The Trouble with Prince Charming, or He Who Trespassed Against Us

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In this chapter, Gay talks about how most fairy tales require a lot from a woman. A great deal of Disney fairy tales presents us with the idea that a woman, in most cases, must give up something to get their happy ending. The men in these movies are always flawed, and the woman is supposed to sacrifice something so that these men might get redemption. The chapter has focused on the book Fifty Shades and how all the books have vividly represented women's sacrifices to attain a happy ending. In the books, the woman has to give up her life and live according to the man's expectations, which is alarming. The man completely dominates the woman's life to the extent of punishing her when she does something contrary to his instructions. Gay is disturbed by the whole idea that women must give up a piece of their lives in fairy tales.

Gay is critiquing the pattern that a woman must sacrifice something to attain her happy ending in every fairy tale. A good example is Beauty and the Beast, where the woman had to live with the beast before realizing that he was the prince. This indeed is common among all fairy tales. The women suffer before finally attaining their happy endings. This, in a real sense, strips women of power and shows how women’s needs are not considered at all. Gay balances her fascination and outrage by just seeing the whole fairytale story as entertainment. She says that she watches them for pleasure, and thus, this is what calms her outrage of how women have to pay a high price to get their happily ever after.

References

Gay, R. (2019, July 6). The trouble with prince charming or he who trespassed against us. The Rumpus.net. <https://therumpus.net/2012/05/the-trouble-with-prince-charming-or-he-who-trespassed-against-us/>