

“Because I am who I am” The Foreigner’s Identity in 'Kitty and Virgil and The Long Shadows'

Virgil Filip

Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiesti, Bd. Bucuresti, 39, Ploiesti

E-mail: filip_virgil@yahoo.com

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Abstract

The present article takes into consideration the identity of the foreigner who sets contact with a different culture and society, the changes that may occur at the level of identity and the way the foreign individual defines or re-defines his selves under the impact of the Other. The article is based on two accounts of the foreigner (the Romanian foreigner, in particular), one pertaining to Paul Bailey, the novel *Kitty and Virgil*, and the second to Alan Brownjohn, the novel *The Long Shadows*. The foreign individual undertakes a journey with multiple meanings: to a new cultural space and a journey of discovery oriented towards himself. Among the issues implied by this journey, we will emphasize the relationship between the foreigner and his culture (the relationship with the past-the mechanism of memory) and the one set between the foreigner and the new cultural space (the relationship with the others, representatives of this space.)