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### A Good Man Is Hard to Find

O' Connor once insisted that readers should ascribe meager significance to Bailey's role as the Grandmother's boy and driver of the car in *A Good Man is Hard to Find* (Fitzgerald 437). *A Good Man is Hard to Find* is one of the most well known instances of Southern Gothic writing. It focuses on odd occasions, erratic characters and neighborhood shading to make an agitating event of American South.

In what the narrator describes as a moment of clarity, the grandmother reaches for the man who now wears her son's shirt and seemingly, elevates him to the status of one of her children. (117) The Grandmother's actions are the biggest red flag. She doesn't think about the ramifications of her actions. But I think she also realizes what she did wrong in painstaking detail. She saw how she didn't want to go on the vacation, and she reluctantly went, she hid the cat in her basket so no one would find out.

O'Connor insert these insensitivities into the mouth of the Grandmother because it is another way to show that the Grandmother does not reflect in the implications of their actions. A shift of similar ilk is required to locate oft-ignored source of goodness in O'Connor's narrative. Consider what we learn of Bailey in the brief exposition. Bailey is the grandmother's only boy (137), but perhaps not the only child. Indirectly, Bailey is the cause for the strongest moment of sympathy with the grandmother.

What this story wants us to understand is that actions we do, have consequences. The Grandmother's decisions and selfishness led her family to death. And I indeed agree that the

Grandmother's epiphany may be that goodness has been in her midst, within her reach.  
Bailey, his son was the good man.

#### Work Cited

Nester, N. L. (2006). "O'Connor's 'A Good Man is Hard to Find.'" *The Explicator*, 64(2), 115-118. Retrieved from <https://proxy1.ncu.edu/login?url=https://search-proquest-com.proxy1.ncu.edu/docview/216778218?accountid=28180>