

# Report 1: Beauty and the Beast

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## How many motifs are echoed in the two stories?

- Beautiful, pure of heart protagonist
- Unmarried woman
- Jealous sisters, of the protagonist and of their new palace and riches
- Empty castle
- Magical unseen servants
- Life of luxury
- Self-preservation of the family has the father give up Beauty/Psyche
- Homesickness, mistake of returning to see family
- Both the Beast and Psyche end close to death, before being saved by their love
- Ends in finding love and union

## What are the differences between the two stories?

- Initial crisis is external to the protagonist with Beauty (marauding pirates), but internal to Psyche (her own beauty)
- Father of Beauty wishes to get her a gift; the father of Psyche tries to sacrifice her
- Beauty knows that the Beast looks like a monster; Psyche doesn't know how Cupid looks
- Psyche is the one to transform into a god; the Beast has his transformation undone
- The Beast is discovered by the father; the Zephyrs seek out and save Psyche
- Psyche has an enemy in Venus; Beauty has no such antagonist
- Psyche's second crisis is supernatural (tasks of Venus); Beauty's second crisis is mundane (arranged marriage)
- Beauty leaves the Beast for her family; Cupid leaves Psyche due to his anger
- Beauty's family prevents her from returning to the Beast
- Psyche is saved from death by Cupid; Beauty saves the Beast from death

## Does Beauty and the Beast echo Cupid and Psyche?

The story of *Beauty and the Beast* echoes Apuleius' story of *Cupid and Psyche*, however the plot present in both stories is general enough that the echo is coincidental, not deliberate. Both stories feature a woman protagonist in either Beauty or Psyche, main characters that are distinct in their beauty and pure of heart. The jealousy of the outside world causes the initial crisis for both characters, leading their fathers to give them up as a sacrifice seeking the preservation of their family. These stories are resolved through the reconciliation between Beauty with the Beast and Psyche with Cupid, ending in love and union. The most striking difference between these two stories is the presence of Venus as a prime antagonist for Psyche. Beating her and forcing her into a series of impossible tasks that end in her death. Beauty has no such major adversary, indicating that the echoes between the stories are not intentional.