Havisham

Beloved sweetheart bastard. Not a day since then I haven’t wished him dead. Prayed for it so hard I’ve dark green pebbles for eyes, ropes on the back of my hands I could strangle with.

Spinster. I stink and remember. Whole days in bed cawing Nooooo at the wall; the dress yellowing, trembling if I open the wardrobe; the slewed mirror, full-length, her; myself, who did this to me? Puce curses that are sounds not words.

Some nights better, the lost body over me, my fluent tongue in its mouth in its ear then down till I suddenly bite awake. Love’s hate behind a white veil; a red balloon bursting in my face. Bang. I stabbed at a wedding cake. Give me a male corpse for a long slow honeymoon.

Don’t think it’s only the heart that b-b-b-breaks.

Carol Ann Duffy

Themes
* Love
* Loss
* Revenge

Character from “Great Expectations” - only her maiden name - reminder of being jilted.

Oxymoron - shows her conflicted emotions over her lost love - think line between love and hate. Plosives to create a harsh, spiteful tone.

Inversion - shows her strongly negative feelings - hatred has consumed her and she is committed to hurting him.

Metaphor - veins on her hands due to her age or clenching - link to hanging - wants to cause him harm.

Word choice - connotations of despair - shows just how much she wants to hurt him.

Metaphor - pebbles are small and hard - her eyes have shrunk from being inside with no light. Green has connotations of jealousy - she is jealous of those who are happy.

Word choice - wants to cause harm - has violent thoughts about the one she once loved.

One word sentence - spat out. Reflects the fact that she is bitter about being forever known as this. This is all she sees herself as.

Word choice - connotations of animalistic - suggests she has lost her humanity and is anguished.

Purple - anger flooding her face while swearing.

Word choice - connotations of animalistic - again.

Word choice suggests weakness, vulnerability - could be her current distressed state or her thinking the dress is moving. Sign of mental instability.

Enjambment - amount of time spent reflecting on it.

Onomatopoeia - shows extent of her distress.

Doesn’t recognise herself anymore - in a state of confusion.

So angry she can’t form words - animalistic image again.

Plosives to create harsh tone - balloon symbolises their love/relationship blowing up and ending suddenly. Short sentence to create sudden shock.

Purple - anger flooding her face while swearing.

Dehumanising him - he has just become a sexual object.

Dreams of emasculating him - waking up to the harsh reality that she is no longer with him.

Violent connotations - usually something the couple does together. Shows how bitter she is.

Threat to end the poem - plosives to create harsh tone. She could be either angry or breaking down emotionally at the end. Instability is emphasised. Similar to beginning of poem.

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