

Tribhuvan University

Protagonist's Inauthentic Mode of Existence in William Kennedy's *Ironweed*

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By

Ashok Rayamajhi

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

This thesis entitled **Protagonist's Inauthentic Mode of Existence in William Kennedy's. *Ironweed***, submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Ashok Rayamajhi has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research committee.

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

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Ashok Rayamajhi

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Abstract

Through *Ironweed*, William Kennedy shows Francis Phelan, the protagonist, all the time struggling in the disordered world disorderly to make sense out of it, but utterly lacking knowledge not only of his relation to the world but of himself too. So, not being able to get authentic sense of being in his quest, he keeps on moving with utter despair. Enchained with some lethal flaws in his character that he is unable to eschew, he continues leading an inauthentic mode of existence never rising above the forfeiture and knowing himself truly.

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