

Jacobean revenge tragedy revolved around events such as cannibalism, incest, rape, murder, ghosts and so on. This revenge tragedy deals with the protagonist who at times could be presumed to be the hero or villain for an imagined or actual injury or wrongdoing. This revenge tragedy was especially depicted in John Alexander The duchess of malfi. The duchess is a young woman recently deprived of her husband. She is now the successor to this throne all the properties therein. The duchess has two brothers, cannibal and Ferdinand. They are both corrupt and are very adamant that their sister never remarries. They even make her swear to them and she does that even feigning irritation at them for thinking she would want to remarry. She goes behind their backs and marries Antonio who has been secretly in love with her. She keeps her marriage to Antonio a secret from her brothers for more than two years and even gives birth to three kids for him. Ferdinand and cannibal eventually find out and this is where the plot for 'revenge' sets in. In Jacobean revenge tragedy plays evil or even one perceived to be so were usually repaid back with evil or at times even more evil. Cardinal and Ferdinand think that the duchess has done some evil to them by

deceiving them. They eventually kill the duchess and her two kids through Bosola Ferdinand's hit man bosola. Restoration comedy accepts the position of the elites and upper class in the society without ridicule. Restoration comedy is usually known for containing graphic sexual and extramarital affairs. The play 'THE ROVER' is a nice depiction of the restoration comedy and was written by Aphra Brehn, the first female playwright of the English stage. This play explores the life of three banished English cavaliers as they have fun in a carnival at Naples. This play has some sexual undertones which is characteristic of Restoration comedy. Restoration comedies were set two decades after the era of puritanism. Most restoration comedies set out condemn the puritan's harsh rules and praise the restoration or renaissance period. This is seen evident in Florinda and Hellena who decide who they want to be with despite their brother deciding it for them earlier in the play. One characteristics of restoration comedy also shown in the novel is that of cheating. This is shown in the novel when Wilmore swears his love for Helena and goes behind her back to also swear the same love for angelica who falls in love with him. One of the similar things found in the plays the rover

and the duchess of malfi is that they both plays are centered on revenge. In the duchess of malfi the brothers to the duchess Ferdinand and cannibal are both angry with the duchess for what they perceived to be evil doing on her part and they eventually plot and exact their revenge on the duchess killing her and her two children. Also in the rover blunt one of the three cavaliers from Naples falls in love with a common prostitute unknown to him. He is left brokenhearted when he eventually finds out that she was only playing him and he seeks for revenge. Unfortunately the revenge he wanted to exact was on an innocent Young woman florinda. He almost rapes her but is prevented by doing so. We can clearly the element of revenge found in both the rover and duchess of malfi. There are so many contrasting elements found in the works of both brehn and alexander's the rover and duchess of malfi respectively. One of the dissimilarities is the fact that jaacobean revenge tragedy was much more rigid and stoic unlike the restoration comedy. This is seen in the both plays the duchess is partially controlled by her brothers and lets them make decisions for her unlike the two sisters florinda and hellena who

do not succumb to the dictations of their brother and father and go ahead to “openly” fall and be with the men they wish to be.

Perhaps even the most important moments of ‘the rover’ as a restoration comedy is when all the guys struggle and even fight for angelica all in the bid to have sex with her, let’s not forget that sexual explicitness is characteristic of restoration comedy. Restoration comedies are often light and humorous and had mostly upper and middle class audience.