

# The Representation of an Unmasculine Character in *The Disturber of Traffic*

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Critical studies of Rudyard Kipling started in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, people have come to notice that Kipling's world is not necessarily a “man's” world in itself. In fact, not a few stories have strong anti-masculine sentiments. *The Disturber of Traffic* (1891) is one of these stories.

The core story of *the Disturber of Traffic*—written in the manner of Chinese boxes—deals with an ex-lighthouse keeper who does not have the mental stamina to endure his loneliness: he ultimately goes mad. He is a miserable character that no so-called “masculine” element can be found within him.

The aim of this paper is to examine the representation of the ex-lighthouse keeper as an unmasculine character. In doing so, two other characters—an exemplar of masculinity and a physically and intelligently beastlike human—will play important roles.