

## About "THE COLLECTOR"

The story John Fowles/ Mark Healy are telling in "The Collector", is for me mainly a story about loneliness.

The young girl and victim, Miranda, experiences loneliness because she is suddenly being torn away from her familiar surroundings. Away from her family, friends, studies and everything you would associate with an ordinary life.

Her loneliness comes from being deprived of the life she has lived so far; full of positive relationships and a secure background.

This loneliness would come to an end if she could escape her captivity and return to her old way of life.

Her social skills are challenged by Fred Clegg, the man who holds her captive.

His loneliness is a permanent state, which makes him incapable of establishing normal relationships with other people.

We understand that his intentions are to create a 'normal' life with a woman he is certain he loves. He just does not understand that the 'love' he shows can never be reciprocated.

His emotional life is warped. But his actions cannot necessarily be seen as 'evil'. They are more likely a result of an upbringing, which has limited his ability to feel empathy for other human beings and even the butterflies he collects; and that has made him into an onlooker.

All of the fruitless attempts to make his 'catch' feel at ease thus come from his brittle and deluded selfishness.

'THE COLLECTOR' is not only a piece of well-written drama, it also relates to the many recent incidents of women being held against their will by those who claim to protect them.

Through Frederick Clegg we get frighteningly close to this mindset.