

Tribhuvan University

**Female Awakening in Angela Carter's *Nights at the Circus***

A Thesis Submitted to

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University,

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mrs. Bimala K.C. has completed her thesis entitled “Female Awakening in Angela Carter’s *Nights at the Circus*” under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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**Approval Letter**

This thesis entitled “Female Awakening in Angela Carter’s *Nights at the Circus*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mrs. Bimala K.C., has been approved by undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## **Abstract**

This research, based on Angela Carter's *Nights at the Circus*, is an analysis of female awakening at the backdrop of socio-historical marginalization of working females. This work brings together the critical insights of Marxist feminism and subversive attempts of the major characters in the novel. Lizzie and her adopted daughter Fevvers serve as mouthpieces for these feminist attempts. The novel's omniscient narrative voice also attempts to run alongside these two voices in order to posit a feminism that would be liberating while retaining a socio-historical grounding - a feminism that would free human beings from the hierarchical relations. In order to analyze the status of women and of existing relationships between women and men within Western culture, this research ventures through Marxist feminist instances in Carter's novel. Even as Carter appropriates extraordinary and fantastic elements, Carter retains certain conventions of realism and a firm connection to the historical material situation as means of securing her novel's feminist political edge.

## Contents

### Page No.

Acknowledgements

Abstract

Contents

I. Angela Carter's Journey through the Female World	1-11
II. Theoretical Modality	
Emergence of Feminist Movement	12-14
Theoretical Development of Feminism	14-26
III. Marxist Eve: Revolutionary Females in <i>Nights at the Circus</i>	27-47
IV. Conclusion	47-49

**Works Cited**