

MALCOLM LOWRY'S LIFE AND HIS "UNDER THE VOLCANO"**Eshmakhtova Farangiz***4th grade student of Shahrizabz State Pedagogical Institute*

Annotation: *This article tried to cover the life and creative work of Malcolm Lowry. Along with this, it is mentioned about his creative activity and several works he wrote during his life. Most importantly, this article will give you a brief overview of Malcolm Lowry's Under the Volcano and its main characters.*

Key words: *Novelist, privileged, Plot, unfolds, grappling, influential*

Аннотация: *В данной статье была предпринята попытка осветить жизнь и творчество Малкольма Лоури. Наряду с этим упоминается о его творческой деятельности и нескольких произведениях, написанных им при жизни. Самое главное, что эта статья даст вам краткий обзор романа Малкольма Лоури «Под вулканом» и его главных героев.*

Ключевые слова: *Писатель, привилегированный, Сюжет, разворачивается, борьба, влиятельный*

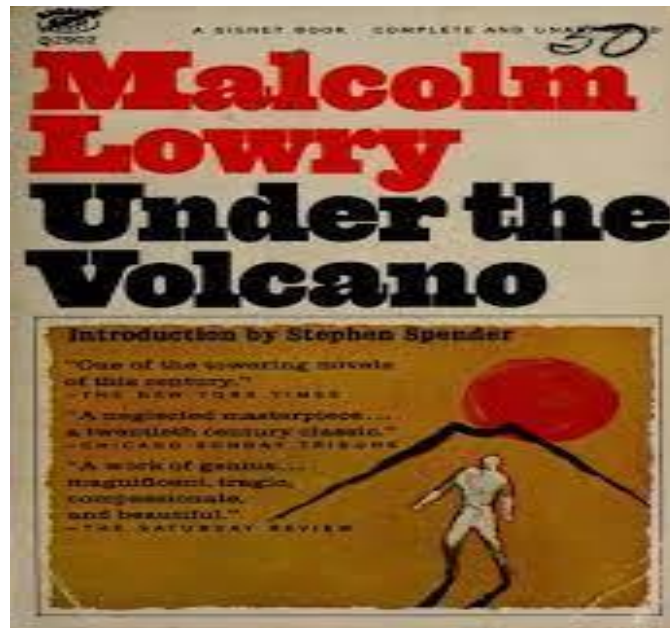
INTRODUCTION:

Malcolm Lowry was a British novelist and poet, best known for his influential work "Under the Volcano." He was born on July 28, 1909, in Newton Abbot, Devon, England. Lowry's early life was marked by a privileged upbringing, but he struggled with personal challenges, including alcoholism and depression, which would later shape his writing.

Lowry attended the University of British Columbia in Canada, where he became immersed in literature and developed his literary voice. After moving to Mexico in the late 1930s, he began writing "Under the Volcano," which was published in 1947. The novel is set on the Day of the Dead in 1939 and follows the life of Geoffrey Firmin, a British consul in Mexico, grappling with despair and existential crises. The novel is renowned for its intricate narrative and deep exploration of themes such as addiction, colonialism, and the search for meaning.

Throughout his life, Lowry faced numerous personal struggles, including failed relationships and ongoing battles with substance abuse. Despite these challenges, he produced a number of other works, including "Lunar Caustic" and "Dark as the Grave Wherein My Friend Is Laid."

Lowry's writing style is characterized by its poetic language and complex symbolism, reflecting his tumultuous inner world. He had a profound influence on modernist literature, and his works continue to be studied for their depth and stylistic innovation



Malcolm Lowry passed away on June 27, 1957, but his legacy endures, particularly through "Under the Volcano," which is considered one of the great novels of the 20th century. His life and work continue to fascinate scholars and readers alike, as they explore the interplay of personal and existential themes in his writing.

***"Under the Volcano,"** published in 1947, is widely regarded as Malcolm Lowry's masterpiece. The novel is set in Cuernavaca, Mexico, on the Day of the Dead in 1939, and it delves into themes of existential despair, addiction, and the effects of colonialism.

Plot Overview

The narrative centers around Geoffrey Firmin, a British consul who is struggling with alcoholism and personal disillusionment. As the day unfolds, Geoffrey interacts with various characters, reflecting on his past and the choices that led him to his current state of despair. The story unfolds against the backdrop of Mexico's rich culture and the impending threat of World War II.

Main Characters

1. **Geoffrey Firmin**: The protagonist and the British consul, Geoffrey is an alcoholic who grapples with feelings of guilt and failure. He represents the tragic figure of a man caught between his past and the bleakness of his present. His interactions with other characters reveal his internal struggles and longing for connection.

2. **Yvonne Firmin**: Geoffrey's estranged wife, Yvonne returns to Cuernavaca in hopes of rekindling their relationship. She embodies hope and the desire for reconciliation but is also deeply affected by Geoffrey's self-destructive tendencies. Her character represents the emotional turmoil of love and the impact of addiction on relationships.

3. **Dr. Vigil**: A local doctor and friend of Geoffrey, Dr. Vigil provides a more grounded perspective on Geoffrey's situation. He serves as a moral compass and tries to

help Geoffrey confront his demons, although his efforts are often thwarted by Geoffrey's resistance.

4. **Laruelle**: A Frenchman and former friend of Geoffrey, Laruelle provides a contrasting perspective on life. He is an artist and represents a more existential approach to existence, contemplating the nature of reality and experience.

5. **The Man from the Bar**: A minor character who embodies the cynical and disillusioned spirit of the time. His presence adds to the atmosphere of decay and hopelessness that permeates the novel.

Themes

The novel explores several key themes:

- **Existentialism**: It delves into the human condition, questioning the meaning of life and the choices that shape one's destiny.
- **Addiction**: Geoffrey's alcoholism serves as a metaphor for broader issues of dependency and escape, reflecting Lowry's own struggles.
- **Colonialism and Cultural Conflict**: The novel critiques colonial attitudes and the complex relationship between the colonizers and the colonized, particularly in the context of Mexican culture.
- **Love and Redemption**: The strained relationship between Geoffrey and Yvonne highlights the possibility of redemption through love, even amidst despair.

"Under the Volcano" is celebrated for its rich symbolism and poetic prose, making it a significant work in modernist literature. Its intricate narrative structure and exploration of deep themes have left a lasting impact on readers and writers alike.

CONCLUSION:

In "Under the Volcano," Malcolm Lowry masterfully weaves a tale of despair and existential struggle against the backdrop of a looming volcanic eruption. The novel's exploration of the human condition, set in the rich cultural landscape of Mexico, delves into themes of addiction, love, and the search for meaning. As the protagonist, Geoffrey Firmin, spirals deeper into his internal conflicts, Lowry paints a poignant portrait of isolation and the tragic consequences of choices made in desperation. Ultimately, the novel serves as a meditation on the fragility of life and the inevitability of fate, leaving readers to reflect on the tumultuous interplay between chaos and the quest for redemption. Through its intricate prose and profound insights, "Under the Volcano" remains a timeless exploration of the human spirit in the face of catastrophe.