**“The Story of an Hour”**

MORE NOTES 1894

* **KC = dead in 10 years**
* **MARRIAGE = repression, oppression:**
  + “Mallard” = duck
    - BUT she can “fly” only when he’s dead
    - unnatural condition for a bird of flight
  + no sexual freedom (double standard)
  + no independence
* **THEMES**:
  + marriage = oppressive
    - for both men & women (stifles independence)
  + marriage sucks for women (see above)
  + independence = adultery
    - dirty little secret
  + **OXYMORONS**:
    - “a monstrous joy” & “of joy that kills”
      * false hope, carrot & stick
      * tied to RELIGION??? (right after she prays)
* **HEART** (heart trouble, heart disease):
  + physical – heart disease
  + emotional – marriage is oppressive, trapped
* **POV**:
  + 3rd person
  + Subjective (Eveline, Things, EDU)
  + Limited Omniscience – into the thoughts & feelings of only 1 character
* **CONFLICT**:
  + Person vs. Self
    - so trained to repress feelings (of independence, individuality)
    - her weak heart
  + Woman vs. Society
* **IRONY**:
  + Verbal: “I’m not making myself ill.”
  + Dramatic:
    - They think she died of joy of his returning
    - But we know what she was really feeling when she died (b/c of POV)
  + Situational: Switch #1, Switch #2
    - we think she’d be locked in her room mourning husband
    - we think it’s death coming to her, but it’s freedom
    - we think she’d be happy he’d return
* “Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” – yanked back to reality at moment of triumph
* “Birthmark” marriage, impose one’s will onto another; elixir of life; art reference
* **EAGLES: "Learn To Be Still"**
  + It's just another day in paradise
    - As you stumble to your bed
    - You'd give anything to silence
    - Those voices ringing in your head
    - You thought you could find happiness
    - Just over that green hill
    - You thought you would be satisfied
    - But you never will-
    - Learn to be still
  + We are like sheep without a shepherd
    - We don't know how to be alone
    - So we wander 'round this desert
    - And wind up following the wrong gods home
    - But the flock cries out for another
    - And they keep answering that bell
    - And one more starry-eyed messiah
    - Meets a violent farewell-
    - Learn to be still
    - Learn to be still
  + Now the flowers in your garden
    - They don't smell so sweet
    - Maybe you've forgotten
    - The heaven lying at your feet
  + There are so many contradictions
    - In all these messages we send
    - (We keep asking)
    - How do I get out of here
    - Where do I fit in?
    - Though the world is torn and shaken
    - Even if your heart is breakin'
    - It's waiting for you to awaken
    - And someday you will-
    - Learn to be still
    - Learn to be still
  + You just keep on runnin'
    - Keep on runnin'
  + Lottery
  + Eveline, Things, Hunters, WRUG, EDU
  + Birthmark, Hour, Cask
  + freedom – we don’t know how to be free