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Gender, Space and Aging in Tina Howe's *Pride's Crossing*

In her *Pride's Crossing* (1997), Tina Howe elaborates that space is the formative element of gender and that men's and women's relationship to space evolves as a continual process in the life cycle. In addition, aging is not depicted as a status synonymous with decline and death, but as part of one's life cycle. Aging also denotes the possibilities of renegotiation of gender roles and spatial territories. Though being taught to be submissive and to constrain herself to the feminine domain (home), the heroine's dauntless act of swimming across the English Channel manifests an attempt of crossing the gender/spatial boundaries. The double plot of this play shows that conventional gender roles defined in terms of spatial relationship—public/male and private/ female—are not definitely fixed but are likely to change across time when age becomes the determinant factor of defining gender/spatial relationship.