

The cult of womanhood is the central point of the story because it explains that the motive that Jacobs had in all her decisions and actions. Domesticity was the main point in this theme. In the society that she was raised as slave she had firsthand experience of how women were to behave. There was the general notion that the happiness of a woman was hinged on how she related to her husband and her home. They were expected to be confined in homes and work towards making the husband happy; the only way that the husband could be happy was by the woman following his commands, Linda states “southern women often marry a man knowing that he is the father of many little slaves. They do not trouble themselves about it” (Jacobs 23). A family was deemed complete if there were children and this was the societal definition of true happiness for women. When Linda was working for Mr. Flint she outwitted him in his quest for raping her. There was no great admiration that Linda had for institution of domesticity but this picture motivated her to have an ‘unusual’ relationship with Mr. Sands; a white neighbor. This plan was the ultimate way that she could stop the sexual advances of Mr. Flint and eventually she bore children that gave her joy and reason for living. However, she was faced with the inevitable fact that children will receive the same kind of slavery treatment as her. She avoids facing this truth by hiding in the attic of her mother’s house and watches as Mr. Flint sells her daughter to her proxy slave trader of Mr. Sands. The domesticity institution is the motive behind Linda’s actions and it leads her to locating her daughter after realizing that Mr. Sand proxy may never let her daughter free. Though she does praise domesticity Linda continuously states in the book that she is waiting for her dream of owning a safe home and children to come true.