

PROTAGONIST'S PATIENCE IN WINSTON GROOM'S

NOVEL FORREST GUMP

A THESIS

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The Writer

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	5
1.3 Objective of the Study	5
1.4 Scope of the Study.....	5
1.5 Significance of the Study	6
CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Characters.....	7
2.1.1 Types of Characters.....	8
2.1.1.1 Protagonist.....	8
2.1.1.2 Antagonist	9
2.1.1.3 Deutragonist	10
2.2 Patience.....	10
2.2.1 Characteristics of Patience.....	11
2.2.1.1 Perseverance.....	11
2.2.1.2 Sincerity.....	12
CHAPTER III: METHOD OF RESEARCH	
3.1 Study Design	13
3.2 Data Collection.....	14
3.3 Data Analysis	15
CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS	
4.1 Analysis	16
4.1.1 Characteristics of Patience.....	16
4.1.1.1 Perseverance	16

4.1.1.2 Sincerity	20
4.1.1.3 The portrayal of protagonist patience.....	21
4.2 Findings	25
CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	
5.1 Conclusion.....	26
5.2 Recommendation.....	27
REFERENCES	28
APPENDIX	

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APPENDIX

A. Biography of the Author

Winston Francis Groom Jr. was born on March 23, 1943 in Alabama. Winston Groom is an American novelist and nonfiction writer. Winston Groom is the author of more than twelve books, including *A Storm in Flanders*, *Forrest Gump*, *Better Times Than These*, *As Summers Die*, and the civil war history prize winner *Shrouds of Glory*. Winston Groom's also has several Ph.D. degrees, including a Doctor of Humane Letters. Winston is known as the author of the novel *Forrest Gump*, which was later adapted into a movie of the same name in 1994, *Forrest Gump* directed by Robert Zemeckis. Winston went on to earn 320 million dollars from writing the novel alone. He also wrote numerous works of nonfiction, with topics including the American Civil War and World War I.

Winston was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Country Mobile, Alabama, where he attended Military University (now known as UMS-Wright preparatory school). Winston Groom also attended the University of Alabama, where he was a member of Delta Tau International Fraternity and joined the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps and was in Washington during turbulent times. He graduated in 1965. He served in the United States Army from 1965 to 1967, including serving in the Vietnam War (from 66-67). Most of his service time was spent with the Fourth Infantry Division from July 1966 until his honorable discharge with the rank of Captain. He then spent the next eight years working as a reporter and columnist for the *Washington Star* before becoming a full-time author. Groom retired as a journalist at the age of 32, and began writing several novels.

Groom's initial ambition was to become a lawyer like his father. However, instead of becoming a literary editor in college, he chose to become a writer. Groom was married to Ruth Noble from 1969 until their divorce in 1974. After his separation from Ruth Noble, he remarried Anne Clinton Bridges in 1987, and they had a daughter named Carolina. Groom lived in Alabama, and died in Fairhope on September 16, 2020, at the age of 77. At the time Alabama governor Kay Ivey mourned his death as "one of our most gifted writers". The University of Alabama called him "one of our legends".

In addition to being a talented novelist, Groom is also a serious student of history. One of his books, the prize-winning *Shrouds of Glory*, published by Grove Atlantic, is a meticulously atmospheric history of a little-known, but highly dramatic western civil war campaign, inspired by the story of his great-grandfather who fought for the confederate army. He also appeared as an actor in Warner Brothers' screen adaptation of Willie Morris' novel *My Dog Skip*. Groom has also written for numerous magazines, including *Vanity Fair*, *Southern Living*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Newsweek*, *Esquire*, and *New York Times Magazine*, as well as contributing editorial articles to the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

B. Winston Groom's Literary Works

1. Better Times Than These (1978); Better Times Than These. Simon and Schuster. 1 December (1994).
2. As Summers Die (1980).
3. Only. Simon and Schuster. (1984).
4. Forrest Gump (1986).
5. Gone the sun (1988)
6. Gump and Co. (1995).
7. Such a Pretty, Pretty Girl (1998).
8. El Paso (2016).
9. Conversations with the Enemy: the story of P.F.C. Robert Garwood (1982).
10. Shrouds of Glory: From Atlanta to Nashville: The Last Great Campaign of the Civil War (1995).

C. The Summary of the Novel

Forrest was categorized as an idiot by the people around him since birth. As a child, Forrest wore a leg brace because he had a curved spine and he could not walk properly. He grew up in an Alabama boarding school with his mother. His father died before he was born. Forrest, was the only child of the Gum family. His mother always taught him to always believe in himself, despite his physical limitations. In addition, Forrest has a below-average IQ. When he first entered school, Forrest was enrolled in a regular school but only until the first grade and the following year Forrest was enrolled in a special school. Forrest was 13 years old at the time, but his body quickly grew taller. Entering elementary school, Forrest met a beautiful girl named Jenny Curran who lived with her evil father.

One day, when a group of kids started bullying Forrest, Jenny told him to run and he ran to escape the bullies. In the process, his leg brace miraculously detached from his foot. As time passed, Forrest and Jenny remained good friends. In high school, as he ran from the bullies, Forrest was noticed by a football coach and he was accepted to college on a sports scholarship. After graduation, he joined the army and met a friend named Buba at boot camp. Buba was a young black man whose dream was to start a shrimping business. Forrest had an easy life in the army because he listened well and followed orders. While in the army, Forrest learns that Jenny was expelled from college because she posed naked in a magazine. Forrest went to find Jenny where she was singing at a dance club. Forrest tells Jenny that he loves her and that he will be sent to Vietnam.

In Vietnam, Forrest and Buba were placed under the command of Lieutenant Dan, who was a military officer whose ancestors died in every American war. While they were on combat duty, Forrest was attacked and Buba was killed. In the midst of

the attack, Forrest retreated and moved all his fellow soldiers to safety. He even saved Lieutenant Dan, even though he intended to die in battle, just like his ancestors. Forrest was sent to an army hospital after being hit by a bullet in the back in the battle. In the hospital his bed was next to that of Lieutenant Dan who lost both his legs in the attack.

As Forrest got better, he tried to get around the hospital. And then he saw someone playing ping pong then he tried to play ping pong. and it didn't take long before he was an expert at the game. after he recovered, Forrest returned to Washington and received a medal of honor as a result of his great rescue. After that, Forrest was brought into the anti-war demonstration organization where he met Jenny, who had become a radical hippie member.

Forrest plays international ping pong, and when he returns to New York for an interview about his athletic prowess, he meets Lieutenant Dan, who uses a wheelchair and lives with a disability. In New York, Forrest stayed with Lt. Dan, during winter break until the two became close. When Forrest told Lt. Dan about his plan to go shrimping, Lt. Dan laughed at him and said that his dream would come true. Forrest was discharged from the military and asked to support a ping pong match that could earn him 25,000 dollars.

Finally, he won the race and got the money. Forrest used the money to buy a shrimp boat as a promise to Buba. Then Lieutenant Dan made good on his promise to Forrest to join him in his endeavor. During the Carmen storm, all the boats were destroyed except Forrest's boat. She persevered in her business and became a successful and famous businesswoman. After his success, he went to see his mother who was sick with cancer. Lt. Dan invested some of Forrest's money into Apple Computers, and made Forrest a lot of money.

One day, Jenny visited Forrest and stayed with him for a while. When Forrest proposed to her, she rejected him. Then Jenny left him. This made Forrest confused about what to do. Then he tried to calm himself down by running around the country non-stop, except for sleeping and eating. His relentless running turned him into a celebrity with many followers because he was considered an inspiration, and he even tried to attract Jenny's attention.

Forrest realized that he wouldn't find someone just by running, so he went home to Alabama. Arriving home, he received a letter from Jenny with his home address. He rushed to see Jenny and found out that Jenny had a child whom she named little Forrest, who was her biological son. Jenny told him that there was a virus in her body and the doctor couldn't do anything about it. Finally Jenny asked to marry Forrest and Forrest agreed. Then the three of them moved to Greenbow. Forrest lived happily with Jenny and little Forrest. But that didn't last long. After going through happy things, Jenny finally left him for good.

D. The Characters of the Novel

1. **Forrest Gump** - A man considered to have a below-average IQ of 75 and slow thinking. He has a charming character and shows devotion to his loved ones and duty. He is also forgiving, empathetic, unyielding, soft-hearted, and tolerant. He has a sincerity and patience that we rarely see in him. In addition, he also has the nature of perseverance in doing everything positive.
2. **Mrs. Gump** - Forrest's mother - his mother is someone who also needs her own attention. She also acts as Forrest's encourager and supporter. She is a tough woman. She struggles to feed her son and is forced to turn her house into a hotel, as well as becoming a waitress in her own home in order to earn money to continue living. Mother and father to her son, Mrs. Gump has the strength to survive with her son. She is also a hero to her son Forrest.
3. **Benjamin Buford "Bubba"** – Bubba is a black man from the bayou who dreams of owning a shrimp fishing boat. Bubba is Forrest's best friend since the military. Bubba was a simple, devoted and loyal friend.
4. **Jenny Curran** - Jenny is Forrest's only friend since childhood. She is a beautiful girl with a troubled biography, a girl who is considered a friend and lover who has a kind and loving heart.
5. **Letnan Dan** - Forrest's officer in Vietnam. He is also one of Forrest's friends and his commanding officer during the war in Vietnam. He is a confident man who is committed to his family's legacy.