[Your Name]

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[Course Number]

[Date]

The Story of an Hour

‘The story of an hour’ is one of the finest pieces of work done by Kate Chopin. She rose to prominence with this story, and numerous critiques have commented on it acclaiming its themes, portrayal of characters, and the plot. It describes typical gender roles of the society of the late nineteenth century wherein the story has been set. It explores the themes of self-assertion, freedom, love, autonomy, and fulfillment. Critiques have attributed the work as a sacred text of feminism, as it entails a journey of self-actualization of a woman. It is a visionary time-travel of thoughts that spans across several upcoming decades in the life of a woman who has been left alone after the death of her husband. The protagonist finds her true identity thinking beyond the boundaries at hearing a misconceived, untrue news of her husband’s demise.

The story comprises an act of almost an hour’s duration. Mrs. Louise Mallard is informed of her husband’s accidental death by her sister, Josephine, and affirmed by her husband’s friend, Richards (“‘The Story of an Hour’ Text”). The reaction of Mrs. Mallard is unusual; she weeps with full exertion in her sister’s arms. She walks to her room alone, and heads toward the window. She feels the breath of rain in the air, hears a distant song, and senses cries of a peddler. She later sits in a chair, and sets out on a journey of thoughts. She sits still in the chair, and then she feels something new in her. She is gradually filled with a kind of possession that is about to surround her altogether. She cannot resist it. It is a flair of freedom that slips through her lips. She is relaxed now. She has traveled through many decades meanwhile. She has envisioned herself to be “free” of the stereotype associated with women of that era. Nobody will ever behave didactically with her. Her body and soul are free now.

The story ends with a dramatic twist with the death of “her” indicating that she is blissful at this experience. She has reached her epitome. She prefers selfhood to love. She has found relief from the burden of relationships that limit a person’s potential.

Works Cited

“‘The Story of an Hour’ Text.” *KateChopin.Org*, https://www.katechopin.org/story-hour/. Accessed 14 Nov. 2019.