Quinn Peters

Mrs. Sampson

English 1102

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Jilted

Katherine Anne Porters displays a dying woman’s memory in being jilted at the altar on her wedding day in “The Jilting of Granny Weatherhall”. However the story summarizes the events of Granny’s death but the focal point is her being jilted. Granny Weatherall, a woman who is about 80 was deeply hurt, bitter, felt rejected, and brokenhearted. Although at the same time she was resilient, overcame obstacles, and hardships in her life. The Jilting of Granny Weatherall was published in (1930) as a part of Porter’s short story collection.

Jilting of Granny Weatherall opens with Granny Weatherall being in the bed dying. Granny had weathered so many things in her life from raising children alone, illness which occurred at age 60 and at that time she prepared to die, so therefore she decided that she would visit her relatives to say goodbye. Granny made her will and came down with a long fever but does not die and here we are 20 years later and death is closer than ever (Porters). Ms. Weatherall maintained a farm, experienced the death of her younger daughter Hapsy, her husband John died, that lead to her being a young widower. Granny was able to get through the adversity by “maintaining order in her physical surroundings” (Porters).

“Porter skillfully conveys Granny’s wandering thoughts and confusion”. Throughout the story Granny goes in and out of consciousness. Ms. Weatherall slips between what’s real and the past, it had come to a point where she couldn’t tell the difference. In Granny’s state of mind, the past mixes with the present. “But it is not long before she finds death in her mind and it felt clammy and unfamiliar” (Porters). “Then… the memory of the day she was jilted interrupts Granny’s Weatherall’s reflections”.

Granny gave birth to Hapsy at 40 years old. Hapsy was the youngest daughter and it is clear that she has Granny’s favorite and deep on her mind. Ms. Weatherall continually asked for Hapsy on her death bed but Hapsy never shows up. More than likely, Hapsy had probably passed away at birth or as a young child. At this point she was closer to death. At 20, she was left at the altar by George, she loved him deeply, so much to the point almost 80 years later he is still in her thoughts. As Granny goes back out of consciousness she goes back to the day of the wedding, she had a white veil and a white cake, which signifies purity. Granny prepared all this only to be jilted. The memory of the day was so hurtful that she relives the exact moment again. Although she prayed that she would not remember him, as she is laying on her death bed her mind is on George and that awful day. Granny wanted to let George know that she married a wonderful man and had children of her own. Granny describes jilting as hell and “losing her soul in the deep pit of hell” (Porters).

The jilting brought Granny to the point where she had no emotions and lived a life that was in order, the life that she imagined for herself was different from what she hoped for. Granny lived a life of brokenness and bitterness. Granny shut herself off, she didn’t want to feel pain like that again. Granny chose of life of hard work and dedication to the family. “Emotions are sacred, and once violated the scars may remain for a life time” (Porter). Before her death “she stretched herself with a deep breath and blew out the light”.