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**Subverting the patriarchy: A Feminist Reading of Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own***

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**Abstract:**

Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* (1929) is foundational in feminist literary criticism. Essentially, it argues that women have never had equal opportunities to men in literature because they have not had the 'money' and 'freedom' in Woolf's words. Woolf herself evidently was subject to such conditions.

This paper looks at Woolf's idea that financial independence and intellectual freedom are essential for creativity. It discusses how she uses the fictional character Judith Shakespeare to illustrate the obstacles women face, and how she criticizes the male-dominated literary world. The paper also connects Woolf's ideas to other feminist thinkers like Simone de Beauvoir, bell hooks, and some contemporary intersectional feminists.

Finally, it reflects on the relevance of *A Room of One's Own* to the contemporary discussions on gender, creativity, and fairness in academia and arts. It also accepts some of the criticisms of Woolf, most especially the focus on race and class which has been largely overlooked. Lastly, the paper centres on Woolf's contribution in both the literary and feminist domains.

**Keywords:** Virginia Woolf's '*A Room Of One's Own*', Literary feminist criticism, financial independence, intellectual freedom, intersectional feminism, gender inequality.

**Introduction**

Virginia Woolf is influential in feminist literature, not only because she wrote great novels but also because she talked openly about the struggles women faced in a world

dominated by men. Her 1929 essay, *A Room of One's Own*, is still a cornerstone of feminist thinking. It really nails how unfair things were for women who wanted to be creative or intellectual. The essay evidently has one main point: "A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction." This might sound simple, but it gets at the heart of the way that economic, social, and cultural barriers hold women back. Woolf examines how, for example, a lack of money or the inability to think for oneself might crush a woman's creative abilities. She even goes to the extent of dreaming up a Shakespeare sister, Judith, who was as good as her brother but was denied all the same chances. It's a powerful way of showing what women missed out on. Woolf's ideas are still relevant today. We're still talking about the gender pay gap, access to education, and whether women are properly represented in creative fields, all things Woolf was concerned about. Her criticism of the male-centric literary world also connects to current efforts to make sure we hear from more diverse voices in literature. This paper will delve into *A Room of One's Own* from a feminist perspective, looking at Woolf's arguments in both her time and ours. It'll analyze her takedown of male-dominated institutions, link her ideas to other feminist theories, and also consider where her perspective might have fallen short, especially when it comes to things like intersectionality. Ultimately, the paper wants to show why Woolf remains such an important figure for feminist scholars and activists today.

### **Historical Context and Background**

Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* must be contextualized through understanding the historical and cultural period. The essay finds its publication in 1929, amidst much social and political change, wherein major shifts began for women. The early 20th century saw the rise of the suffrage movement that eventually led to women in the United Kingdom having the right to vote in 1918, for those above 30, and then all women above 21 in 1928. However, such victories did not change the dominant patriarchal structure of society at large, as women were mainly relegated to the domestic sphere. Women in Literature in the Early 20th Century Women writers sure had it very bad back in Woolf's day. Ignored or simply belittled, this practice had been done for centuries by women writers. Women were shunned from all proper education as well as true intellectual circles and therefore no one would be astonished if male writers such as Shakespeare, Milton and Wordsworth seemed like these legends of literature whilst women were scrambling just to draw attention to themselves. Anything a woman wrote was considered just "sentimental" or "fluffy," not because it wasn't good, but because it was written by a woman. It was just ingrained bias. The literary world was basically a boys' club. Of course, there were a few women like Jane Austen and George Eliot who managed to break through, but they were seen as exceptions, not as equals to the male writers. And even if a woman did succeed in getting published, she mostly faced financial struggles. Think about Aphra Behn, one of the earliest women who made a living through writing. She was a rarity in a men-dominated profession. Woolf also talks about Behn in *A Room of One's Own* while appreciating her for paving the way for women.

### **Economic and Educational Barriers**

In *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf makes a powerful point: Throughout history, women's creativity has been stifled by systemic barriers, especially in education and

economics. She explains how women were denied the opportunities that men took for granted like attending prestigious universities such as Oxford and Cambridge. While men could dive deep into intellectual pursuits, women were often stuck with domestic responsibilities and limited to studying subjects society deemed “suitable” for them. Woolf even describes visiting the fictional Oxbridge, where she notices the stark contrast between the rich, well-funded men's colleges and the modest, poorly resourced-women's institutions. This isn't just about the buildings, it's a symbol of the broader societal inequality that held women back, constantly undermining their intellectual potential. She also elaborates on the fact that financial dependence on male relatives limited their creative freedom as women. If they did not have a stable income of their own, women could hardly be concerned with arts or literature for survival. This is what Woolf learned through her personal experience. Being part of the Bloomsbury Group, she understood that her family's wealth made it possible to write something a privilege many women could not afford.

### **Virginia Woolf's Self**

Virginia Woolf's idea in *A Room of One's Own* was nurtured by personal life as an author and writer. Born into a wealthy class in 1882, her life was covered with books and art, in addition to deep intellectual conversations surrounding her. Nonetheless, she cannot escape the confinement imposed on the female gender; this is because even progressive families like hers conformed to all those restrictions that women had undergone for years. While her brothers went to very good schools, Woolf and her sister Vanessa had to contend with homeschooling, a reflection of the patriarchal society at the time. Life had not been a cakewalk for Woolf. Losing her parents, as well as the struggles that plagued her in terms of mental illness, marked her with a very first-hand understanding of society's pressures put on women. Despite these sufferings, Woolf emerged to be an extraordinary writer who created novels, essays, and stories that questioned these traditional roles regarding gender, identity, and creativity. The influence of the Bloomsbury Group circle of writers, artists, and thinkers-also shaped her output. The group supported unorthodox thinking, creating a space for Woolf to speak out against conventional thinking, criticize societal norms, and promote intellectual freedom for women.

A Watershed in Feminist Thought: When Virginia Woolf delivered the talks that formed *A Room of One's Own*, feminist thoughts were becoming more audible. Her essay is very much part of an ongoing discussion about women's rights, coming after earlier feminist writers like Mary Wollstonecraft, whose *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* was published in 1792. Wollstonecraft advocates for the rights of women in education and equality. However, Woolf took it differently. Rather than just education, she showed what women need to be creative, such as financial independence and personal freedom. Interestingly, Woolf's thoughts were ahead of her time. She touched upon issues that were central to the second wave of feminism in the 1960s and 70s which focused on how personal experiences are shaped by larger social and political forces. Woolf's discussion of how gender, class, and money are all connected helped lay the groundwork for feminist critiques of systems that hold women back.

### **Analysis of A Room of One's Own**

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Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* is more than a feminist declaration but an excellent reflection on the creative process, gender, and institutional oppression. Through her thesis—"A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction" she distills both material and psychological barriers women faced in attempting any kind of art-making. Text breaks down argument, her literary strategies, and major illustrations into an exploration that will be proven timeless.

### **Woolf's Central Thesis: The Necessity of Money and Space**

Behind Woolf's essay lies a simple but powerful idea: for people to be creative in the truest sense, they require financial independence and a private space of their own. Woolf's argument is built on reflection on history when women were both isolated from economic opportunities and deprived of freedom about what to think or create. It is no wonder that women's voices are so unfortunately absent from literature, she explains. When Woolf talks about "*a room*," she does not mean a physical space with four walls. It is also a metaphor for mental space, the freedom to think, dream, and create without constant interruptions. She points out how society has often denied women this space, expecting them to focus on household duties and emotional caregiving instead of their own ambitions. Woolf also emphasizes the need for financial security. She even does arithmetic, suggesting that an income of £500 a year, which was a lot of money back then, would give a woman independence to write without worrying about the money. For Woolf, creativity only thrives when people do not bring such financial burdens to their shoulders. This kind of security will never leave the one in question focused fully on artistic expression.

### **The Fictional Judith Shakespeare**

One of Woolf's most powerful arguments comes through the story of a fictional character she creates the imaginary sister of William Shakespeare, *Judith Shakespeare*. While being equally gifted and talented as William, Judith's life takes a tragic turn because of the harsh societal rules of her times. William, on the other hand, learns to write with all his freedom and creativity to be expressed as much as needed. Judith's parents discourage her from reading and writing, "it is unsuitable for girls." They only want her talent to be engaged in marriage or whatever they call the only role a girl may play. Judith attempts to free herself and chase her dreams when she joins the theatre, where she is scorned and humiliated because of being a female. At last, her talent goes unrewarded, and she dies an obscure death, without ever being able to realize her potential. Unlike her brother, whose name has been alive for generations. Through Judith's heartbreaking story, Woolf shows how many brilliant women throughout history have been silenced, not because they lacked talent, but because society never gave them the chance to shine. It's a powerful reminder of all the lost voices and untold stories hidden by a system that never allowed them to be heard.

### **Criticism of the Patriarchal Canon**

Woolf heavily criticizes the world of literature for being a man's domain, leaving women with little or no voice in the world of literature. She further argues that most of the books that have been termed "classics" are by men and portray the experiences, priorities, and worldviews of men. This makes women often missing from such stories or featured in limited, stereotypical roles, such as the devoted wife, the damsel in distress, or the emotional caretaker. But Woolf doesn't stop here. She denounces the ways in which male control over

literary criticism, judgments, and the valuation of books has been constructed. According to her, most male critics measured women's writings against standards developed from masculine experience, expecting that women should be able to write like men or on topics that men thought essential. This produced an unfair system where women's unique voices and styles were neither appreciated nor taken seriously. Woolf argues that this not only deters women from creativity but also keeps them out of the limelight of literature, which in turn makes it even more challenging for their work to be accepted and appreciated.

### **The Stream-of-Consciousness Technique**

The most striking aspect of Woolf in *A Room of One's Own* is how she writes. It is almost as if she is thinking aloud, letting her thoughts flow smoothly from one to another. This technique is called stream-of-consciousness and makes the essay much more conversational than lecturing. Woolf mixes personal experience, imaginary events, and profound thoughts all at once, allowing her to expound on seemingly difficult ideas that somehow seem quite straightforward and human. What's most impressive, however, is how she navigates between the past and the present with fluid ease. This is more than a way of writing, though; this is a tool that shows us that women's fights aren't just now. This is something people have been experiencing for centuries. With the juxtaposition of true facts and fabricated tales, Woolf connects monumental ideas with strong feelings, rendering her message so general yet intimately close to individuality. One would say that it is similar to saying that "this isn't history anymore, but is a part of our lives also."

**The Anger in Creating:** Woolf also discusses the role of anger in women's writing. She understands that women have every reason to feel angry about the way society has treated them—after all, they've faced years of inequality and oppression. However, she believes that this anger is valid, but it shouldn't completely take over their writing. Instead, Woolf recommends that women channel that anger into something creative, using it as fuel to make powerful, meaningful art that goes beyond just bitterness. This is inspiring and a little bit controversial. On one hand, it's empowering because Woolf is encouraging women to rise above their frustrations and create freely. On the other hand, some argue that she's underplaying the role anger can play as a means of protest. For instance, anger is a very powerful tool for change. Woolf's argument, however, appears to be about balance, acknowledge the anger but not let it constrain the richness and beauty of one's work.

### **Foreshadowing Intersectionality**

While Woolf mainly focuses on gender in her essay, her arguments also hint at the role of class and privilege. She talks a lot about how important financial independence is, which shows she understands that money, or the lack of it, adds another layer to the struggles women face. But here's the catch: Woolf's focus is mostly on the lives of middle- and upper-class women. This has invited criticism in turn, for she doesn't actually penetrate very much the experience of working-class women or women of colour whose experiences are generally tougher. While that was the case, Woolf's essay had, however still made a path for future feminist thinkers. She opined about the economic and social barriers preventing women from becoming productive members of society. That made way for future discussions of intersectionality: that is, that race, class, and gender are connected ways of being oppressed.

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Future scholars like Bell Hooks would elaborate upon this further to show that feminism needs the voices and experiences of all women and not the privileged few.

### **Feminist Theoretical Framework**

A Room of One's Own, the work of Virginia Woolf, is undeniably a foundational text in the realm of feminist literary critique. It inspires because Woolf achieves a definitive plunge into the confluence of gender, class, and creativity. Her ideas aren't confined to her era but have been garnered, reviewed, and developed by most feminist thinkers who succeeded her. In this section, we will examine how Woolf's arguments relate to some of the key feminist theories and how her work has influenced the way we talk about feminism today. Her ideas about the obstacles women encounter in both society and the economy continue to ring true, so her essay is an essential part of contemporary feminist discussions.

**Liberal Feminism and Economic Independence:** Virginia Woolf believed that for a woman to be well-equipped for creative expression, financial independence should be at the top of her list. This gels with liberal feminism because liberal feminists assert that for women to fully realize their potential, they should be provided with opportunities and resources treated equally and have control over their finances. Without them, systemic differences persist in areas like education and employment. The author herself talks about it at length in *A Room of One's Own*. She maintains that this economic disparity between the sexes is not only monetary; money means liberty. Moreover, if a woman had an income equaling £500 a year, this amount was then significant, the working-class woman would have stability and could concern herself with the pursuit of creative art without constant financial anxieties. Ahead of its time, this concept paved the way for later feminist thinkers in the form of Betty Friedan. In the work *The Feminine Mystique* (1963), Friedan discusses how economic and social systems force women into domestic roles, restricting both their personal and professional advancement. Woolf's arguments look forward to such debates; what is central to securing intellectual and creative freedom for women is financial independence.

### **Cultural Feminism and Women's Creativity**

Virginia Woolf, in *A Room of One's Own*, celebrates the unique perspectives and creative potential women bring to the world, which is an idea that resonates with cultural feminism. Cultural feminists believe that the experiences of women, shaped by their roles, relationships, and daily lives, offer valuable insights that can enrich art, literature, and society. In critiquing the predominantly male literary tradition, Woolf protests that literature has long looked at both sides of a question only from one point of view. She thus wants to create a space, a place, a setting in which women's experiences are not included but valued. Woolf even produced the idea of "woman's sentence," writing that captures the richness, depth, and nuance of women's lives in ways that elude more traditional, masculine forms of writing. This idea has left a lasting legacy, inspiring future feminist writers and critics to find new ways of reading, writing, and appreciating literature that truly reflects women's voices and experiences. Woolf's call for a literary tradition rooted in women's realities has helped shape the broader cultural conversation about gender and creativity.

### **Psychoanalytic Feminism and the "Angel in the House"**

In *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf critiques the notion of the "Angel in the

House," which is a metaphor for the ideal woman—selfless, nurturing, and always putting others first. This figure represents the traditional expectation that women should be gentle, obedient, and devoted entirely to serving their families. Woolf's struggle to "kill" this angel very powerfully relates to the inner battle that many women often face in breaking free from these limiting roles and determining to become true selves. The conception resonates very well with psychoanalytic feminism, the way society's expectations shape the whole perspective of women's self-behaviour in society. Applying the thoughts of Freud and Lacan shows how a woman internalizes these ideals about femininity while she is simply unaware of their existence. How deeply Woolf reflects on that "Angel in the House," how hard this can be resisted. Woolf's ideas opened up the way for later feminist scholars such as Julia Kristeva and Luce Irigaray, who dug even deeper into the psychological effects of gender roles on women. While Woolf battled the "Angel in the House," she wasn't just fighting against the outer societal norms; she was battling the inner ones that prevent women from fully actualizing their creativity and intellectual prowess.

### **Materialist Feminism and Class Inequalities**

In *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf throws light on how economic and social barriers hold women back, an idea that connects closely with materialist feminism. Materialist feminists believe that gender inequality isn't just about cultural attitudes, it's also deeply tied to economic systems like capitalism, which exploit women's labour and limit their access to resources. Woolf highlights how the men's and women's educational institutions were miles apart, where men had the luxury of well-funded colleges and rich libraries while women had to do with much less. It is not only a matter of education but also the larger structural inequalities that bar women from opportunities in all walks of life. She even acknowledges that her ability to write freely came from financial security, a privilege many women didn't have. The ability of money, class, and access to resources to shape women's lives places Woolf's work in a materialist feminist critique. It allows us to understand that full gender equality cannot be achieved until economic systems that keep women behind are addressed.

### **Intersectionality: Missed Opportunity**

While Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* was groundbreaking in its time, it has been criticized for not representing the experiences of working-class women and women of colour. Woolf's work primarily focuses on middle- and upper-class women, reflecting her own privileged background. Many of her arguments are based on the assumption that women have a certain level of financial stability and access to education, opportunities that weren't, and still aren't, available to everyone. What is needed here is the late 20th-century dawn of intersectional feminism. Thinkers such as Bell Hooks and Kimberlé Crenshaw then further articulated that gender does not exist in a vacuum but intersects with race, class, and sexuality, among other elements, to shape unique experiences for each woman. This adds complexity to Woolf's understanding of how forms of oppression overlap to create complicated challenges that cannot be conceived of through gender alone. Though Woolf's work formed the bed for these conversations, it was by no means unfettered and was in a way bound to the social world of her day. Contemporary feminist thought expands this foundation and goes further than simply advocating for broad frameworks that mirror the

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diversity of women's experiences.

### **Influence on Modern Feminist Theory**

Virginia Woolf's ideas have left their mark on feminist literary criticism and theory. Her famous call for a room of one's own has survived from being merely a requirement to have a real space or area: it has become more of a metaphor for personal, creative, and intellectual freedom that women desperately need to flourish. To this day, feminists take from her work in trying to understand how systemic inequalities still persist and how those changes can take place. Woolf's work on creativity, gender, and oppression has inspired generations of scholars. Her ideas helped shape concepts like gynocriticism, introduced by Elaine Showalter, which focuses on studying women's literature from women's perspectives. She also influenced feminist poststructuralists like Hélène Cixous, who delved into how language and power shape gender roles. Woolf's passion for believing in the value of women's voices inspires feminism around the world and challenges patriarchal norms while celebrating women's contributions to literature, culture, and society.

### **Legacy and Relevance of A Room of One's Own**

Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* remains one of the most influential feminist works ever written. The ideas it puts forth continue to speak to readers and scholars alike, regardless of the generation. Woolf's ideas on gender, creativity, and independence have moulded the way we think about feminism, not just in literature but in society as a whole. This part examines the afterlife of Woolf's ideas: how she has shaped feminist thought, inspired contemporary writers, and sparked conversation about gender equity. Her words remain relevant to this day and remind us how women's voices are still striving to be heard and their stories valued.

### **A Foundation for Feminist Literary Criticism**

Virginia Woolf's work has long been a touchstone for feminist literary criticism. Her fearless condemnation of the masculine literary sphere and her commitment to the significance of women's voices have inspired countless generations of feminist thinkers. For example, Elaine Showalter developed Woolf's ideas in "Toward a Feminist Poetics," which introduced the idea of "gynocriticism", how to study women's writing as its own vibrant, singular tradition. Woolf's metaphor of "a room of one's own" has been the symbol of feminist discourse and, indeed, of the need for women to have their own space, be it physical, financial, or intellectual, free from the restrictions that patriarchy puts on them. This concept has moved far beyond literature to conversations on the roles of women in politics, academia, digital spaces, and creative industries, thereby demonstrating just how timeless and flexible Woolf's insight was.

### **Influence on Women's Literature**

Virginia Woolf's call for a distinct female literary voice has deeply influenced women writers all around the world. Authors like Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie drew from Woolf's ideas to explain how gender, race, and identity intersect in their work. For instance, take Alice Walker's essay "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens." Walker revisits Woolf's idea of "a room of one's own" but expands it to highlight the artistic contributions of African American women. She argues that despite systemic oppression, Black women have always found ways to create art—sometimes not in



private rooms, but in community spaces and through shared cultural memory. Toni Morrison, in powerful novels like *Beloved* and *The Bluest Eye*, also reflects Woolf's influence. Morrison delves into how systemic oppression impacts the lives and creativity of women, showing the emotional and psychological struggles, they endure. Similarly, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *We Should All Be Feminists* takes Woolf's core ideas and reimagines them for a modern, global audience. Adichie addresses the ongoing fight for gender equality, proving that Woolf's legacy continues to shape feminist thought today. Issues discussed in *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf are relevant today and remain the epicentre of present feminist movements: financial independence, gender roles, and silencing women's voices. Equal pay, fair parental leave policies, and the increased presence of women at leadership levels mirror Woolf's call for structural change in creating a fairer society.

Movements like #MeToo reflect the spirit of Woolf's work. Where Woolf spoke about a "room of one's own," this movement has more to do with safety, physical and emotional safety. In essence, they both stress that women need safe spaces to fully flourish, be it in the creative space or the broader society, free from fear, inequality, and oppression. Woolf's vision continues to inspire these contemporary struggles, reminding us that true freedom exists in both autonomy and systemic change.

### **Critics and Limitations**

The importance and original insight from *A Room of One's Own* notwithstanding, this work certainly had its problems. The significant objection is that Woolf herself focuses appears more on experiences with middle-and upper-class women as opposed to other voices coming through from women from the lower working class, the voices still ignored, silenced women of colour who struggle under the lenses of gender combined with systemic and pervasive racism/classism that informs different ways and methods of challenges related to fighting economic and artistic freedoms. Modern feminist scholars have, therefore been trying to fill the gaps by building up on Woolf's ideas and making them more inclusive. For example, in her theory of intersectionality, Kimberlé Crenshaw helps us understand how different forms of oppression, such as race, class, and gender, overlap and affect lives in complex ways. This approach broadens the conversation that Woolf started, ensuring that the fight for equality reflects the diverse experiences of all women.

### **Impact on Cultural and Educational Discourses**

Woolf's ideas have left a lasting mark not just on literature but also on cultural and educational spaces. Her strong belief in the importance of women's voices has sparked a shift in how literature and history are taught. Today, many literary curricula have been re-evaluated to include more works by women writers, and anthologies and academic courses now highlight the diverse contributions women have made to literature and culture. This shift challenges the long-standing dominance of male-centred narratives, making room for stories that were often overlooked. But Woolf's influence goes beyond the classroom. Her arguments about the need for financial independence and intellectual freedom continue to resonate in modern discussions about gender equality. Whether it's debates about workplace discrimination, access to quality education, or the ongoing fight to close the gender pay gap, Woolf's ideas still inspire people to push for a more just and equitable world.

**The Room in the Digital Age**

In the 21st century, Woolf's idea of "a room of one's own" has found new meaning in the digital world. The internet has opened up virtual spaces where women can express themselves freely, connect with others, and engage in activism. Whether through blogs, social media platforms, or online forums, women are using these digital "rooms" to share their stories, challenge injustice, and build supportive communities. But just like in the real world, these online spaces come with their own set of challenges. Issues like online harassment, digital surveillance, and unequal access to technology, especially for marginalized groups—show that the fight for safe, inclusive spaces is far from over. Woolf's message about the need for material support to foster creative freedom still rings true today. It's a reminder that having access to resources, security, and a supportive environment is key to empowering women, both offline and online.

**Conclusion**

Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* remains a powerful and timeless work, bridging the gap between the past and the present. At its core, Woolf's message is simple yet profound: for women to truly thrive, creatively, intellectually, and personally, they need economic independence and a space of their own. Though she wrote this in the early 20th century, her words continue to resonate because the struggles she highlighted are still very real today. Woolf's insights laid the groundwork for feminist literary criticism, inspiring generations of thinkers, writers, and activists. Scholars and movements have built upon her ideas, expanding them to include the voices of women from all walks of life—those often overlooked due to race, class, or other intersecting identities. While Woolf didn't fully address intersectionality, her work opened the door for others to explore these complexities, shaping the way we understand systemic inequalities today. Movements like #MeToo and the fight for equal pay carry forward her call for meaningful, structural change. What's remarkable is how Woolf's metaphor of "a room of one's own" has evolved over time. In today's digital world, women are claiming new kinds of spaces, online communities, creative platforms, and activist networks. These modern "rooms" allow women to connect, collaborate, and amplify their voices like never before. Yet, the challenges Woolf wrote about: inequality, exclusion, and the need for safe, supportive environments, haven't disappeared. They've just taken new forms, reminding us that the fight for true freedom and recognition is ongoing. Reimagining Woolf's "room" for the 21st century means looking beyond gender alone. It's about acknowledging how race, class, sexuality, and even geography shape women's experiences. Woolf's legacy is more than just a literary milestone; it's a call to action. Her work challenges us to create spaces where all voices, regardless of background, can be heard, valued, and celebrated. As we look to the future, *A Room of One's Own* continues to inspire. It's not just a reflection of past struggles; it's a guide for building a more inclusive, equitable world. Woolf's words remind us that literature has the power to question, to challenge, and to imagine new possibilities. Her vision encourages us to keep pushing boundaries, to create spaces—both literal and metaphorical—where everyone has the freedom to dream, create, and truly flourish.

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