

# Transgression Of Discretion; A Critical Study Of Veronika Decides To Die (1999) By Paulo Coelho

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## Abstract

Human beings are born free. They feel more relax and can perform efficiently if they live upto their choice. Every kind of transgression consequences in unwanted ending results. Depriving an individual of free will and choice is like robbing a person of his status of humanity. This research paper is going to examine the impacts of transgression of discretion on individuals when they are imposed. The paper also demonstrates the impacts of transgressing an individual's life and career. This transgressing refers to the rejection of someone's own decisions or their ability of decision-making and free choice. Liberal humanism, Free Choice Theory is taken as the conceptual framework of the paper. The first hand data is obtained from Paulo Coelho's (1999) novel, Veronika Decides to Die, while secondary data is collected from books, library, journals and other internet sources. The study uses the approach of qualitative research. Selected data from the novel by Paulo Coelho is examined through the lens of close reading. This research paper also illustrates how different characters of the novel recognize the meaning of their present life/status after having got the freedom of choice and the right of making their own decisions.

**Keywords:** Transgression, Discretion, Individualism, Freedom.

## Introduction

Every person wants a world of their own where they remain the only king and owner of that world. Fortunately, every human being wishes and struggles for freedom, but unfortunately, many transgresses others' discretions. Recognition of and reverence for an individual's volitional rights and free will is too much necessary. Not only does this recognition allow them to take their decisions openly, it will also enable them to develop career and a successful future. When people think they are free to decide for themselves and have the freedom to live according to their own circumstances, they are contended in their lives and lead peaceful lives. On the other hand, if man is stripped of his volition, free will and choice, he will suffer not only physically but also mentally. Their lives will

be disrupted and careers ruined. As it happened to the main characters of the novel Veronika Decides to Die, where on some of the characters 'will' has enforced and their choice and free will was snatched, while to other characters, volition was negated by the family or society.

In this modern age, man has the right to choose and the freedom to decide how to live his life on his own terms. This freedom and free will are the keys to a good life. But it has been seen that a person's basic rights to free will and choice are sometimes taken away. This taking away of basic rights will have terrible effects on a person's job, future, and life. It's in our nature to care about what other people do, what choices they make, and what happens in their lives. Parents and other family members worry a lot about the lives and jobs of their children. People may not be able to

live their lives on their own terms and conditions because of social rules and other things. Researchers have looked at indecision and how it affects people. In the same way, a lot of research has been done on what happens when you try to tell people what to do. But what happens when a person's will is totally taken away from them? How important is free will and the right to choose for a person to find out what the point of life is? These are the points what this study is looking at. This research paper is about what happens when you take away a person's right to choose and how much that person suffers as a result. This study also shows how important it is to have the freedom to choose and the ability to make decisions in life. The study also shows how important free will and motivation are for living a successful life and reaching your goals.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The current study focuses on transgression of discretion in the novel, *Veronica Decides to Die*. The current study uses the tool of "close reading" for the textual analysis of the selected novel. This study shows how enforcement and volition occur and the after-effects of this transgression of discretion.

### **Research Questions**

1. How transgression of discretion happens to the main characters negated in the context of *Veronika Decides to Die*?
2. What are the outcomes of the transgression of discretion on the lives and careers of the main characters of *Veronika Decides to Die*?

### **Significance of the Study**

Man has always fought for the ability to make his own decisions and exercise his own free will. Man must contend with societal and religious constraints in this world. The results of this study will reveal the consequences of restricting people's freedom of action. The psychological impact of these limitations is often overlooked

but no less significant than the physical ones. An individual's freedom of choice should be respected. If we take the time to listen to and value our youth, young adults, and adults, we may not only keep them from fooling us, but also offer them the confidence and encouragement they need to succeed in life.

### **Literature Review**

Dijksterhuis et al. (2006) found that rapid decisions generally resulted in favorable ones since people weren't distracted by various options or overthinking. Facione and Gittens (2016) emphasized that two systems influence human decision-making. Logic-based "argument-making" is the first. Decision-making variables and evidence drive argumentation. Think "heuristically" next. Decision-making often uses efficient and dependable cognitive shortcuts.

Beresford and Sloper (2008) found that decision-making involves two perspectives. This was named "dual process view of thinking" (p. 9). These ideas broaden the information processing perspective.

Manning (2009) writes, "psychological and neuroscience evidence that thinking is the product of two separate systems of reasoning" (p. 3). The first, rule-based strategy allows gradual, cautious judgment based on facts and verification, according to him. The second, an associative system, produces speedy decisions without conscious control. He also believes that we all think we base our decisions on facts and evidence, yet our associative mechanism influences the rule-based system.

Some people's criteria are uniform while others are quite customized. Everyone will choose. Everyone can have a distinct perspective on certain topics. Schwartz (2005) believes decisions define us. Choice lets us express ourselves (p. 104). We select our diet, clothing, and lifestyle. Thus, it gives us social identities. Man with a good choice can be considered well, on the other hand a person having bad choice may

be not seemed so important. The preference for freely choosing is so strong that choices are preferred even when the control that they offer is illusory, as is evidenced by the large body of research on illusion of control.

The capacity to decide or indecision is not certain in a person. Sometimes, situation becomes so complicated that it becomes difficult for many people to choose among many decisions or to make any appropriate decision. Pejsachowicz and Toussaert (2016) see this phenomenon as "one of the main justifications for allowing for indecisiveness stems from the complex nature of the objects of choice (such as goods with multiple attributes or lotteries with a large support), which the decision maker may find hard to compare" (p. 2). Real-life issues are typically complex, making it hard to make effective decisions. A person may not have these issues. Situations can also produce critical situations. Auman (1964) notes that "decision problems might be extremely complex, too complex for "intuitive insight" and our individual might prefer to make no decision at all in these problems" (p. 445). Complexity may cause mistakes. In such complex situations, many people struggle to make timely decisions. This volitional incapacity has two basic causes. First, there is no hint whatsoever, to make a decision. Second, they may want to save themselves from making any wrong choice. Thus, people sometimes are unable to make any decision at all.

## Research Design

The qualitative research method was used for this study. Berg (2001) says this about qualitative research: "Quality is the what, how, when, and where of something. It is its core and atmosphere. The meanings, concepts, definitions, traits, metaphors, symbols, and descriptions of things are all part of qualitative study" (p. 3). Close reading is the way used in this research to study the data from the chosen novel. Close reading is

a way of analyzing literature that looks at the details of a section or text to figure out what it means on a deeper level. The novel, *Veronika Decides to Die* by Paulo Coelho is what the study is about. The material and data sources for this study are split into two groups. The book by Paulo Coelho is the first-hand information used in this study. Secondary data is gathered from other related books, articles, journals, magazines, and internet sources. The main goal of this research is to study and understand the lives of the different characters in the chosen book and how their indecision and trying to force their will on others affects them.

## Close Reading as an Analysis Method

To analyze a literary text is to know the various components that make it up; to identify the relationship among the various elements and to recognize the relationship of the components to the whole. The purpose of the literary analysis is the comprehension of a literary work as a coherent and complete whole. The present researcher chose close reading method for the analysis and interpretation of the selected paragraphs from the novel, *Veronika Decides to Die*. The researcher has used Barnett and Cain's model of close reading as a data analysis tool. Text of the selected paragraphs from the novel was taken for interpretation and for highlighting the importance of choice and free will and its crucial role in the lives and careers of individuals. It also showed the importance of self-realization in the lives of the chosen characters.

Close reading is the strategy which enables a person to read the text carefully and purposefully. When an individual reads the text again and again, they come to know the purpose of the author and the meaning in the text. Close reading, in the current research, has enabled the researcher to reflect on the basic sense and message of choice, free will, and the capacity to make one's own decisions in the text. It also enabled the researcher to study and understand

the characters' inner feelings and their deep relationship with each other.

### **ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

This portion includes detailed analysis and interpretation of the textual data. Various selected paragraphs from the novel *Veronika Decides to Die* have been analyzed and interpreted by the researcher with complete information. The researcher has used plain and simple terminology for the purpose of clear interpretation. The actual text of the selected novel is enclosed in double quotation marks for the convenience of the readers. Moreover, it is written in italic form to distinguish it from analysis and interpretation. The researcher has marked the interpreted text under various headings for particular purposes. This labelling is hoped to draw readers' attention and provide them a kind of clarity to concentrate on different themes drawn on the basis of the model of interpretation the research model, which can be considered essential for the different dimensions of the analysis. Every analysis begins with a quick reference to the paragraph so that readers can understand what the paragraph is about, who the characters are, and what they are doing.

#### **Parental Supremacy**

"She stopped in the middle .....  
Have to pay for this" (Coelho, 1999, p. 39)

#### **Reference to the Context**

In mental hospital Veronika was facing new situation and she was dealing with different kinds of people. In these lines, she was now thinking, standing in the garden of the mental hospital, her life is useless because the life she was living is not her own life rather an imposed life by her parents.

#### **Analysis and Interpretation**

The main theme discussed in the above paragraph is the effects of an imposed life on an individual.

In this paragraph, Veronika was thinking about her useless life. She was of the view that life was not generous to her. Everything in her life was stupid and absurd. She never lived the life she wanted rather, her life was imposed on her by her parents and she accepted that imposed life because of two main reasons. First, she considered her parents more experienced and mature in life and second, she accepted that imposed life as due to this, her parents continued to love her.

The setting of the above paragraph is the icy garden of the Villette. She was standing there in the cold as she was feeling bitterness, harshness and was desperate. There, in the dining hall, she had just faced an awkward situation, in which a group of mad people ridiculed her when she was just passing by them. She did not control the unfavorable situation and came out from the hall without jacket and stood in the cold. A nurse came out and asked her to wear the jacket but she refused. The style of these lines is sad and remorseful in which Veronika was remembering as how she was spending her life without achieving her will and dream.

Two characters are being mentioned in these paragraphs. First one is Veronika, who is dejected and standing outside in the cold icy weather, reflecting her inner feelings of detachment. The second one is the nurse but there is no clear cut description of her in the selected paragraph. Point of view of the paragraphs is 3<sup>rd</sup> person omniscient narration. Through the narration the readers come to know that Veronika now gives up her dream because she now wants the attention of her parents which she could not get. Neither has she pleased her parents nor achieved her goal of becoming a pianist.

She was of the view that her life is useless and everything happening in her life was stupid and meaningless. She was thinking that this life was not the life she wanted; this was not the life she desired to live and this was not the life she

wanted to choose for herself. It was a life, imposed on her by her parents through leaving her profession (Research Question 1). That is the major reason that she was tired of her life, attempted a failed suicide and now she is there in the mental hospital, living with the mad people (Research Question 2).

She was also thinking about her indecisive nature that always made her unable to make correct decisions on the right time. In childhood, she was thinking that it was too early to choose for herself what suits her and she does not want to make her own decision because she considered herself inexperienced. Now in youth, she was thinking that it was too late to make her choices and to change herself and her decisions regarding her life. According to her, she has no other way other than that and she accepted that life which was imposed on her by her parents. The reason behind accepting the decision made by her parents about her life was that, she was considering her parents; especially her mother more experienced (Research Question 1).

She was now thinking that her life has gone waste because she has given up her desires and choices for the joy of her parents. She accepted the decisions of her parents in order to achieve their attention and love. But the imposed life proved to be fatal for her and soon she was fed up with her life and then decided to kill herself because she was not happy and content. She gave up her desire of becoming a pianist because her mother told her to do so and the reason that her mother gave her for this was that it was not an earning job “forget about being a pianist, and go and study law, that’s the profession of the future” (p. 85). Her mother was forcing her to forget about being a pianist because she was considering that it was not an earning job and in future, she will ruin her life. Her mother was giving this opinion to her for her betterment. She recommended to her the profession of law because she will make her future bright by

earning money and publicity. Veronika did so because she was thinking that her mother had enough experience of life to understand the reality (Research Question 2).

### **Blessings of the Parent Situation**

“To say goodbye..... Their own neurosis and psychoses” (Coelho, 1999, pp. 47-48).

### **Reference to the Context**

In these lines, Zedka came to know that today was her last astral journey, part of her treatment, and will be released very soon from the mental hospital. Zedka started thinking that it will be very difficult for her to leave the Vilete because she knew that outside the Vilete, life is hard and full of responsibilities as compared to the mental hospital.

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

These paragraphs are narrated in the form of 3<sup>rd</sup> person narration, through the mouth of Zedka. Zedka is a round and an important character, who was admitted into the mental hospital because of her chronic depression. Her treatment was to be completed soon and according to the doctors she will be released in few days. Through these lines the readers come to know that she was not willing to leave mental hospital because here, she felt free and was allowed to do whatever she wanted. The style of the lines is somewhat sad, sympathetic and philosophical which reflects on the dejected inner feelings of Zedka, who was feeling sad to leave the hospital. The paragraph is the rising action in the story of Zedka, which creates a kind of tension that either she will survive the last stage of her treatment or not.

The main idea discussed in the paragraph is that madness means freedom. To be in freedom means to have choices and to have choices means to do what you want, to say what you can and no one will mind it because you are mad. While

outside the hospital, you have to face different rules and regulations and restrictions. One character is being mentioned in these paragraphs that is Zedka, who was talking to Veronika. The narrator is describing the thoughts and ideas revolving in the mind of Zedka about the consequences of leaving the Villette. Because, today was her last astral journey (the process when soul leave the body) and her treatment here will be complete and soon she will be able to go and leave the mental hospital. The astral journey process helped her to come to the real life and face the reality of life rather than to escape from it. The setting is the ward of the Villette where the patients live.

Zedka was suffering from chronic depression. The reason behind her disease was a rejection from her beloved. A man was hidden in her past or rather it was her fantasy. Her love affair was different from others as she was determined to achieve the impossible love. She was in love with a married man living across the ocean. She accepted her role of his mistress but she was failed to achieve his love and attention and then she came back her home. After that, she started her normal life, joined her job again and then married after two years. But one day when she saw the statue of the Italian poet Preseren, it brought back to her the image of her first lover and then she realized that she did not fight hard for her love “And Zedka asked her self: did I fight hard enough” (p. 52). She was living her routine life but this symbolic statue of the Italian poet reminded her how Preseren fought for his love. The statue symbolized continuous struggle, hardships and strong determination.

After seeing the statue she again started searching her first lover through letters and calls but he was nowhere. She sold her jewelry and bought a plane ticket to go across the ocean in his search but all was in vain. When she came back, she was depressed and locked herself in the room. She stopped talking and eating. She became weak

and was unable to lead a normal life as her decision was negated and she was rejected by her love. Later on, her husband admitted her into the Villette (Research Question 1 & 2).

In the Villette, she was suggested a dangerous method of treatment of insulin shock by the doctors. Though, she was now coming back to her normal life and today was her last stage of the treatment, yet, she was not willing to leave the mental hospital due to certain reasons. Zedka was of the view that mental hospital was the place where people have the complete freedom which only existed in madness. Because in madness, you can do anything you want. People can do absurd doodles and it will be tolerated because the person is considered to be mentally sick. Here in the mental hospital, no one is hiding their symptoms of madness unlike outside in the society. Here, people enjoy the freedom because they have not to struggle for their daily bread and they have no other responsibilities to carry out. The mad people are happy here and are unwilling to leave it because they know that outside in the society there are strict rules and regulations under which they have to live their lives. There, in society you are unable to live the life you want because the society, people and family sometimes snatch your choices and impose their own will on you. Just like in the case of the four chosen characters of the selected novel.

### **Parents' Decision vs Personal Needs**

“Her parents would still .....  
Found this out too late” (Coelho, 1999, p. 85).

### **Reference to the Context**

This paragraphs show the recovery of Veronika health during her stay in the Villette. She thinks about her first conversation with the doctors every now and then in which she was informed that she has less than a week to live. Her mother came to visit Veronika at that time, but Veronika

declined to meet her. She felt that her mother was responsible for all this fuss.

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

The above paragraphs are narrated mostly in the form of third person narration, but there are also some lines narrated in first person narration. Veronika and her mother, who had a conversation about the potential career of Veronika, were the first person narrators. Through their conversation the readers come to know that how and why the dream of Veronika was rejected by her mother. While the third person narration tells the readers that how much Veronika was sad and remorseful by losing her dream.

The writing style of the paragraph is somewhat convincing in terms of the two characters. In their conversation about Veronika's future career, Veronika and her mother propose rational reasons and opinions. They are the two characters mentioned in the above paragraphs. Veronika was unsure about her life and future and was indecisive. She left her mother with her future decision because she found her mother to be more mature and experienced in life. Her mother loved her very much and she negated her will for the better future of her but she did not prove to be a successful mother. The selected paragraphs are the introduction of the story of Veronika. The setting of these actions is vague and not mentioned clearly which signified the chaotic condition of Veronika when she found herself in an unfamiliar position in her life.

Negation of Veronika's decision and choice to become a pianist is the main theme explored in this paragraph. Becoming a professional pianist was her childhood dream. Her teacher also acknowledged her talent and also promoted her ability and encouraged her to become a professional pianist. But whenever she wanted to follow it up and devoted herself to the piano, her mother would look at her fondly and

say "No one makes a living playing the piano, my love" (p. 85). Her mother did not negate her decision intentionally, rather she wanted a bright future for her daughter and that is why she advised and forced her to go for the law. Veronika objected to her mother that first it was she, who wanted piano lessons to be taught to which her mother replies that it was only to improve her artistic abilities and that said that husbands too appreciate such talents in their wives. In addition, her mother told her that becoming a pianist was not an earning job, and that she must go for the law that is future career (Research Question 1).

For the sake of her parents' happiness and seeking their attention, Veronika gave up her wish. She graduated, got a degree, and ended up working as a librarian. She accepted her mother's decision because she considered that her mother had ample life experiences. Veronika did as ordered by her mother because "her mother had enough experiences of life to understand reality (P. 85). She was considering her mother experienced but was not aware of the fact that life is not same for everyone. Everybody has to face different situations according to the decisions made by them. Her dream lay hidden in the depths of her memory and was often awakened by a concert or a beautiful song that she had played. So strong was the anger induced by this waking dream, but she tried her best to ignore completely her childhood dream of playing piano as a profession (Research Question 1).

### **Emotional Blackmailing as a Tactic to Impose Will**

"Since the decision could ..... Carry on as you are now". (Coelho, 1999: 172-173)

### **Reference to the Context**

This paragraph is about Eduard and his parent conversation about his future career. His parent were trying to convince for the career of a

diplomat, they desire while Eduard was of the view that his career is in painting, he had advanced too far and there was no way to come back. These lines also highlight his suffering from schizophrenia and his admission into a mental hospital.

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

The main theme is the denial of Eduard's volition by his parents by imposing their own will on him. Eduard decided to become a painter and wanted to paint his own fantasy image, 'vision of paradise'. His parents wanted him to be a good diplomat and by negating his will, they forced their own will on him. There is a conversation between Eduard and his father in the selected paragraphs. They both disagreed with each other and, from their own point of view, they offer rational reasons. Two characters, Eduard and his father, are mentioned. His father tried to convince him to give up all of these and concentrate on his research "You will be a painter, but first finish your studies" (p. 171). His father wanted him to take his studies seriously and then he (his father) would help him organize an exhibition of paintings anywhere in the world he wanted. Yet Eduard was of the opinion that "I can help myself. Trust me" (p. 171). According to Eduard, he would not take the shortcut and by his own attempt he will make his own career in the world of painting.

The setting is the living room of Eduard's home. His father and mother are both dejected and concerned about their son's future. They persuade him that they are going to be wiser of him, but Eduard was of the opinion that "being a painter is giving a direction to my career" (p. 172). Eduard was of the opinion that he had the ability to make his own career by selecting painting as his profession. He was determined to become a painter and, like other famous painters, he searched inside himself for the ability to become a good painter. The style of the paragraph

is emotional and philosophical, which shows the emotions of both Eduard and his parents.

Twice before this discussion, Eduard's parents had attempted to force him to choose what they wanted. This was his father's third time addressing this topic with Eduard. This time, he was emotionally blackmailing him by making him show love for his mother. His dad was a diplomat and he knew how to get people to the middle stage, as now he was using this tactic on his own son "Please, do as your mother wants" (p. 172). He mentioned his wife before mentioning himself because he was a well-informed man and was aware of 'Oedipus complex' that sons are more attached to their mothers as compared to their fathers "If you really love us, do as I ask" (p. 173). This was an emotional blackmailing tactic, and this strategy was tried by his father as his last hope. His father also told him that his grandfathers were civil servants and he is a good diplomat too, and that he has to follow their steps as well (Research Question 1). Eduard was also committed to supporting his own vision of becoming a painter. He was also resistant to his father's view of forcing on him his own will "You love me, Dad. You can't ask me to do that" (p. 172). He was clear in his mind that he was choosing the best option for himself, and he also believed that he would be supported by his parents on this issue, but he was misunderstood.

He sat lonely after this conversation and thought about the whole matter once again. At last, he came to the conclusion that he will do what his parents wanted because if he continues to be what he is right now, his mother would fade away with sadness and his father would lose all hope for his career and then they will blame each other for failing to raise their beloved son. These were the reasons that Eduard decided to give up his dream to become a painter and then, during the supper time, he declared on the table that he would do what his parents wanted. When his



parents came to know about his decision, they were delighted and joyfully embraced his son.

### **Career Sacrifices**

“The following day ..... Newly opened hospital of Villete” (Coelho, 1999, p.174)

### **Reference to the Context**

These lines are about the pathetic condition of Eduard after he was forced to throw away his own desire and to surrender to the choice of his parent. He was later diagnosed with schizophrenia and admitted to a psychiatric institution after five months.

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

The key theme is the effects of the negation of Eduard's volition and the consequences of his parents' imposed will on him. Eduard wanted to become a painter and wanted to paint the 'vision of paradise' but he was not on the same page with his parents. His parents wanted him to avoid his urge to become a painter; take his studies seriously, and become a diplomat like his father. This imposed decision made him psychic and they found him "sitting in a corner, gazing up at the sky" (p. 174). He was sitting in the corner because he thought that he and his emotions were trapped and restricted. He was looking at the sky because either he was communicating with nature or he was thinking about his ideas that were impractical. The style, which describes Eduard and his parents' plight is, sad, empathetic and remorseful. Eduard's room, which was cluttered and in chaos, is the setting for these acts. His room's messed up condition characterizes the fragmented mind of Eduard by the decisions imposed on him by his parents. There are three characters: Eduard, his father and his mother. Eduard was quietly seated in a corner of his room, not bearing the repercussions of his denied volition. His parents were concerned about his worst illness. His mother wept for him and hugged him. The paragraphs are narrated in the

form of third person narration, explaining Eduard's worst condition when he embraced his parent's decision. The readers also discover, through the narrator's mouth, that his parents were remorseful and concerned about their son's pathetic state.

The results of giving up his will and choice were the consequences of all this fuss. When he was determined that he would do what his parents wanted from him, his mind and psyche were unable to accept his decision since, he had progressed so far in his career. According to the narrator "he had crossed that abyss that separate a man from his dream and now there was no going back" (p. 174). He was so motivated to paint the 'vision of paradise' from the book from which he acquired the idea that he was unable to think of another career. When his parents rejected his will, he began to think that this vision of heaven could be for the chosen people and that he was not among them. He had already gone so far that there was no way out of it "He couldn't go forward or back. It was easier just to leave the stage" (p. 174). He was so frustrated in choosing his path now because on the one hand, his parents were there who loved him so much and were prepared to do whatever he wanted and his desire on the other hand i.e. to be a painter. He was unable to give up his desire because he was already in the depth. He wanted to leave the stage and vanish from the scene for that reason. He became deaf, and a rare form of schizophrenia was later diagnosed. The therapy lasted for five months, but because he did not want to be recovered and start a normal life, a life where people forced their own choices on him, he was unable to recover. The ambassador then agreed to admit him to the Villete, psychiatric hospital, because of certain personal and domestic issues (Research Question 2).

### **Conclusion**

The four main characters of the novel were deprived of the rights of free will and choice by

their family, parents and society. Their decisions were negated in one way or the other and on some characters (Veronika and Eduard) decisions were imposed. Not only were they stripped of these human rights, but they were forced to live a life that they did not deem acceptable for themselves. These were some of the reasons why the four main characters of the novel were mentally unfit to live in society and were admitted to a psychiatric institution later on. Veronika, the novel's heroine, attempted to kill herself because she was unable to live the life she had thought. Eduard was suffering from schizophrenia because his parents wanted to impose their own decision on him. Other characters, Mari and Zedka, also suffered from panic attacks and depression, respectively, when they were branded insane and sent to the mental hospital because society was not allowing them to act on their own choices. Not only did this negation of volition and rejection of free choice impact the characters' personal and family lives, but it also ruined their future careers.

The positive aspect of all the four main characters was that, even in the mental hospital, they did not abandon the struggle for their personal freedom. Veronika was trying to free herself from the wires and tubes attached to her body when she came to her senses. Zedka was behaving like a madwoman because she felt that she was free to do what she wanted in the madness. That is the reason why all four characters were effective in one way or the other in achieving self-realization and self-actualization through different ways. They decided to leave the mental institution after this self-realization in order to do those things they were robbed of and unprivileged of.

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