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Mourning and Female Resilience: A Posthumanist Reading of Lucy in *Disgrace*

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines Lucy Lurie's response to sexual assault in J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*, focusing on her decision to remain on her farm and her interactions with the natural environment. Employing Rosi Braidotti's posthuman feminist theory, the study explores how Lucy's engagement with non-human entities—such as caring for animals and cultivating the land—serves as a means of processing trauma. These actions reflect a departure from traditional, anthropocentric approaches to trauma recovery, suggesting an alternative pathway that emphasizes interconnectedness with the more-than-human world. The paper argues that Lucy's silence and non-verbal practices represent a form of resistance and resilience, challenging patriarchal and colonial narratives. Through this lens, the novel grants Lucy a distinct voice—not through conventional dialogue, but through her embodied actions and choices. This narrative approach proposes an alternative framework for women to navigate trauma and sexual violence, emphasizing non-verbal, embodied forms of expression and healing. Through this lens, *Disgrace* offers insights into how posthumanist perspectives can inform understandings of female subjectivity and trauma in literature.

Keywords: Coetzee; Posthuman Feminism; Resilience; Subjectivity Reconstruction