

The Interlopers and The Most Dangerous Game: Compare And Contrast

In this essay the two masterful short stories, *The Interlopers* and *The Most Dangerous Game*, will be analyzed. The purpose of the analysis will be to determine similarities and differences between the two. The powerful messages and ironic comedy create interesting elements in both stories, in both equal and opposite ways, the further exploration of these writings gives a deeper understanding to the tangentially layered meanings they possess.

The most prominent differences between the two short stories are the setting and the language style. The setting of *The Interlopers* is snowy tundra, whereas *The Most Dangerous Game* takes place, for the most part, in, "An unbroken front of snarled and ragged jungle..." (Connell, 1) in the end the settings are almost opposite, with only the mentions of towns and ports keeping them even remotely related. The language styles are blatantly different between the two stories. In *The Interlopers*, simplistic, dry language is used by Saki to display a desperate, animal conflagration between men, while *The Most Dangerous Game* employs very colorful, detailed language, almost as a satirical quip at its own dark sophisticated mood.

The underlying themes of the stories are while less forthright, are still valid contrasts between the works. In some portions the themes are of the same facets, such as how in both books two men have a direct conflict between one another, but in the end the most prominent themes are; Man vs. Nature in *The Interlopers*, as in the end even as man has petty struggles amongst his kind, nature dictates his end, and Man vs. Himself in *The Most Dangerous Game*, as the life or death conflict between the two hunters throws the story like a ragdoll. This theme dissimilarity, while subtle, is a major difference.

The similarities between the two tales are the irony, suspense, and story type. Both stories move with small biting twists throughout, and lead up to an extremely ironic, and arguably comical, conclusion. The two stories are gut wrenchingly suspenseful at some times, from escaping a serial killer deep in a foreboding jungle; "Rainsford had fought his way through the bush for two hours. 'I must keep my nerve. I must keep my nerve,' he said through tight teeth." (Connell, 3) to watching a pack of menacing wolves grow ever closer to the men they intend to kill, "'Who are they?' asked Georg quickly, straining his eyes to see what the other would gladly not have seen. 'Wolves'" (Saki, 6-7) The type of story showcased in the two writings is, while fictional, still near to the real world, labeling both stories Realistic-Fiction, a story format used frequently by Saki throughout his career.

In the end the purpose of determining similarities and differences between the two stories has yielded no strong weight to the contrast or comparison of the two works. The stories appear to be equal parts the same

and different. While *The Interlopers* displays dry language, and *The Most Dangerous Game* lavishes in detail, both maintain ironic, yet suspenseful tones, which make them the powerful works we admire today.

Bibliography

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