

English 2342 Study Guide, part II  
Fall 2010

*France (1890) Guy de Maupassant, "Who Knows?"* Perambulating furniture; hallucination, paranoia.

*USA (1892) Charlotte Perkins Stetson, "The Yellow Wall-Paper"* Suspicion of male medical authority; post-partum depression; insanity—"splitting" of self.

*\*\*France (1892) Marcel Schwab, "Bloody Blanche"* Female puberty themes, violence, rape, gang murder.

*\*\*USA (1911) F. Marion Crawford, "For the Blood Is the Life"*

*Czech (1919) Franz Kafka, "[In the Penal Colony](#)"* Sadistic fascist dies willingly by his own horrific torture device.

*USA (1923) Ellen Glasgow, "Jordan's End."* The men of a southern family go insane relatively early in life. There's a doctor narrator who visits the family. He's impressed by the beauty of the insane man's wife. She talks to the doctor quite a bit. She kills her husband with the medicine the doctor leaves. He's haunted by what to do.

*USA (1926) H. P. Lovecraft, "The Outsider"* Escher paradoxes, self-reflexivity, castles, claustrophobic spaces, alienation, self as monster.

*USA (1930) William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"* Family decline; declining aristocracy; grand old spinster with one "true" love; murderess sleeps for decades with corpse of lover.

*USA (1931) William Faulkner, "Dry September"* Profile of a small town southern racist and of a small town southern woman, aged past her prime—she may have had an affair with a black man or made it up. Either way, the racist gets a posse to kill the man and the woman goes insane. The townsfolk are not nice to her, although they seem to be.

*Irish (1932) Lord Dunsany, "The Two Bottles of Relish"* Cannibalism, detective story, mystery of an unsolved murder; death and digestion of a young woman.

*\*\*USA (1933) Catherine L. Moore, "Shambleau"* Phallic Medusan alien vampirizes Buck Rogers-type macho anti-hero.

*\*\*Denmark (1934) Isak Dinesen, "The Monkey"* Riff on fairy-tale—gender role reversal: soldier hero is ineffectual orgy-goer, virgin heroine defends honor as Amazon; pregnancy by magic kiss; animal and human connection/transformation. Castle, abbey, winding mountain roads.

*UK (1935) F. M. Mayor, "Miss de Mannering of Asham"* Young impoverished girl goes to Italy with Miss de Mannering, an old, old lady kept alive by blood transfusions from her doctor getting blood from her young female attendants. Our heroine meets another, younger, more dashing doctor and his sister; he saves the day; the heroine marries him.

*UK (1938) Frederick Cowles, "The Vampire of Kaldenstein"* Gentleman goes for a "walking tour," ends up in Kaldenstein, enters vampire castle of his own "free-will," and is

saved by a priest from vampire family patriarchs.

USA (1941) *Eudora Welty, "Clytie"* Dominated all her life, woman's loss of self thematized as a fascination with others' faces; decline of (Southern) family line.

UK (1949) *Dorothy K. Haynes, "Thou Shalt Not Suffer a Witch..."* A brutally insane teenager causes the death of her friend and then tries to kill a baby through "magical" staring. She is thrown in a pond, floats—proving that she is a witch—and then is burned alive.

\*\* *Japan (1951) Ryūnosuke Kutagawa, "In a Grove"* Story told from multiple depositions, each main character takes blame for murder (even the victim) for honor's sake; murdered husband's deposition given by psychic medium.

USA (1956) *Ray Bradbury, "The Dwarf"* A carnival huckster, a real dwarf (who can write wonderful murder mysteries), and a sweet woman, find out, thanks to a hall of mirrors, who the moral dwarf is. A gunshot, possible transformation, inner and outer human ugliness.

*Argentina (1968) Alejandra Pizarnik, "The Bloody Countess"* Multiple ways a lunatic Hungarian aristocrat tortures and murders female virgins. Drinks blood to preserve youth.

*Argentina (1970) Jorge Borges, "The Gospel According to Mark"* Young man crucified by atavistic family for sleeping with their virgin daughter and bringing literacy and memory of familial religious heritage to light. Flooding. The pampas.

\*\**UK (1975) Robert Aikman, "Pages from a Young Girl's Journal"* Pulchritudinous young woman slowly is transformed into a vampire, running with the wolves; story is unique in its point of view being presented through the journal of the victim. Castles; aristocrats.

USA (1979) *Charles L. Grant, "Love-Starved"* Knock-around photographer happens upon a glitter eyed Asian erotic vampire. She loves him into becoming like herself, glitter eyed. Incessant intercourse as a form of vampiric conversion.

UK (1979) *Angela Carter, "The Lady of the House of Love"* Turns traditional fairy tale role of hero on its head: the golden boy soldier virgin defeats the erotic vampire due to the purity of his body and mind.

USA (1980) *Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, "Cabin 33"* Vampires in everyday life trying to run a holiday "camp-ground" business. A neophyte vampire makes the mistake of believing the old myths about vampires. He uses fear and murder rather than the enlightened vampire's way, love, to conquer his victims.

UK (1981) *J. N. Allan, "The Aquarist"* Crazy guy digs aquariums, wants to sort of live in one, seems at times to think he lives in one; he ignores his wife and her lover until he decides to kill them. Lots of goopy and squishy imagery. Paranoia and schizophrenia. Murder.

\*\**USA (1982) Alan Ryan, "Following the Way"* Young man is followed over a number of years by a priest, who keeps asking him to join the priesthood. He does join when finally he drinks some of the priest's blood. Riff on Christianity.

\*\**USA (1983) Ramsey Campbell, "The Sunshine Club"* Who cares? Psychiatric vampire mess. Blame the editing?

\*\* USA (1984) Steve Rasnic Tem, *"The Men & Women of Rivendale"* Doomed cancer patient goes to a campground place, Rivendale, and is slowly turned into a kind of Nosferatu shaped vampire. This was her salvation. Her husband the narrator is also changed into a vampire.

\*\* UK (1984) Tanith Lee, *"Bite Me Not or, Fleur de Feu"* High romance between a flying vampiric beast-man and a scullery maid beauty (herself the product of a rape). The flower of fire blooms from their entwined corpses.

USA (1988) Joyce Carol Oates, *"Secret Observations on the Goat-Girl"* Parable of alienation and monstrosity. Family decline? Incest theme? Feminist take on female animality?

UK (1988) Patrick McGrath, *"Blood Disease"* Congo Bill the anthropologist is cuckolded by his beautiful wife and her distant cousin. Son, wife, and cousin are drained of their blood by ("pernicious") anemics with "iatrophobia and sanguinivorous dementia (bloodlust)." The anemia cult is finally discovered and arrested but too late to save the lives of Congo Bill's family.

Chile (1991) Isabel Allende, *"If You Touched My Heart"* Poor simple-minded woman is taken advantage of by a Chilean Mafioso character who keeps her imprisoned for decades. She transforms into a subterranean creature, is rescued. He ends up in prison, insane, and she brings him food. Stockholm syndrome?

\*\* (2002) Nancy A. Collins, *"The Pumpkin Child."* Post-World War II setting, small town in Arkansas. Soldier returns home, finds his girlfriend married to his rival. He also finds his father's business practically bankrupt and his father in a state hospital with a nervous breakdown. The soldier goes to a witch to swap his luck with his rival's. Ten years later he wants the luck swapped back so he and his wife can have a child. He dies, his wife dies, the witch dies, his first son lives (the one he had with the witch) but his second child dies.

\*\* (2005) Farnoosh Moshiri, *"From Against Gravity."* Marxist revolutionary goes to Argentina and gets worked over by a thin, tall woman in a tight skirt.

\*\* (2003) John Bushore, *"Going Native."* Navy SEAL is rescued from the ocean by a lovely native girl. She drugs him with fruit. He gets bit by a jellyfish, realizes because of the pain that he's been drugged; he escapes to a cave. Plots getting the lovely native girl. Ends up on another island with her where she becomes a tree and he's to be the fertilizer. At the end, he's in a military hospital and the nurse offers him fruit juice.

\*\* (1997) Nicholas Royle, *"Mbo."* Journalist afraid of drug investigates a series of missing person reports. Meanwhile, a group of young Germans and Danes get kidnapped and handed over to a human shaman who has powers over mosquitoes. They swarm over him like a coat. He tries to kill all the young people and the journalist. The journalist's driver, Popo, turns up and saves the day. Everyone, except for a couple of young women who die, is haunted by the experience for a long, long time.

\*\* (2004) Neil Gaiman, *"Forbidden Brides of the Faceless Slaves in the Nameless House of the Night of Dread Desire."* Metanarrative parody of a man who lives in a Gothic reality, tries to write about it but can't help mocking it. Then he learns, from Poe's Raven, to write fantasy stories, i.e., ones based on our reality.

\*\* (2007) Lucy Taylor, *"The Butsudon."* Dumb, greedy blond white woman marries an old Japanese guy, moves to Japan, falls for his son, murders the father, and tries to steal the

inheritance, only to end up with a mochi rice ball, her means of killing the old man. Now she's stranded in Japan and feels doomed to take care of the family altar (the butsudon).

Robert, Hood, "Behind Dark Blue Eyes." The zombie apocalypse begins with remote control of reanimated world leaders. The story centers around a journalist who discovers a plot to use the dead Australian Prime Minister to make laws favoring the use of reanimated corpses. The plot is seemingly led by international corporate CEOs, but at the end we begin to see that those controllers may be being controlled.

Tunku Halim, "Keramat." A photographer and journalist go to a village where in the nearby jungle exists a shrine or keramat that binds an evil spirit. As they investigate, the thing takes over the journalist, chases the photographer using parts of her body, and then meets him in her car when he thinks he's safe.

Milorad Pavic, "Paper Theater." A hermit software engineer constructs a companion hologram. When he dies, she is let loose but doesn't know that she's not real. Her name is NOKIA.

Isobelle Carmody, "The Stranger." Vampire tale: A playwright feels adrift in life and meets a woman wearing a big hat at the airport. She seems to glow with vitality. He obsesses about finding her while he's in Greece. He doesn't know it but she's a vampire. The vampires watch over the human race and every 100 years choose a human to sacrifice. If the human agrees to die, then he or she is turned into an immortal vampire.

Steve Duffy, "The Suicide Wood." Emo teen goth wants to commit suicide because he rock star idol did. So he goes to the forest at the "foot of Mount Fuji: Aokigahara, the suicide wood." He meets a goth girl on the train there. She's really a ghost. She leads him into the forest and helps him hang himself, although he starts to have second thoughts.

Lucy Taylor, "Sanguma." Somewhat hallucinatory story of a woman on holiday in New Guinea. She discovers a culture of witchcraft and sorcery. Her guide turns out to be her soul-mate, he thinks, because he was born on a witch's burning pile and the main character has burn scars from a wax candle accident at the stove in childhood. He dies and she discovers a leaf under her pillow after she returns to her hotel room.

\*\* Denotes that that story will not be covered on exam.

Any stories listed here that were covered in the midterm will not be covered on the final.