

Name

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Course

Date

Women and Independence

The selected literature work that shows the transformation of women from dependent to independent is “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin. This book is a true reflection of the journey women has to take before claiming independence, especially from marriages (Chopin 2). The plot of “The Story of an Hour” is interesting and focuses on Louise Mallard, who is at home with her sister when they receive terrible news of a train accident that claimed the life of Louise’s husband. Louise rushes to her room, where she processes the sad news. She recalls how kind and loving Brently Mallard, her husband, was. While in her house, Louise experiences mixed emotions, but after thinking critically, she feels freedom and joy and recognizes that she has to make her life great (Chopin 10). This time marks the beginning of her journey to independence. This paper explains how women transform from being weak and dependent on their husbands to becoming stronger and more independent women by reflecting from the case of Louise Mallard.

Kate Chopin, in her story, presents Louise, an intelligent, independent woman. After receiving the sudden death of her husband, Louise shows sad emotions just like any other normal person. In other words, she behaves in the right way women behave by grieving for her loss. Her violent reactions clearly show that she is emotional, and this is a trait loving women portray. Louise reasoned individually and recognized that she is not dependent on her husband anymore,

and thus there are critical decisions to be made. The next thing she does is immediate reasoning on how she can become a successful woman on her own, and this implies that she has a lot of opportunities in her life which deserve to be examined. However, Louise is not cruel to forget that she will still cry at Brently's corpse during the burial (Chopin 5).

Furthermore, Louise has heart infection, and this made her sister hesitate to immediately tell her about the demise of her husband. The heart problem may be an indication of how marriage may have oppressed her. Heart troubles suggest a lot of dilemmas, both emotionally and physically. Despite Louise describing her husband as loving, there is an implication that their relationship may have had several challenges that aggravate her heart troubles. While she is in her room, her body freezes, and heartbeats rapidly (Chopin 6). The insincerity in her situation is seen when she spread out her arms as an implication of new life after being burdened by marriage. She repeatedly claimed that her body and soul her free, suggesting she has entered into the long waited journey to independence. The irony in the situation is evident when Louise claims to love Brently, but when he entered the house, her "heart trouble" reappears. Louise smells a glimpse of new life, and by the end of everything, joy for independence overrules her loss.

From the story of Louise, it can be reflected that there is joy in independence, especially for married women. This can be seen in the manner in which Louise reacts after receiving the sad news of his husband's death, a grieve followed by the happiness. This implies that it is something she might have been logging for, but she had to wait for time to let her dreams come true. In reflection, there are many women in our societies who eagerly wait for their independence from their marriages (Ehrensaft 435). At times, circumstances may offer freedom and independence to them; for example, in the case of Louise, the death of her husband was the

onset of her independence and liberty. For other women, the situations may be different in that they may be forced to sign a divorce letter in search of their freedom (Ehrensaft 435). However, the journey to the anticipated independence is not easy and calls for determination. According to Chopin (6), only a few women manage to enjoy the taste of forbidden fruit, and this is the ones who show stubbornness in fighting for their goals.

Additionally, “The Story of an Hour” opens our minds to the happenings in marriages. It can be concluded that even the kindest marriages are inherently oppressive. This fact can be shown from the fact that Louise described her husband as loving and caring, but she secretly rejoices after his death. In reflection, some marriages are extremely chaotic, especially in male chauvinism societies. The woman is seen as an object with no rights, and this causes psychological issues in them, worse than the “heart trouble” experienced by Louise in her marriage (Chopin 6). The violent behaviors of some husbands stimulate their wives to seek independence.

In the present day lives, the desire to give women independence is stimulated by the women empowerment project. This project educates women on how to react in case of oppression from their husbands (Nazier, Hanan, & Racha 1077). However, despite the empowerment, not all women can manage to attain independence. Most of the independent women are intelligent, just like Louise. It is also indisputable that independent women are hardworking and plan effectively for success in their activities.

In conclusion, Chopin offers useful information regarding women and independence. The main character, Louise Mallard, is an example of women who aspire to be independent but have to wait for the opportunity to open up. There is indisputable joy in independence, and this is evident in that Louise is expressing happiness amidst the death of her husband. A well, Louise

depicts a critical fact that marriage can be troublesome since she develops a “heart trouble” which amplifies in the presence of her husband (Chopin 6). In reflection, women who seek independence should be intelligent and good planners to access the joy of the forbidden fruit.

Works Cited

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