

Tribhuvan University

A Quest for Women's Identity in Willa Cather's *A Lost Lady*

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in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of  
Masters of Arts in English

By

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This thesis entitled "A Quest for Women's Identity in Willa Cather's *A Lost Lady*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Ms. Samjhana Karki has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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## Abstract

Willa Cather's *A Lost Lady* provokes quest for women's independent identity in the newly built American frontier society. It also portrays women's struggle for freedom and autonomy, which is possible but not so easy. Marian Forrester, the protagonist of the novel, challenges Victorian patriarchal norms and fights throughout her life for her freedom and autonomy, and finally gets victory over it. But her struggle still slightly remains as an unfulfilled dream since she is made to leave the society and go back to her own place i.e. California.

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