

**Tribhuvan University**

**Failure of American Dream in Lynn Austin's *All She Ever Wanted***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in  
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree  
Of Master of Arts in English**

**By**

**Umesh Acharya**

**Central Department of English**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**August 2012**

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Central department of English**

**Recommendation Letter**

This thesis entitled "Failure of American Dream in Lynn Austin's *All She Ever Wanted*" has been prepared by Mr. Umesh Acharya under my supervision. I, hereby, recommend this thesis for examination by the Thesis Committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English.

---

Supervisor

Mr. Harihar Jnawali

Date: .....

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled "Failure of American Dream in Lynn Austin's *All She Ever Wanted*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Umesh Acharya, has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

---

---

Internal Examiner

---

---

---

External Examiner

---

---

---

Head

Central Department of English

---

Date: .....

## **Acknowledgements**

Words would not suffice to convey my feelings of gratitude to my supervisor Harihar Jnawali, lecturer of Central Department of English, for his cordial encouragement and guidance so that I have completed this research. I would like to thank Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, our chief sir, whose words have always functioned as a source of energy during my research. So, my reverence will remain always on his part.

Help and suggestions from my seniors, guardians too, have remained valuable for this research. Especially my guardians Punya Acharya, Ugendra Acharya, Mahendra Acharya, Youvaraj Khatiwada have always remained in the alley of my encouragements, so I will always remain indebted to them.

To complete this thesis my friends' contribution has remained of great worth, Mukesh Katuwal, Suvash Khatiwada, Amit Basnet, Navin Sanjel, Krishna Budhathoki, Suvash Niraula, Balkrishna Niraula, Prakash Dahal, Narayan Vai and those all unaddressed friends who have helped me during this research deserve my thanks for their cooperation.

Furthermore, I am heartily thanks to my lovely children, Nani Durga, Unisha, Manoj, Lelisha, Leliza my sisters Deepa and Shreejana, brothers Rudra, Tapan, Som for their co-operation and co-ordination during this research. I cannot forget the uncompromising assistance of my parents; my father Bishnu Prashad Acharya and mother Krishnamaya Acharya. So, I am grateful for their encouragement and warm love.

Umesh Acharya

## **Abstract**

In *All She Ever Wanted*, Lynn Austin pictures the modern Euro- American society and provides the mirror of social circumstances. She unearths the bourgeoisie domination upon the proletariats and presents that the wealth, name and fame are guided by superiority complex, whereas poverty, suffering and failure are guided by the inferiority complex. The novel deals with the experiences of failure in the life of the characters. Kathleen is the central character acting as a role model protagonist. She narrates the whole story and reveals Euro-American socio-economic and socio-political scenario of the post war period. Austin depicts vividly the social panorama, in which the bourgeoisie exploit to the proletariat through the means of social apparatus by imposing hegemony, gradually to rule upon them. American wealthy people exploit the inferior who run to achieve the honey of American dream, to be fuller, richer, better, prosperous and higher in wealthy society. Despite this, every character becomes the victim of the bourgeoisie monopoly system and exploitation. In this research, Fiona gets victimized by the wealthy banker Arthur who has married her only for enjoyment purpose. His fake marriage makes Fiona identity less woman. Her dreams to be richer, fuller and better fade away suddenly after the death of her selfish husband Arthur. All those characters that run after fantasy and depend on fate are faced the same condition as Fiona.

## Contents

### Page No.

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I. Quest of American Dream in Lynn Austin's *All She Ever Wanted* 1-8

II. Failure of American Dream in Lynn Austin's *All She Ever Wanted* 9-41

III. Fiona's Decadence as a Symbol of Failure of American Dream 42-44

Works Cited