



Reconstruction of Lili's profile

Toxic Lesbian, 2019

Lili, or Adela as she is known under this pseudonym by researchers who rescue her testimony, specifically Ana Conseglieri, was married at the age of 19 and in 1934, pregnant with her second child (she would have five children), starts to feel very intense pain in the ovaries and this leads her to consume morphine which is administered to her by her husband who is a chemist. The husband however refuses to supply her greater doses and this leaves Lili with no other options apart from stealing them from him. It should be noted that withdrawal symptoms from morphine can unleash aggressive behavior to which the acute pelvic pain should be added that is described in her records. This last fact also has an effect on her mood and cognitive capacities.

During the period of the Civil War, her husband is enlisted in the army which worsens her case. When he returns in 1939 he interns her in the private health clinic of Doctor León and after that, in the one of Doctor Suils, both in Madrid. Later on she is interned in the mental institution of Leganés in 1944 with a diagnosis of drug addiction and psychopathic personality. At that time she is 32 years old. She was released finally in 1945 and it is not known whether she was interned in any other institution after that.

The text the performance is based on of the work is extracted from the letters Lili wrote during the time she was locked up and which is displayed in a intimate writing in which she addresses her husband in a heartbreaking manner. The husband, as seen in the testimony shown in this correspondence, is the person responsible for her internment and he appears to have abandoned her there in this context. Desperate, she states her religious non-practicing condition and the change experienced as a consequence of her internment, almost like an adaptation to the demands of the dominant values in Franco's Spain. Surrounded by this catholic and ultra-conservative imperative, Lili must renounce her extrovert personality, with great ease in establishing social relations, attractive and with great charm. The reconstruction of her personality displays her as a woman with no fears, very emotional and showing great interest in her surroundings. She is receptive, very open minded and with a great capacity for listening and strong commitments to her loved ones. Her easy going character clashes with the difficulties that her probable endometriosis (at that time there was no research done about this illness that can make women suffer high degrees of pain) made her suffer, transforming her way of being into a life revolving around the only palliative that existed for her gynecological suffering: morphine and its complex side effects.

For these women who were educated in a much more liberal way during the time of the Republic, the loss of rights that the involution of the law meant for them and their values at the time of the start of the Dictatorship, this surrounded them with a hostile medium that no longer accepted them as they were. In the case of Lili her personality was perhaps a reason for rejection forcing her to pretend and frequently use aggression as a means of survival. The diagnosis she is given does not appear to have taken much consideration about her personal circumstances nor her physical difficulties, condemning her to cruel lock up shortly after giving

birth to her fifth son, Rafaelín, whom she mentions insistently in her letters, apparently with no one providing her with news about this child or letting her see him. Lili's letters are a progressive exercise in submission and self-blame in a desperate attempt to regain favor from her husband who socially receives his wife as almost a property.

Script of the prototype “Case Study of Lili”, based on real sources, the letters the lead character addressed to her relatives and friends from her internment in the Psychiatric Hospital of Leganés and which were included in her records there

Text adapted by Toxic Lesbian based on the sources published in the book “Letters from the Madhouse” (Villasante, Candela, Conseglieri, Tierno, Vázquez de la Torre y Huertas, 2018)

Antonio my dearest: I will start by telling you that yesterday, day of the virgin, I confessed in church and took communion and you already know what this means in me, which I had never done.

The life of a person can change in just a few hours and mine has changed and the blow has been so strong and painful that even my ideas have been transformed. The only thing that has not changed no matter how much effort I do is my thinking and I have a fixed thought, obsessed with our children... ours. Antonio, do not doubt this for a single momento, yours and mine. Who is taking care of Rafaelin? Who braids the hair of my little girls? Is Antoñito doing well in school? I have them deep in my soul, the five of them and you... but above all, my boy, my little Rafaelín, this is my greatest torment... I will tell you that with the displeasure of having my breasts full of milk and not being able to empty them..., I would like to die.

Cancel me from your life, but please leave me with my children.

Antonio For God's sake! Do you know where you have sent me?, Do you have any idea what a madhouse is? No; you do not know.

I beg you, if there is anything I have done well in life, in the memory of that please come with the two boys and we will commune together the four of us at mass at 10. I promise to not say anything about leaving here.

I want to fulfil the punishment you impose!

I am here in the madhouse of Leganés, with this single phrase you will realize my suffering is infinite. Can you imagine this? No, not at all, it is one thing to tell of it and quite another to experience it.

If I offended you, forgive me and come and get me! I know you were here on Sunday and you didn't even ask about me... because my shame for what happened is true. For me there was none other than you! I know I have been remiss and perhaps worse for all that has condemned me..., it is my pain to know you do not love me, you abhor me as you have said more than once. Think of our children and forgive me!

Write to me right away and don't forget your unfortunate Lili! If you do not come soon I will end up god knows how. You and only you must make the arrangements.

For God's sake! Come so I can see you and console myself a little.

I wait for you anxiously, Lili.