

do”, adding, “it means that Chris is a man like other men” (p. 66). This paints a vivid picture of the acceptable, maybe frowned-upon, societal norms that prevailed within a capitalist era, whereby the economically dependent female is meant to put up with infidelity.

Mackay additionally states that “the idea of woman as an artifact recurs when Jenny contrasts frumpy Margaret with Kitty’s beautiful *objet*, a white nymph in a black bowl [...] To Chris, Jenny tells us, the ideal woman is a speechless, senseless white statue” (p. 130). This depiction epitomizes women as powerless and subservient to men, therefore suggesting that masculinity has shaped many ideals in its favour, which are sometimes perpetuated by women themselves. Jenny herself initially “hated her [Margaret] as the rich hate the poor” (p. 32). Kitty develops ill feelings towards Margaret when she finds out that the latter is crucial to Chris’ existence after he returns to Baldry Court. Margaret purely because of the lower-class she represents, challenges Kitty’s position, for she is “the idealised woman who is an object of worship because of the (male) economic success that she represents” (p. 132). Her representation of the ideal is reinforced at her encounter with Dr. Anderson by the end of the novel. “Beautiful women of her type lose, in this matter of admiration alone, their otherwise tremendous sense of class distinction; they are obscurely aware that it is their civilizing mission to flash the jewel of their beauty before all men, so that they shall desire it and work to get the wealth to buy it, and thus be seduced by a present appetite to a tilling of the earth that serves the future” (p. 154). Women are portrayed as the goal that men work towards, meaning no more than material gain, in this particular spectrum, therefore imprisoning men in an economic cycle that will serve the future. Women also seem to reinforce male servitude in another way, according to Mackay, who claims that “the women in the novel have condemned Chris to a return to the front” and thus taking “an instrumental role in ensuring the continuation of male violence”, perpetuating “the false values of public