

Eveline vs Iolus Mallard essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Liberation and freedom are exquisite possessions. The possible attainment or loss of it can both cause equal amount of anxiety as revealed by lead characters in the two short stories we shall now discuss. Eveline in James Joyce's short story Eveline and Mrs. Mallard in Kate Chopin's 'The story of an Hour' are standing at the threshold of a new life. The difference between the two is that while Mrs. Mallard is eagerly looking forward to the new life, Eveline is deeply scared of the unknown. When you are at a point in your life that offers an escape into the enchanting world of the unknown, not everyone is very welcoming of it.

Eveline is in love with Frank or rather Frank is deeply in love with her and wants to whisk her away to Buenos Ayres where the two would get married and live a life of her dreams. She would be in a new land where " people would treat her with respect (Joyce 4)" and it would be exciting " to explore a new life with Frank (Joyce 5). " But all that is not enough to convince her that freedom would real In The Story of the Hour, Chopin gives us a tale about a woman, Mrs. Mallard who suffers from a heart condition.

One day, Mr. Mallard's friend, Richards, learns that Mr. Mallard has died in a railroad disaster. Mrs. Mallard's sister Josephine tries to break the news to Mrs. Mallard softly because of her heart condition. Shock she immediately starts weeping in her sister's arm. " She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same, with a paralyzed inability to accept its significance" Chopin pg. 1. Chopin makes a point to note that Mrs. Mallard receives the news different from what most women would, which is usually denial before finally accepting the news as a truth.

Mrs. Mallard soon locks herself in a room with a window, hurls herself into a large chair and, sobbing, she gazes out at the world bustling around her. Soon, her sobs turn to gasps. She approaches a climactic moment where “her bosom rose and fell tumultuously” (Chopin pg 1) as she embraces freedom and joy in the world and saying under her breath, “free, free, free”. Her sister is finally able to get to come out and she’s no longer Mrs. Mallard but now Louise, unfortunately, while they are coming down the stairs, her husband comes through the door, obviously very much alive, and Louise drops dead.

Originally appearing in *Dubliners*, a compilation of vignettes by James Joyce, his short story *Eveline* is the tale of such an unfortunate individual. Anxious, timid, scared, perhaps even terrified — all these describe Eveline. She is a frightened, indecisive young woman poised between her past and her future. Eveline loves her father but is fearful of him. She tries to hold onto good memories of her father, thinking “sometimes he could be very nice (Joyce 5),” but has seen what her father has done to her siblings when he would “hunt them in out of the field with his blackthorn stick (Joyce 4). As of late she has begun to feel “herself in danger of her father’s violence (Joyce 4).”

Ironically, her father has “begun to threaten her and say what he’d do to her only for her dead mother’s sake (Joyce 5).” Eveline wants a new life but is afraid to let go of her past. She dreams of a place where “people would treat her with respect (Joyce 4)” and when contemplating her future, hopes “to explore a new life with Frank (Joyce 5). When, in a moment of terror she realizes that “she must escape (Joyce 6),” it seems to steel her determination to make a new home for herself elsewhere.

On the other hand, she is comfortable with the “ familiar objects from which she had never dreamed of being divided (Joyce 4). ” She rationalizes that: “ In her home anyway she had shelter and food; she had those whom she had known all her life about her (Joyce 4). ” As she reflects on her past she discovers “ now that she was about to leave it she did not find it a wholly undesirable life (Joyce 5). “