

SELF AND ROLE IN EARL LOVELACE'S THREE  
PUBLISHED NOVELS.

"If we have to begin at all, to be able to  
grow at all, to have a self at all, we  
must begin with the truth."

This essay intends to explore the theme of self and role in the novels of Earl Lovelace. Within the exploration there will be attention paid to change and development of these ideas within each novel and from novel to novel. But before examining these concerns in Lovelace's work it is necessary to define the terms, first generally, then with reference to the way Lovelace uses these terms.

The word role has fairly broad connotations. In drama we talk about "role play", this means acting out the role of another person. It is not the same as acting out the self of another person because role implies the self in connection with the external world. Thus role is a word we see in connection with society. If I say "my role in life is to be a housewife" I imply that society expects one to be a housewife. To play a role or adopt a role suggests a step away from self