

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES IN ALBEE'S *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?*

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Abstract: This paper tries to provide a critical reading of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?(1962), which is one of the most popular and at the same time, the most controversial of Edward Albee's plays, especially with regard to its main female characters, Martha and Honey in the American patriarchal society of the time. Several themes including women's lives, marriage, children, love, hatred, sex and sterility, games and illusion are mainly represented in this play. The paper attempts to delve into the characteristics of these two women with a view to the situation they were living in including the state of their marriage. Employing this information, the paper hopes to draw an analogy between Martha and Honey.