**“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