



In Tim Winton's novel Cloudstreet he significantly features the concept of human relationships, and it is this quality of the novel that is endearing for an audience. The importance of such human relationships is emphasized through the unification of the two families as one unit at the conclusion of the novel.

It is through both the influence of the ~~so~~ delicate spiritual essence of Fish Lane, and the ~~gently~~ guidance of the blackfella that insures that the two families become united in the conclusion of the novel.

One particularly significant and intense relationship is that represented by Rose and Quilch. Both of them through the

episodic nature of the novel, and our experience of the epic saga of twenty years that the novel details, we as the readers, witness the development of all the characters; ^{as a result of their relationships} particularly as a result of the influence of Fish, and see them come to terms with their ~~own~~ ^{own} identities themselves, their core values, and their place of belonging -

One particular intense human relationship ^{portrayed by the novel} is that between Rose and Archie. ~~Both~~ We witness the struggles and the pain that both of these characters experience as individuals, and the significantly contrasting happiness that they come to experience through their union.

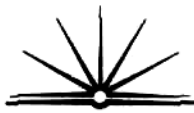
Rose suffered a tough childhood through life in her youth, being denied a childhood, as a result of the negligence, and drinking habits



of her mother. ~~The~~ ^{Winton's} despair is reflected in ~~her~~ ~~the~~ description of her life as being 'Murdere and domestic ~~at the best of times~~ in the high times. In the low times . . . she couldn't ever shrink of those times', and in her self-induced anorexia, ~~she~~ made to punish her mother

Quich was no different to Rose, ~~and~~ and experienced significant despair in his youth, particularly ~~to~~ as a result of Fish's accident. ~~Quich~~ He feels extreme guilt for what happened, and also feels a sense of loss of his identity, as he was so used to being seen with and defined by the levelling nature of his brother. This sense of loss is seen when he says 'I reckon I keep trying to figure out what I lost. I keep figuring that I've lost something . . . somewhere . . . I reckon my whole life is to do with [Fish]'. ~~This~~ ~~loss~~ ~~of~~ ~~reality~~, and ~~is~~ ~~also~~

This sense of loss of reality is ^{also} reflected ^{within} ~~it~~



his mother Oriol, as in her case of Fish, she relinquished the faith that she had relied on to sustain her. This is seen when she says 'What I believed, that's where I belonged. That was my country. That was my final line of defence in the war. Since Fish I've been leaving the war. I've lost me bearings'.

Though it is through the intervention of the spiritual essence of Fish that all of these all the grief and sense of loss that they experienced is absolved. This intervention is referred to ~~at~~ when Winton writes of Oriol 'Every thing important that ever happened to him, ^{it seemed} ~~was~~ to do with a river' This alludes to the quietly 'mysterious' nature of Fish and his hand in the establishment of the intense relationships within the novel, particularly that of Rose and Oriol.

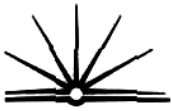
It is no coincidence that the coincidence that



that they both meet at the river, on the night when Rose had left Toby Raven. Upon their 'coincidental' meeting they established an unbreakable connection, and returned to the house to make love in the central room.

It is here that the truly significant nature of this relationship is established. ~~Rose~~ In Winters' description of Rose being 'just food for him', this represents the true fulfillment that Church is obtaining and will continue to experience in his ^{subsequent} marriage to Rose. The significant nature of this union and intense human relationship ~~that~~ is further emphasized as the 'girl/shadow and the boy/shadow go bump', signifying the powerful nature of this relationship and its ability to rid them of their demons, and despair, that plagues the house.

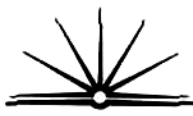
It is the union of Rose and Church that enables



The healing process to begin. This is demonstrated when for the first time at their marriage Oval and Betty ~~are~~ relate to each other dancing ^{and} as if by a 'miracle', 'I've been down something green'. This refers to their growing sense of belonging that ~~is~~ reaches ~~maximally~~ ^{its} the climax by the end of the novel.

It was Fish's influence that created this ~~solid~~ intense human relationship to occur, seen in his 'gift to them, the ~~woman~~ ^{man}, the woman, the baby'. He instigates this union which enables the eventually catalyses the healing of all these in Cloudstreet.

By the conclusion of the novel, revealed in the epilogue, after Fish's death, and reconciliation the two families are able to



also 'unites' and become one. This is revealed
~~in the~~ in Oniel's return to the house

'She covered the Cerygash in the ground,
where yesterday they had been a fence'.

This communicates the families' ideal
~~and~~ breaking of boundaries and healing as they
come to accept their differences and
unite due to the influence of Rose and
Oniel in their union, and setting of
the example.

Such an intense relationship between the
two of them and the values that become
apparent to them through the healing
process that results is evidence to the
reader. The value of family seen
in Sam when he says 'You can take it
when you lose your teeth, your teeth, your
youth... But Christ Jesus when
family goes off it is more than a man can
bear! ~~and~~ Also the realisation as to



their belonging at Clevedon Street, for when
Rose ~~recognises~~ says 'We belong to it ...
and I want to stay', realising that what she
needs for fulfilment is what she has
always been running away from.

Therefore, through the spiritual healing and
realisation as to the importance and value of
family that occurs as a result of the intense
human relationships experienced in the
unions of Rose and Archie, it is what is
endeavouring for a reader to experience as they
are able to come to also realise these
values and appreciate such strong and
meaningful relationships in their own
lives. ~~Noting~~ therefore I have noted the
significance of such ^{an intense} relationships ~~with~~ the
novel as a whole, and the perspective
and attitudes of the reader.