "Imagining Surveillance: Utopian Visions and Surveillance Studies." *Surveillance and Society*. 3.2/3: (2005): 222-239. Print
- [6] Rankin, Ian. *Watchman*. London: Orion Books Ltd, 1988. Print.
- [7] Smythe, James. *The Machine*. London: HarperCollins Publishers, 2013. Print.