Ernest Hemingway's Heroines from Puppets to Puppeteers: the Case of Brett Ashley in Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises and Catherine Bourne in The Garden of E

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Summary/Abstract: The paper wishes to explore the way in which two of the most controversial heroines in Ernest Hemingway's fiction, Brett Ashley and Catherine Bourne...
Bourne, may be read through the feminist lens of the binary oppositions introduced by Helene Cixous in her essay “Sorties: Out and Out: Attacks/Ways Out/ Forays” (1975). Although traditional critical interpretations position these characters on one side of the binary oppositions, they are, in fact, more complex than having previously been given credit. They are both insecure and destructive, dependent and independent, both in search of their true identity which seems to surpass the boundaries of patriarchally accepted norms. As a result, they erase boundaries and undermine stereotypes, allowing the reader to decipher their puzzled identities and lives.
Ernest Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises" was almost called something else. Early title contenders were "Fiesta: A Novel" (as the book was subsequently known in England), "Two Lie Together," and even "For in much wisdom is much grief and he that increases knowledge increases sorrow"—a line that, like the winning candidate, comes from Ecclesiastes, and that, it is safe to assume, Hemingway might have abridged further if he'd used it. The real-life socialite Lady Duff Twysden was given a better name, Brett Ashley. In the letter, Fitzgerald also criticized Hemingway for injecting his own writerly persona into the text: "That biography from you, who always believed in the superiority (the preferability) of the imagined to the seen not to say to the merely recounted." The Sun Also Rises is Ernest Hemingway's first novel and still stands as a classic in American literature. Published in 1926, it revolves around a group of British and American expatriates living in Paris who travel to Pamplona, Spain for the annual running of the bulls, and it is wrapped around the love story between main character and narrator Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley. The Sun Also Rises captures the spirit of the so-called Lost Generation who came of age during World War I.