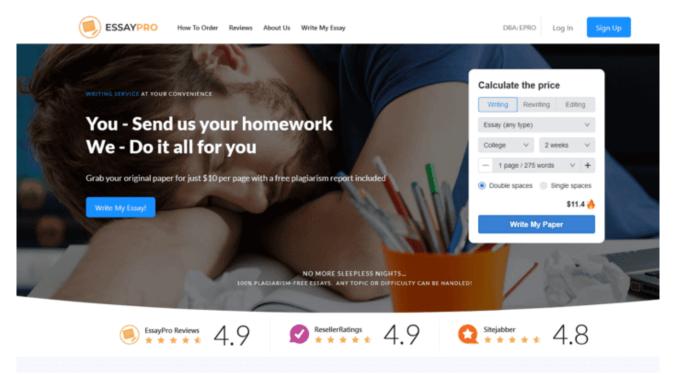
Mockery of Victorian Values in Hecht's Parody, Dover Beach



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Hecht's parody "Dover Bitch" is a mockery of Victorian values shown in "Dover Beach", as well as those of his own period. Hecht candidly exaggerates the speech, ideas and symbols in "Dover Beach.".

The first evidence of Hecht's mockery is of speech at the beginning when he writes "There stood Matthew Arnold and his girl.....All over, etc., etc.". He take the soft calming words of Arnold and gives them a harsh New Jersey accent. His representation of an educated woman sets the reader up to think that the woman will not sit quietly and be told what to do by her https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org/ and be told what to do by her https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org/

said one or two unprintable things" he took away her right to speak. Thus plunging her back to Arnold's Victorian classification that women should sit quietly and ingest her husbands opinions. This might also symbolize the feministic movements of the early sixties. Hecht's view might have been that women could have equality to men, but its not important enough to let them talk about it. His display of faithfulness in the women's unfaithfulness is also a reaction to the Victorian idea that the wife should be there for her husband. It could also be a scary reality in Hecht's mind that times were changing and women would not be at every beaconing call of their husband. Hecht reinforces his Ideas of change by taking Arnold's "...the cliffs of England stand, glimmering and vast" and transforms the Victorian idea of women into "...cliffs of England crumbling away behind them,". This supports the idea that Hecht is aware of the changes that are happening and he is envious of the way things used to be.

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