

***Bride Town (Allison)**

I have no idea what this poem may actually be alluding to. The only thing I could think of was a bride before her wedding having second thoughts about the whole thing, like a black cloud hanging over her on her wedding day. I would venture to say the Demander was simply time, since Noon is personified in the sentence along with it. I'm not sure if it's second thoughts about a wedding entirely or something else that is hanging over the bride of this poem. The line "It one cold bright" is what really gave me the hardest time. However, when this poem is read without the pauses, and "it" is put together with the second line, there seems to be a more complete thought. Read this way, "The Demander" seems like he could be a husband demanding his wife do something for him. I guess it could be alluding to that "traditional" bride role. The "Demander" seems so dark and dreary I almost see him, with the dark overcoat on all, as a figure of death (stereotypical Death who wears a hooded black full length robe.) There is also a Saint Bride of Ireland which may have something to do with this poem, though I'm not really quite sure what that would mean. She influenced many women mystics and important political figures in medieval times, but I didn't quite feel like that was what the poem was alluding to-- it felt more like it was talking about a wedding bride having jitters to me.

Amendments

Bride Town (tom)

Perhaps this poem alludes to an arranged marriage. The bride was avoiding this dark day which came upon her like an overcoat. Carson uses lots of interesting contradictions in this poem, like "daylight black" and "cold bright noon". This would cause me to think of a bride having mixed feelings to a wedding day as the end of her independent life and beginning of a life tied to another. The forced or arranged marriage scenario seems to make the most sense to me.

Bride Town (tiffany)

I found this poem to be an allusion to impending death, which is interesting given the title of the poem. A bride is supposed to be celebrating the greatest day of her life, essentially starting a new life with someone. However, the poem seems to allude to the ending of life and a bride's marriage to death. The entire poem is very heavy. "Hanging on the daylight". Right off the bat, "hanging" creates a morbid visual for the reader. I think of the historical act of lynching or hanging those accused of crime. "Black as an overcoat with no man in it" seems to allude to the absence of life. The black coat (the color of death, mind you) is hanging there on its own, empty, not serving a purpose, simply something there, not warm. The noontime being "cold" and "bright" makes it ominous. I get the sense that it's chilly (cold like death) despite the light provided by the middle of the day. "The Demander was waiting for me". Because the word "demander" is capitalized, it's obviously this being has a great deal of power, moreso than "me", which remains in lowercase. I think that the "Demander" is simply another title for the Grim Reaper, the one who comes to claim the living. And the fact that the Demander is waiting ties into the idea of the wedding day. A groom waits for his bride and then they are joined as one. Perhaps, today, the speaker of the poem is dying, marrying death for all eternity.

Bride Town (monte)

Yeah, I definitely agree that this is about the bride who is dreadfully looking forward to her noon wedding. The demander is her obligation to be there at noon.

Bride Town (mike)

Hanging in the daylight black. The opening line starts with black, in a Bride town there should be incredible amounts of white, not black. Is that because of all the grooms in bride town? But no man is in it. The cold bright noon the Demander waits. Is as Allison thought that the great Demander a possible husband or Time. Or is it simply the pressure of being married/not-married.

Bride Town Amendment: (matt)

What I get from this poem is the sense that it is not the bride but the groom who is having second thoughts, for the bride dresses in white while the groom dresses in black, but the coat has “no man in it.” The groom is gone, and the Demander represents those who want to know why the whole thing’s being held up. I see it more as the marriage idea falling through at the last minute; the speaker (who I presume is the bride) doesn’t sound crushed or weak, so I suspect that the decision was perhaps mutual (or maybe even hers). Either way, the groom is gone. That is what I get out of it, as an alternate reading.

Bride Town (martin)

I didn’t see anything Saint Bride of Ireland had in common with this poem. I’m with you on the allusion to a bride on her wedding day having regrets. “Getting the jitters” kind of trivializes it. There’s a sense of time in this poem since at the beginning the speaker is hanging onto the daylight black, which could mean the dawn of the day where the night is leaving and the daylight’s coming up. At noon...comes the reckoning where the Demander will be waiting for her. The Demander is the most important part of the poem to me, because it could be so many different things. It could be the groom, meaning it’s a battle against marriage. The capitalization could indicate a person by proper name, or a proper title like a priest. Then it could be an inner battle against the way church regards marriage and its necessity. Then, like you said, it could be a battle against time as well. The whole poem could be read as one sentence, kind of. Everything relates directly with each other.

Bride Town. (marina)

This poem is supposed to probably be more or less happy because weddings are usually thought of as being so, but this poem I think is insistently sad, and thus makes me think of arranged marriage and all the disrespectful thing-like, inhumane treatment women often get or at least have gotten in the past. There seems to be a comparison between a person (perhaps the bride) and something hanging on a hanger, like a bridal dress or some other clothing item, the bride then being nothing more than an object to her prospective husband to receive or her father to give away and perhaps get monetary compensation for, which is obviously extremely sad, then the “demander” could be the husband demanding his wife, as if she was just an overcoat hanging, since women don’t really count as if they are not men – hence the overcoat with no man in it could be an overcoat with a woman in it.

Bride Town (craig)

The images in this poem are very contradictory. The concept of a wedding as a happy moment in one's life is completely scrapped in this poem and made to be a very dreadful situation. The wedding seems to be what is "hanging on the daylight black." It is making this beautiful day very difficult. The Demander seems to be the husband to me, but I wonder what he demands. Is it a sexual demand? Is it just an overall controlling kind of male? Could it be that her father is demanding her to get married? The day is bright and sunlight, so vision is clear as I would assume is judgement, though she is clearly being forced into some kind of relationship against her will. I get the feeling that the speaker is a woman as the Demander seems to be compared to the "overcoat with no man in./ it". I am not sure that the exact circumstances which surround the wedding are as important as the simple fact that she is not happy with her situation and lacks any form of control over it as she is being demanded to act as she is.

Bride Town: (courtney)

Good job finding the "demander" to be time. "No man in" in reference to the overcoat may mean that the groom is not there—perhaps he disappeared, or pulled out of the wedding. "Daylight black" could then signify that, even though the day is sunny, it has a black underlining because of betrayal or sadness. "The Demander" could mean that either it is time for the bride to tell people that there is no groom before the wedding, or the Demander could be Death, come for the bride in her grief at the absence of her husband-to-be.

Bride Town (casey)

Hanging in the daylight black. The opening line starts with black, in a Bride town there should be incredible amounts of white, not black. Is that because of all the grooms in bride town? But no man is in it. The cold bright noon the Demander waits. Is as Allison thought that the great Demander a possible husband or Time. Or is it simply the pressure of being married/not-married.

Bride Town (abby)

Um, maybe the Demander is the groom? That would tie into the image of the bride waiting for something and then being startled into something that she did not necessarily need or want. That would explain the "dark"ness of the poem, and also the use of the "pure" bride as a universal woman and a "Demander" as a stereotypical man. What a brilliant way to work with these concepts.