

## Interpretation of Jennifer Parker's "Destiny" in *Rage of Angels*

Hong Yang<sup>1</sup>, Zhenzhen Zhang<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Foreign Languages, Hebei University of Technology, Tianjin, 300401, China

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**Abstract.** *Rage of Angels* is an excellent work of a famous American best-selling writer Sidney Shelton, and is known as "a brilliant serious novel". Lots of comments regard it as a deep social novel that reflects reality and describes the life experience of an upright and talented young female lawyer from struggling, love, degradation and disillusion. The author begins with Jennifer Parker's life experience, and explores her tragic destiny.

### Introduction

As a modern and contemporary American best-selling writer, Sidney Shelton is undoubtedly successful, and he is a storytelling genius. He combines film techniques in the novel to attract attention of readers, and develops a unique writing style. In terms of narration, Shelton is very good at using suspense and thrilling scenes, and mobilizing readers' senses through unique arrangement of plot structure and unique written description, so that readers are very anxious to finish this novel at once. *Rage of Angels* is a classic representative work of Shelton, which vigorously attacks drawbacks of capitalist society, and critics comment that it has undertaken social responsibilities that a literature work shall bear. At the end of the novel, it describes the decline of Michael Family which is dark power in the novel, reflecting the moral that justice ("angels" in the title) will prevail over evil.

### Brief introduction to novel *Rage of Angels*

*Rage of Angels* tells about destiny with twists and turns of a female lawyer who has a strong sense of justice, and mainly introduces career, love and family of Jennifer Parker, and her tragic life from struggling to degradation and destruction.

Jennifer Parker, a top student of school of law, is a beautiful, generous and smart lady, and enters the society after graduation confidently, hoping to distinguish herself. As a lawyer, she believes that the society is fair and righteous and everyone is equal in front of law, and hopes to seek justice in society, and the society does not give her ideal justice. After twists and turns, Jennifer finally stands firm in the legal circle with the help of well-known lawyer Adam Warner etc, but suffers setback in love. She leaves Adam with their kid Joshua when she knows that her lover Adam cannot divorce with his wife, and begins to focus her life on the kid and career. However, a murderer kidnaps Joshua, and Jennifer has to turn to mafia leader Michael after call in vain for help. Since then, she is caught in mastery of criminal organizations, and could only put all hopes on her kid. However, Jennifer rises up to revolt because of the death of her kid, but gets killed when saving Adam.

This story is a complete tragedy from beginning to end. When sighing with regret for unfair destiny of Jennifer, readers have to ponder that: it is who that leads to her tragedy. Obviously, Jennifer's tragedy is caused by the society, although she tries to seek fair and justice, she is involuntarily caught in degradation in capitalist society.

### Image of Jennifer Parker

#### A beautiful, generous, smart and pretty lady

In *Rage of Angels*, Jennifer's appearance is described as: "she is 24 years old this year, slim, with dark brown hair, fair skin, rich facial expressions, and smart and deep blue eyes. Although she is not beautiful, she has unique compelling charm, and has proud, fearless and sensitive looks from time to

time. In a word, she has an unforgettable face.” From this description, we can see that Jennifer is a beautiful, generous, smart and pretty lady, a strong-minded lady, and becomes even stronger in hone of life. In chapter 21 of the book, Jennifer has a verbal battle with trial jury, which makes readers feel her intelligence and alertness.

### **Misfortune in life experience leads to her indomitable character traits**

Almost all heroines in works written by Shelton have arduous life experience, while misfortune in life experience leads to indomitable character traits. As a top student of school of law, Jennifer yearns for fair and justice, but is utilized by lawbreakers on the first day she enters the society, and her license is almost revoked. So, she has to start from the bottom, and tries to make a name gradually in small cases. However, Jennifer suffers hardship in love, and has to leave her lover alone with her kid. After the kid is kidnapped, readers’ attention is led to another story peak. We can see that Jennifer’s entire life is in running, and she stands up bravely under strikes over and again, and is caught in another strike. Her experience makes people sigh with regret.

### **Twists and turns in love life**

Love in literary works is mostly romantic and beautiful, and the ending tends to be happy regardless of twists and turns. However, although Jennifer’s love is warm and pure, there is not a happy ending. Entrusted by lawyer association, Adam is in charge of the case to revoke Jennifer’s qualification of lawyer, and finally retains her qualification by prevailing over all dissenting views. They meet in an embarrassing situation, and fall in love quickly. Love is enthusiastic, but cannot bear the cruelty of real life. How can a well-known lawyer abandon his pregnant wife and be with a lover? Jennifer has to leave alone with the kid.

Pure love turns incomplete in real life, and becomes a luxury in our life. At the intersection of life, which is more important among love, power, money and status etc, which is hard to guess. In particular, for people with high social status, love is just a spice of life, and love like spring flower and autumn moon is incompatible with heroism. However, it is because of weakness and shortness that love sends out beautiful light. Love in memory comes and goes, comes to a premature end in reality and indifference, only leaving sorrowful sigh of “love becoming a beautiful memory”.

### **Full of a sense of justice and sympathy**

As a lawyer who yearns for fair and justice, Jennifer is engaged in lawsuits for lots of poor common people, to save their lives or extenuate crimes. The most remarkable one is the lawsuit of Connie Garrett, who has been struck by a truck and lost four legs, and has to sit at a wheel. Connie loses in many lawsuits. Jennifer studies on the case, and finally wins the case, and truck manufacturer pays huge compensation. This is enough to show that Jennifer is a person full of sympathy and justice.

### **Defects in character show her charm**

Nobody is perfect, and perfect people do not exist. One can never reach every aspect of a matter to satisfy everyone. Defects in character make readers feel that she is just a common person like us, so as to arouse emotional resonance among readers. Almost all heroines in works written by Shelton have defects in character, which add charm to these heroines.

Jennifer defends for hard-working people in the bottom of the society, but she refuses to defend for mafia leader Michael for several times, making readers feel Jennifer’s sense of justice. Later, Jennifer becomes a lawyer of the mafia when she has to turn to Michael, and defends for lawbreakers such as murderers and drug traffickers etc, enabling these guilty people to escape from the law. At this time, although readers feel sorry for Jennifer’s degradation, they also understand her.

## **Destiny of Jennifer Parker**

*Rage of Angels* starts from trial of the No. 16 Court of downtown Manhattan, insinuating fair, justice and authority of American law. Standing on the stage symbolizing demarcation point of civilization and truculence, Jennifer feels proud and is determined to be a lawyer like her father and contribute her share to the cause of lawyer, and promote fair and justice of human society, which is

Jennifer's farfetched "American dream". In front of cruel reality, this fearless young female lawyer has to give in to destiny and becomes prey of the strong.

### **Return of humanity**

At the beginning of the story, Jennifer is caught in mafia, and she could not control the situation, and people around her treat her indifferently and hypocritically. She sees cruelty of this society and readers also see the devastation of cruel society to people. Jennifer no longer reads newspapers and magazines or watches TV, but hides in her apartment alone trying to leave the legal circle and even commit suicide. According to such detailed psychological description, we can see Jennifer's tragic situation and her "American dream" vanishes completely. Then, the story begins, and Shelton leads readers to Jennifer's life. Later, readers know about the origin of Jennifer's "American dream" in her life background, and know that Jennifer is full of justice and sympathy. Of course, this character trait lays a foundation for Jennifer's destiny. In front of cruel reality, Jennifer has to give in to destiny and degradation, and finally returns to the beginning of human nature.

With the help of Adam etc, Jennifer starts again from the bottom of the society, and makes a name gradually. Meanwhile, Jennifer falls in love enthusiastically with Adam. However, readers know at the beginning that Adam is married, indicating the disillusion of her love.

Moreover, it will not be a bad ending if Jennifer could be relieved and be a common person after she leaves Adam alone with her kid. However, it is just a novel, and there will be lots of unexpected things. Her kid is kidnapped by a murderer when her career is flourishing, and she has to turn to mafia leader Michael after call in vain for help. Here, readers could feel Shelton's unique description techniques, and they are attracted by up-and-down plots and suspense. Shelton presents Jennifer's life in simple words in front of readers. During this process, humanity is reflected in language and scenes, such as: Jennifer's kindness, justice and sympathy; Bennett's persistence; tolerance of priest Reyn; Michael's cunning and cruelty etc. Jennifer gives in to destiny again after turning to Michael, and becomes a defense lawyer of the mafia, to help some criminal people escape from the law. Her child's premature death makes Jennifer almost collapse, and she begins to ask the Mafia to make plans, which lays a foundation for her death at the end, and her tragedy has long been doomed.

In the novel, readers follow the pace of the author to understand Jennifer's life and destiny, and also feel spiritual variation brought by life to Jennifer. In terms of things between Jennifer and Michael, Jennifer refuses directly at the beginning when Michael invites her to be a defense lawyer of him, "I am not interested and I refuse now." "I'll never work for Mafia". Later, she has to turn to Michael, and Jennifer's mood changes, "who I am now". She believes that she would only defend Michael's henchman for one time, but we know that the second time comes after the first time and even more. Finally, Jennifer herself thinks that what she does now is of no difference from before. Actually, there is vast difference. At this time, Jennifer's humanity vanishes gradually, and she becomes a strategist of mafia. Jennifer is originally an "angel" (justice), but cruel reality makes her lose humanity gradually, and finally angel defeats demon, and Jennifer's humanity returns to the original kindness and integrity at the price of her life.

### **Love and dream**

Love and dream run almost through the novel *Rage of Angels*. Jennifer struggles and insists hardly for love and dream, and finally risks danger in desperation and is caught in irresistible demon. At the beginning, Jennifer falls in enthusiastic and pure love with Adam but finally leaves Adam resolutely, and then she finds love on Michael, which is deemed to be a distorted love. Jennifer has a mother's love for her kid Joshua and has friendship for friends. She pursues love and dream for a lifetime, and finally dies for Adam, which also reflects her eternal pursuit of love.

However, at that time, love and dream are things that people need the least, as they are spiritual luxury. Jennifer's wholehearted pursuit lays a foundation for her tragic ending. When in the bottom of the society at the beginning, the help of Adam and Bennett etc keeps kindness in Jennifer's humanity so that she struggles for love and dream. However, Jennifer has to give in to destiny in front of real life. The author shows a tragic story of a strong-willed lady to readers in simple words, and also shows American culture, guides readers to think deeply about love and dream and how to pursue love and dream and get rid of difficulties.

## Conclusions

Shelton is a storytelling genius, and his novels profoundly reveal ugliness of capitalist society. *Rage of Angels* is his first novel introduced to China, and attracts a large number of readers with gorgeous novel world and wonderful humanity description. By reading *Rage of Angels* and destiny of Jennifer, we shall think deeply about causes of her final tragedy, explore the society and perceive life. Reading Jennifer's destiny is also a process that readers think deeply about themselves and social destinies.

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