

The Woman Who Shopped
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Eve's temptation
↳ Outcast Allegory
↳ Downfall

went out with a silver shilling, willing to buy, bought
an apple, red as first love's heart, bright as her eye,
had plenty of change, purchased a hat with a brim,
walked with a suitor under its shadow, ditched him;
saved up a pound, a fiver, a tenner, haggled the price
of a dancing dress down to a snip, spent the remainder
on shoes, danced from the house down the street,
taped to the centre of town where the sales had commenced,
applied for a job for the wage and the bonus, blew it
on clothes; wanted a wedding, a wedding dress, groom,
married him, wanted a honeymoon, went on one,
looked at the gold of her ring as it flashed in the sun;
flew away home to furnish each room of the house,
shuffle his plastic with hers, deal them out in the shops
for cutlery, crockery, dishwashers, bed linen, TV sets,
three-piece suites, stereos, microwaves, telephones,
curtains and mirrors and rugs; shrugged at the cost,
then fixed up a loan, filled up the spare room with boxes
of merchandise, unopened cartons, over-stuffed bags;
went on the Internet, shopped in America, all over Europe,
tapping her credit card numbers all night, ordering
swimming pools, caravans, saunas; when they arrived,
stacked up on the lawn, she fled, took to the streets,
where the lights from the shops ran like paint in the rain,
and pressed her face to the pane of the biggest and best;
the happy shoppers were fingering silk, holding cashmere
close to their cheeks, dancing with fur; she slept there,
curled in the doorway, six shopping bags at her feet.

Excitement, determination, reluctance → Societal aspirations
↳ "corrupted / infiltrated"
↳ How authentic are her choices?

Enjambment
↳ Imperative
↳ Instinctive response
↳ Obedience

Multiple tenses of same verb (polyptoton)
↳ Increases the pace → unthinking

Length → Effort
Short

INCREASE

→ Drunkenness, intoxicated
→ Infatuated, innocent childish woman
↳ Joy → Temporary
↳ Addicted → Spiral

Repeated use of nouns instead of verbs
↳ Marriage deconstructed into objects → Separation causes loss of meaning
↳ Alienation

Life is disconnected, incoherent

Born x x x x x x x Die
Born x x x x x x x Die

Materialism
↳ Loss of narrative
↳ Lots of memory identity

Unexpected language
↳ Honeymoon separate to marriage

Listing increases the pace
↳ Impulsive, overwhelmed, frantic, frenzied
↳ Animalistic, desperate
↳ Lack of full stop
↳ Ongoing, cyclical

Lexicon of domesticity
↳ Group of words Home
↳ Society's glamorisation of marriage
↳ Trick → Domestic slaves
↳ Capitalism used as a tool to oppress women
↳ Materialism → mundane

Suburban images of unnecessary excess
Innocent, gift → "silver shilling"
Saving → "a pound, a fiver"
Sells her future → "loan"
Fund her present → "credit card"

Overwhelmed

Fear of 'home' (house)
↳ Home is materialism
Familiar "silver shilling"
↓
Return to nostalgic comfort

- ↳ Lexicon of domesticity
 - ↳ Group of words
 - ↳ Home
- ↳ Society's glamorisation of marriage
 - ↳ Trick → Domestic slaves
 - ↳ Capitalism used as a tool to oppress women
- ↳ Materialism → mundane.

Suburban images of unnecessary excess

Innocent, gift → "silver shilling"

Saving → "a pound, a fiver"

Sells her → "loan"

future & → "credit card"

Find her present

Everything and nothing

clings to Materialism

No meaning / value

Juxtaposition

Introduction of Surrealism

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graph TD; A[Everything and nothing] --> B[clings to Materialism]; A --> C[No meaning / value]; D[Juxtaposition] --> E[Introduction of Surrealism];
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Surrealism = 19th century art movement
↳ Juxtaposition of unexpected images to encourage creativity from subconscious

Death
Warm Life
Juxtaposition of cold with body
↳ Deconstruction of shopping centre
Materialism losing meaning for woman

Evokes a Surrealist transformation of the female body into an image of urban materialism

Stone cold when she woke, she was stone, was concrete and glass, her eyes windows squinting back at the light, her brow a domed roof, her thoughts neon, flashing on and off, vague in the daylight. She seemed to be kneeling

or squatting, her shoulders broad and hunched, her hands huge and part of the pavement. She looked down. Her skirts were glass doors opening and closing, her stockings were moving stairs, her shoes were lifts, going up, going down:

first floor for perfumery and cosmetics, ladies' accessories, lingerie, fine jewels and watches; second for homewares, furniture, travel goods, luggage; third floor for menswear, shaving gear, shoes; fourth floor for books, toyland,

childrenswear, sports; fifth floor for home entertainment, pianos, musical instruments, beauty and hair. Her ribs were carpeted red, her lungs glittered with chandeliers over the singing tills, her gut was the food hall, hung

Escalation → Images of excess
with fat pink hams, crammed with cheeses, fruits, wines, truffles and caviar. She loved her own smell, sweat and Chanel, loved the crowds jostling and thronging her bones, loved the credit cards swiping themselves in her blood, her breath

was gift wrapping, the whisper of tissue and string, she loved the changing rooms of her heart, the rooftop restaurant in her eyes, the dark basement under the lower ground floor where juggernauts growled, unloading their heavy crates.

The sky was unwrapping itself, ripping itself into shreds. She would have a sale and crowds would queue overnight at her cunt, desperate for bargains. Light blazed from her now. Birds shrieked and voided themselves in her stone hair.

Harsh, crude, coarse
ANTITHESIS
of expectations of femininity
↓ being
Despite, meant to oppress/control women,
materialism ultimately destroys femininity

Money

Escalation of sexualisation

↳ "sex sells" ← Media uses sex
Sex + materialism intertwined

Deconstruction of the sexual act

Juxtaposition of a horrifying transformation with a soft, delicate, comforting force

Objectively (audience)
• Horror, disgust, fear
Subjectively (woman/addict)
• Comfort, satisfaction, warmth

Contrasts bodily decay

Body's deconstruction

↳ Ultimate loss of meaning: Life
↳ Ultimate juxtaposition = life and death

Materialism has escalated to being a god

Extreme image of disrespect
↳ Corruption of materialism
↳ Evokes visceral disgust

Obviously awful