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# Themes: Fulfillment

— Between The Acts —

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# Fulfillment

The characters seems to be searching for something more:

- Isa and Giles are unhappily wed (Isa fantasizes about another man, though doesn't act on it).
- Miss La Trobe is searching for recognition and to direct the perfect play.

Perhaps this theme sheds light on Woolf herself -- does she project onto La Trobe as an artist whose audience never quite recognizes her work for what it is?

## In the text...

"Reality too strong," she [La Trobe] muttered. "Curse 'em!" She felt everything they felt. Audiences were the devil. O to write a play without an audience--the play. But here she was fronting her audience. Every second they were slipping the noose. Her little game had gone wrong. If only she'd a back-cloth to hang between the trees--to shut out cows, swallows, present time! But she had nothing. She had forbidden music. Grating her fingers in the bark, she damned the audience"

(Woolf, Virginia. *Between the Acts*. p. 143. Ale.Mar.. Kindle Edition.).

# Close Reading Analysis

La Trobe hides behind the birch trees the entirety of the performance; she is in constant fear of the audience's reaction to the play. Once the play is over, she curses the audience for not understanding her vision. However, she recognizes the irony of her situation: "O to write a play without an audience"...of course if it were herself alone, it would be *the* play. This introduces the audience as the fulfillment givers. The play alone does not stand to give La Trobe this sense of relief; however, we must also realize that this is just one year of the play. Perhaps the true fulfillment for La Trobe is the repetition of the event -- she feels it is a failure while everyone congratulates her on the success. It seems that La Trobe's concept of fulfillment should be reassessed.