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# 'SONS AND LOVERS': AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL / A NOVEL OF CONFESSION / OEDIPUS COMPLEX

Julian Morahan has pointed out: 'Sons and Lovers' has three formal orders or matrices . . . . The first matrix is autobiographical narrative; the second a scheme taken over from psycho-analytic theory; the third . . . might be called the matrix of 'life'." A close study of the text reveals that some experiences expressed in the book are very close to biographical actuality. Very pertinent is the remark of Diane Trilling: "Lawrence the man is everywhere in his writings." 'Sons and Lovers' unlike 'Kangaroo' gives a living picture of the life of Lawrence. It spans a range from childhood to maturity through adolescence. Mr Morel represents his father who was a coal-miner, uncouth and unambitious. Mrs Morel represents Lawrence's mother. Mrs Morel is a woman of some education with a strong conviction of

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superiority to her husband. The early section of the novel records how his childhood home was tormented by poverty, his father's drinking and the unhappy relationship of his parents. Lawrence's early promise of his talents, love of books and painting are recorded faithfully in this novel.

Lawrence was a victim of a deep rooted Oedipus Complex. His mother Lydia Lawrence had a very strong hold on him and he too responded to the warm urges of his mother like a lover. It was she who gave him life - warmth. The relation between Mrs Morel and Paul Morel as depicted in the novel reflects the relationship between O. H. Lawrence and Lydia Lawrence. Mrs Morel conceives Paul Morel unwillingly out of a loveless relation. She dreads his birth. But the child pulls at her heart and she feels "as if the novel string that had connected its frail little body with her had been broken." The child is born. She transfers all her cares and affections from her