

Priscilla in the Pond

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This short story is very strange; it is a quite amusing story. We are looking at the details in Priscilla's mind, as a result of her ideas or the way she thinks. From the first paragraph, we get some details about Priscilla. She is self-confident and practical. She is over confident and very successful in love and business. She is proud of herself. Moreover, from the very beginning, we get the main event, which is the fall in the pond.

The writer drops us into the event, the same as Priscilla drops in the pond. Priscilla is shocked because what has happened to her was unexpected; **"nothing can surprise her"**. It is not true that she is always ready for any unexpected situation.

She is trying to tell herself that she is under control. She is encountered by three disappointing situations. The first one is the fall in the pond. The second one is that she cannot find an outlet. She cannot get herself out. The third one is that she is a good swimmer, but she cannot breathe under water. It is a war that she wants to win. She wants to win to survive. The moment of death is the moment of falling off the golden mask, which she used to put on. She wants to have all the threads in her hand; actually she is not realistic. She is facing the reality now. **"She shouted for help. She did it again and again"**. She loses hope. Her own hope now is to get down and try to find a hole, but she starts to feel tired. She was totally blind until that situation had happened to her. She realizes that she is not that smart anymore. She realizes that she has to clear her head and find a way to survive, but she does not want to die in that way. That is why she struggles to survive.

There is a difference between the beginning and the end of the story. At the beginning she is powerful, smug and arrogant, yet at the end we can speculate that she is broken and a weak person. It is not obvious whether Priscilla is going to change or not, whether she has learnt or not. She has led a false life. The idea is that after such an incident, she should think of changing her life.

Priscilla is very hard and cold person. Water is an image of purification. It symbolizes the difficulty of the situation as you may be in deep water and cannot get out. Priscilla is in the pond; she is Priscilla, the human being not the statue. It is as if all her masks have fallen down to pieces. She thinks that the idea of dignity is only in her calculations, but the fact is that dignity is a human being; she lacks this idea of dignity, **“the dignity with which she had intended to face the final moments, whenever they might come, turned out to have depended entirely on the ability to draw breath.”** She now knows that throughout all her life she has been a smug. When she finally manages to get out of the water by breaking the ice layer, it is like her coming out of an eggshell. She is newly born now and is given a new chance to start a new life. It is not known whether she is going to change her life. Yet, it is known that she is given another chance and has seen the uselessness of her life when she has been under water.

The writer mentions Priscilla’s age to show that she is supposed to be a mature woman. The fall of Priscilla in the pond may symbolize the failure of humans to communicate with each other since no one communicates with anyone. All people are isolated. That is why she found nobody to help her out.