



The Nightingale and the Rose by Oscar Wilde

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The Nightingale and the Rose

- About Author
- Characters
- Themes
- Plot
- Summary



Author: *Oscar Wills Wilde*

Name: Oscar Wills Wilde

Born: 16 October 1854, Dublin, Ireland.

Died: 30 November 1900 (aged 46) Paris, France.

Occupation: Author, poet, playwright

Period: Victorian era

Literary movement: Aestheticism

Alma mater: *Trinity College, Dublin,*

Magdalen College Oxford

Masterpiece: *The Importance of Being Earnest*



Work of Oscar Wills Wilde

Poems:

- *The Happy Prince And Other Tales* 1888
- *Dorian Gray* 1890
- *The House Of Pomegranates* 1891
- *The Ballad of Reading Goal* 1898

Plays:

- *Lady Windermere's Fan* 1892.
- *A Woman of No Importance* 1893.
- *An Ideal Husband* 1895
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* 1895

Work (Contd....)

Poetry:

- *Poems*, 1891
- *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, 1898

Fairy tales:

- *The Happy Prince and other Tales*, 1888
- *The House of Pomegranates*, 1891

Novel:

- *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 1891

Plays:

- *Lady Windermere's Fan*, 1892
- *A Woman of no Importance*, 1893
- *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 1895
- *Salomé*, 1893

About Story

- **Theme:** Love and Self-sacrifice
- **Sub-theme:** Materialism
- **Tone:** Ironic and Sad
- **Point of View:** Omniscient
- **Genre:** Short Story (Fairy tale)



Characters

Main Characters:

- **The Nightingale:** It is the most likeable character in the whole story. She is unselfish, kind, nice, and dares to sacrifice her own life for true love.
- **The Student:** He is a boy that reads books about philosophy and also, studies metaphysics. He is in love with the Professor's daughter, but he is suffering because the girl does not want to go to the ball with him. He is looking for a red rose to give it to the Professor's daughter.
- **Professor's Daughter:** She is a selfish girl that asks the student to find a red rose if he wants to go with her to the ball. She rejects the student because the Chamberlain's nephew gives her real jewels.
- **The Red Rose Tree:** It is a tree that could not blossom red roses. It proposes a terrible way to build the red rose out.

Characters (Contd....)

Secondary Characters:

- **The lizard, the butterfly and the daisy:** They ask why the student is crying and make fun of the student.
- **White Rose Tree and Yellow Rose Tree:** They refuse the nightingale question because their roses are not red like the one the nightingale is looking for.
- **Chamberlain's nephew:** He gives real jewels to the professor's daughter.



Themes

Theme of Love:

"Nuptial love maketh mankind, friendly love perfecteth it and wanton love corrupteth and embaseth it."

- The boy and the girl both are wanton lovers.
- ***The student says***, "If I bring her a red rose she will dance with me till dawn. If I bring her a red rose, I shall hold her in my arms, and she will lean her head upon my shoulder, and her hand will be clasped in mine."
- ***The girl says***, "I am afraid it will not go with my dress and besides, the Chamberlain's nephew has sent me some real jewels, and everybody knows that jewels cost far more than flowers."

Themes (Contd....)

Theme of Sacrifice:

"Nuptial love maketh mankind, friendly love perfecteth it and wanton love corrupteth and embaseth it."

- The Nightingale is a true friend of a true lover.
- She was in search of a true lover. She says, "*Here indeed is the true lover,*"
- She sacrifices her life to assist the love and to make it perfect. She says, "*Death is a great price to pay for a red rose,*"
- The Nightingale's last desire, she says, "*All that I ask of you in return is that you will be a true lover..*"



Plot

Setting:

- The events take place at the student's garden.

"From her nest in the holm-oak tree the Nightingale heard him, and she looked out through the leaves, and wondered". (Wilde 23)

Conflict:

- Love vs Reason.



Inciting Force

- His loved one requested him to bring her a red rose if he wanted to dance with her.

" 'She said that she would dance with me if brought her red roses' cried the young Student; ' but in all my garden there is no red rose' "(Wilde 23)



Inciting Force (Contd....)

Crisis:

- After the Rose-tree told the nightingale the way in which it can get the rose, the nightingale takes a time to think about the beauty of life and death as a price for the red rose.

" 'Death is a great price to pay for a red rose,' cried the Nightingales, ' and Life is very dear to all. " (Wilde 27)



Inciting Force (Contd....)

Climax:

- The Nightingale sacrifices itself to build the rose out.

" 'Look, look! 'cried the Tree, 'the rose is finished now' ; but the Nightingale made no answer, for she was lying dead in the long grass, with the thorn in her heart' " (Wilde 30)



Summary

Introduction: The fiction "The Nightingale and the Rose" by Oscar Wilde highlights the selflessness and purity of true love and the futility of mere attraction. It asserts that to truly love one needs purity of heart and sincerity of emotions.

A Boy's Dream-girl: The story begins inside a garden where a young boy is lost in his thoughts and remonstrating his poverty and poor luck. He is enamored with the daughter of his professor and yearns to take her to the upcoming dance. The girl wants a red rose to complement her dress at the dance but the boy has not been successful in finding one. Feeling luckless and helpless he breaks into a sob.

Summary (Contd....)

The Nightingale: However, the troubled boy had a keen admirer, a Nightingale. The little bird is smitten with the true romance that she feels the boy harbors. She feels his pain and decides to scour the garden for a red rose. She visits various rose-trees, yellow, white and finally comes at the red-rose tree. She narrates the plight of the young boy but the red-rose tree informs her that there were no blooming red roses as it was still winter. But the Nightingale is determined and insists harder. The tree finally offers a way to germinate a new flower but through an act of earnest sacrifice.

A Deadly Task: The tree tells the bird that she will have to sing while impaling herself to its thorn in order to flower a fresh rose-bud. The rest of the animals of the garden are perplexed about the boy's mourning and the bird's sentiments. The Nightingale is a votary of true and sacrificial love so she accepts the sacrifice. She visits the boy and tells him to love the girl of his affection solemnly and faithfully. The boy is confused by her words but she ignores his insensitivity.

Summary (Contd....)

Nightingale's Sacrifice: The boy goes back to his room and lies on his bed dreaming about the girl. The bird approaches the red-rose tree beside the window of his room and begins the ritual. The night falls and the glistening moon decorates the dark sky. She begins to sing about young and restless love. Soon the bud starts to appear. As the morning approaches she sings her heart out about maturing and growing love. At the stroke of dawn, she breaks into a song about selfless and divine love and forces her chest into the thorn of the tree. The blood pours out of her body and colors the rose red. The tree mourns her sacrifice as she lies dormant on its branch. When the boy wakes up he is delighted to see a red rose on his window. However, he is intrigued by its scientific and research value as it seems like a unique species of the flower. He is callous and oblivious to the devotion and painful sacrifice that was needed to make it bloom.

Summary (Contd....)

Rejection: Later that day, he visits the girl of his desires and offers her the rose. As if fate wanted to punish him for his insensitivity to the Nightingale's sacrifice, the girl refuses to accept it. She tells him that she has already agreed to dance with a wealthier boy who gifted her glittering jewelry. The boy is devastated and flings the rose to the ground. It is crumpled to bits by a wagon. The boy feels heartbroken and claims to have lost faith in the idea of true love. He decides to spend his time and energy on higher and nobler endeavors of education.

Thank
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