

Cinderella by anne sexton



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Cinderella has been one of the most famous myths in the history.

Adults and children have related it in different ways, but it always has maintained the same subject matter.

Cinderella is the story of a family, with a father who was a good man, her mother who died when she was very young, and Cinderella, which was she.

The time passed by, and her father felt that Cinderella needed a mother's love. And so he married again. She was a woman with two daughters just about Cinderella's age. After her father died, the true nature of the second wife was revealed. Cinderella was forced to become a servant in her own house. As time went by, the kingdom prepared a celebration in which the prince was going to choose a woman to be his wife. The stepmother and her daughters prepared themselves to the big event, but when Cinderella asked her stepmother if she could come, she said no. Then, the magical moment came; Cinderella's fairy came into view and gave her a beautiful dress and a pair of gold shoes to wear. She went to the celebration without being recognized by her stepsisters and stepmother; the prince fell in love with her, they danced all night long. At twelve o'clock, she got out quickly from the castle, because her fairy told her to be at home before twelve. On the stairs, she forgot one of her gold shoes. After that day, the prince sent his soldiers to find the owner of the gold shoe. They drove all over the

place, but nobody seemed to be the owner of the little shoe. Finally, they arrived to Cinderella's house, the stepmother and daughters did whatever was possible to make the shoe fit, but anything worked. Cinderella went out of her room and without problem her foot fit perfectly in the little shoe.

So the prince and her got married and live happily ever after. Well, this is a short review of the famous myth for those who never hear about it. And it maybe help to understand better what this all about.

This story had remained with the same symbolic idea; however, some authors had been made some changes to the story. A good example is Anne Sexton, she become one of the best know confessional poets. She took the first place in her poems to introduce herself. Anne Sexton uses twisted metaphors and similes, symbolic images, and vivid colors to tell about her transformed poems. By using twisted metaphors and similes as a technique in

her writing, Sexton transforms her poems to be anything but the ordinary.

The reason that I and almost everyone else really enjoy and relate to this book of poems by Sexton is because all the poems are centered on classic fairytales we all know. Like this one that I just started with.

" Cinderella" this particular poem starts off as many others do, her frustration that nobody gets the opportunity to live the life of their dreams.

" You always read about it:
the plumber with the twelve children
who wins the Irish Sweepstakes.

From toilets to riches.

That story" (lines 1-5)

In this first stanza, I believe that Sexton is talking or venting about her personal problems growing up, indirectly. In the last part, she used " That story", what is this means? I read some of her interviews before she killed herself, and saw also some pictures and believed or not she seemed to be happy. But when I came to the last part of this stanza, the only thing that I can see is a woman unhappy, and incomplete. She defiantly used this kind of words and phrases to break away from the rule of the fairytales.

It is impossible to forget the reality that she uses in her writing, she point out unnecessary details, just to make the story more ordinary than perfect.

" These events repeated themselves for three days

However, on the third day the prince

Covered the palace steps with cobbler's wax"(line 74-76)

In the original tale, at this point the facts are unpredictable. But Sexton's poem is already point out; she takes out the irregular scene, letting the reader know the end of the story. Reading her poem is much easier to understand the purpose of her transformations; she uses a fairy tale, because express what every woman wants to live, but in the other

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hand, she wants to wake up women and let them know that their purpose in this world go more further than a fairytale. It is not as perfect as it seems.

Sexton's poem is cruel as well; the description that she uses in the poem creates perfect images about the moment without any restrictions.

" The eldest went into a room to try the slipper on

But her big toe got in the way so she simply

Sliced it off an put on the slipper

The prince rode away with her until the white drove

Told him to look at the blood pouring forth"(line 81-85)

Although this particular incident is part of the original story, Anne

Sexton includes particular elements like " the blood pouring forth" that

drive the poem in a different way, another story than a fairy tale. She

also uses this stanza to emphasize how the effects of the self-destruction

women undertake every day, and what the women have to do to take a

place in

the society in order to confront the reality

" That is the way with amputations.

They don't just heal up like a wish" (lines 86-87)

Whether it is dieting, refusing a promotion, wearing ridiculous high

heels, or having unwanted children; these situations are things that any

women can live without, and have been taken place in the society since

Sexton's time as you can see. She is venting her problems, and trying to

prevent women from this self-destruction.

" Cinderella and the prince
live, they say, happily ever after,
like two dolls in a museum case
never bothered by diapers or dust
never arguing over the timing of an egg,
never telling the same story twice,
never getting a middle-aged spread,
their darling smiles pasted on for eternity.

Regular Bobbsey Twins.

That story" (lines 100-109)

In this last stanza, she writes that Cinderella and the prince lived happily ever after, like two dolls in a museum case, never worrying about the timing of an egg, something about diapers and dust, never gaining a middle-aged spread, with their darling smiles pasted on for eternity.

Sexton has referred, in the summary of the Cinderella story to each of the first four stories in the first four stanza's. Nobody can be just there, like two dolls in a museum case, because dolls are meant to be played with.

They never experience the everyday toils that we do. Sexton has written a poem that teaches that happily ever after only exist in the fiary tales, and she support this, including at the end " That story" the same words that he uses at the beginnig; it is somenthing perfect but unreal, because myths are just that myths, the may be existed long time ago, when everything was perfect, but now the life of a person is based on experiences.

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