

**Courage and Truthfulness: Ethical Strategies  
and the Creative Process in the Novels of Iris  
Murdoch, Doris Lessing and V.S. Naipaul.**

**by**

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## Contents

Summary	iv
Declaration	v
Acknowledgements	vi
Note on Referencing	vii
<b>PART A: Introduction</b>	
Introduction	2
Chapter One: Ethical Strategies and the Creative Process: Theory and Practice	7
Chapter Two: The Twentieth Century: A New Age for the Novel?	29
<b>PART B: Iris Murdoch, 1919-1999</b>	
Chapter Three: Iris Murdoch: Introduction	45
Chapter Four: <i>A Fairly Honourable Defeat</i> : Good Versus Evil in the Post-Christian World	58
Chapter Five: First Person Narrative: <i>The Black Prince</i>	74
Chapter Six: Murdoch's Novels of Male Adultery: <i>The Sandcastle, An Unofficial Rose, The Sacred and Profane Love Machine, The Message to the Planet</i>	92
Chapter Seven: Iris Murdoch: Conclusion	115
<b>PART C: Doris Lessing, 1919-</b>	
Chapter Eight: Doris Lessing: Introduction	129
Chapter Nine: Doris Lessing's 'Settler Problem': The Ethics of Representation in 'Hunger'	141
Chapter Ten: An Autobiography of Everyone? Intentions and Definitions in <i>Memoirs of a Survivor</i>	157
Chapter Eleven: Floating Away: Alienation and Distance in Doris Lessing's Space Fiction	173
Chapter Twelve: Doris Lessing: Conclusion	189

**PART D: V.S. Naipaul, 1932-**

Chapter Thirteen: V.S. Naipaul: Introduction	203
Chapter Fourteen: Fiction Versus Non-Fiction: <i>A House for Mr Biswas</i>	219
Chapter Fifteen: Finding the Correct Form: <i>In A Free State</i>	235
Chapter Sixteen: A Definition of the Writing Self: <i>The Enigma of Arrival</i>	252
Chapter Seventeen: V.S. Naipaul: Conclusion	273

**PART E: Conclusion**

Comparison and Conclusion: Courage and Truthfulness	287
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**Bibliographies:**

Works Cited	307
General: Anthologies	327
Individual Works	327
Fiction by Other Authors	338
Iris Murdoch: Fiction	341
Non-fiction and Interviews	342
Criticism	346
Reviews of <i>A Fairly Honourable Defeat</i>	352
Doris Lessing: Fiction	355
Non-fiction and Interviews	356
Criticism	360
Reviews of <i>Memoirs of a Survivor</i>	366
V.S. Naipaul: Fiction	369
Non-fiction and Interviews	369
Criticism	373

## **Summary**

The novels of Iris Murdoch, Doris Lessing and V.S. Naipaul are studied in the light of statements they have made in essays and interviews regarding the ethical implications of writing fiction. The purpose of this research is to examine the nature of the problems they have identified in the creative process of writing and the strategies each has used to address the ethical problems they perceive, and to assess the relative success of their chosen methods.

It can be seen that, although for each of them the quest for truth is their highest concern, they have each developed very different ways of dealing with the problems they believe are connected with writing truthfully, and in addition, they have defined the particulars of these problems in different ways. It is concluded that the more carefully examined and individually defined these problems are, the greater the internal consistency and credibility which is achieved by the strategies they have developed to address the problems, and the more their work has developed in the course of their careers.

## Declaration

I certify that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university; and that to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text.

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Gillian Dooley

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### **Note on Referencing**

Published interviews with Murdoch, Lessing and Naipaul are a major source of information for this thesis. Accordingly, to avoid confusion, MLA style has been adapted to the extent that the interviewer is treated as the author of each interview, rather than the interviewee.