

Landlady a Rose for Emily

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Passion, Possession, and Murder in Two Gothic Stories

When one reviews the word passion based on the two stories, one will undoubtedly become confused. Apart from the corresponding definition of passion, we refer to the landlady as the urge to do something in order to accomplish something with a fantastic interweaving of human will. There appears to be no clear agreement as to the right definition of passion when the two stories are put into consideration. This leaves the readers in a numerated position to convey different meanings of this intricate term. Such an important aspect of the passion is the horrifying aspect of the term. (Dahl, R., 1959)

While the perpetrators in the two stories are women, both can be described differently as beginners and not supposedly anyone harm. Emily is viewed as a calm and peaceful character. The landlady, on the other hand, is viewed as a warm welcome and someone who seemingly has a terrible smile. To compare and contrast the two murderers in the two stories, you will want to have a comparative analysis by thinking about what they are like as different characters. It is important to note that in Emily's case, the murder is premeditated or an act of passion she barely knew she was doing. However, in the landlady, the act appears very much premeditated, right from choosing exactly what the young man she was waiting for looks like. Since one story presents murder as a premeditated act and the other as not, the authors have created an underlying theme of presenting innocence that can assist in the overall analysis.

The title "A Rose for Emily" is not accidental. The author has connected the title in some way to one of the key elements in the story. In this story, murder is one of the biggest themes. The rose represents love, beauty, passion, and even death. It is evident that Emily's life involves death. However, she did not have love and passion. However, the landlady leads the reader to a suspicious act from the beginning. The landlady has a significant share of innocent descriptions. This includes the "warm, welcoming smile" and the gentle blue eyes. However, she also does have a fair share of suspicious actions, such as Billy's room being ready for him as if she were expecting him. She involves himself in numerous suspicious things, such as saying she is very choosy and particular regarding who she accepts as guests. All the suspicious activities paint her as a premeditated murderer as opposed to Emily, who fell victim to situations.

Miss Emily, Social Memory, and the Contradictions of Character

It is important to keep in mind that Faulkner might have presented Miss Emily as a polite and hostile character to pay homage and tribute to all that she stood for in her life. Even though her victories in life are ominous until her death, her colored servant vanishes, allowing everyone to have a clear look at her passion for love and death. The clear similarity is that both Emily and the Landlady managed to get away with their crimes, seemingly committing the perfect crimes. Moreover, it appears that both characters derive their passion from their criminal acts and possess an inherent malice. While the landlady seems to laugh at the end of the story and looks forward to preserving his victims, this is essentially a different thing. The narrator describes Ms Emily as a “fallen monument,” which is different from how the community perceives her. Later in the story, we realize that Emily not only kills Homer Barron, but also she hides the decaying body in her upstairs room and sleeps next to the dead body for years to come. By the end of the story, the narrator emphasizes the period at which Emily had slept with the dead body of Barron. The period was long enough to find long grey hair spread all over the pillow next to what was left of the rotten body.

The reader understands exactly what Miss Emily did since we have been narrated to us. However, the landlady suggests a passion for his crime where the crime is suggested through the journey of discovery by the landlady, and Lodger responds to his questions and her actions. This is evident when she looks at him and states that her previous tenants are still with her.

It is important to mention that Miss Emily didn't intentionally try to murder her lover. The actions were not deliberate. However, with passion and love, the perpetrators in the landlady deliberately planned the crimes and followed a meticulous routine. Therefore, in the case of “the landlady,” there is a need for cover-up since the act appears to never be suspected. (Faulkner, W., 1930)

Motive, Secrecy, and the Comparison of the Two Murders

In the story “The Rose for Emily,” people have been killed, and the motivations for the murders can be understood. The main reason for the murder in the story is clear as compared with “the landlady.” Miss Emily and the main character in The Landlady both kill because of love. However, there is a significant difference in the type of love. Miss Emily is not what we would call an average murderer. She was a strange character. However, after she dies, the people of the town describe her as a care and a tradition of some sort. Both characters seem to commit heinous acts in order to quench mental satisfaction.

In “Rose for Emily,” Miss Emily meets Homer after the death of her father. She seeks love from Homer

in order to rescue herself from the loneliness. Her love for Homer is huge; however, his feelings are different. The main problem in Emily's case is the loneliness as well as her inability to let go of the death of her father. She was seeking a way of ensuring the past stayed alive in order to reduce the loneliness. Willing to let the body of her father be taken shows his need because if she let go of him, she would be all alone. Once she meets Homer, she likes to parade him in public and carries her head high even when the reader believes that she has already fallen. The sad life of Miss Emily is demonstrated by the smell of death coming from her house. This tells it all that she did it all for mental satisfaction. It is home to eternal loneliness, and it seems to lie everywhere she goes.

While Miss Emily kills to stop letting go of the past, Billy's key demise is because the landlady is insane. She knows she is crazy throughout the story, as shown by what she says to Billy. Through her discussions with Billy, readers can almost imagine her predetermined plot about something. She seems to favor handsome young men who are always ready to accept a change from young men. She is always ready to claim a victim at any moment, and her craziness is presented through these actions. As the story progresses, the landlady asks Billy to sign a guest book since it is one of the core rules of the land, and she doesn't intend to break the law at that stage. This is a clear indicator that she might be breaking the law at some point and appears comfortable with it. Individuals who plan murder in stages with the intended victim are not in their normal minds. The landlady is insane, and with every new piece of evidence, it becomes evident that she will definitely kill Billy.

It is notable that both are cold-blooded and could do anything to get their way. "Rose for Emily" and the "landlady" are coldblooded murderers who feel joyous in the acts they commit and have other problems in their lives that compel them to kill their victims. Billy is the victim in the "Landlady" while Homer was the victim in the "Rose for Emily". They initially were normal adults until things went wrong in their lives. As a result, they had to seek ways to resolve them. (University of Virginia, n.d.)

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