Canadian Literature And Culture

The Idyl of the Island

1

By Susie Frances Harrison (1859-1935)

female

*Definition*

Amherst: An English Admiral who kissed a married Canadian women without telling her in *The Idyl of the Island*.

 “I know one man,” she said, in a voice choked with sobs, “who would not have done it.”

Amherst started. “I am sorrier than ever, believe me. I might have known you were engaged, or had a lover—one so charming”—

“It is not that,” said the lady. “I am married.” She was still struggling with her emotion.

Amherst recoiled. He was torn with conflicting thoughts. What if he had been seen giving that involuntary salute? He might have ruined her peace for ever. Who would believe in the truth of any possible explanation?

“I will leave you at once;” he said stiffly “there is nothing more to be said.”

“Oh! you will reproach me now! said his companion, wiping her eyes as the tears came afresh.

*Short Answer Questions*

1. A lover or engaged man before marriage. Love for that man is no longer possible.

2. He might be a third person to the Canadian woman’s life.

3. I wish you to stay, but you leave me to punish me.

The Wedding Gift

65

By Thomas H. Raddall (1903-94)

male

*Definition*

Kezia Barnes: The girl who married Mr. Mears in *The Wedding Gift*.

Mr. Mears: The English preacher who married Kezia in *The Wedding Gift*.

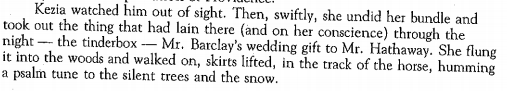
Mr. Hathaway: The man who is decided by the Barclays to marry Kezia.

The Barclays: The home which brought up Kezia, an orphan as house-help in *The Wedding Gift*.

I’ll ride a mile or so, then I'll get down and tie the horse to a tree and walk on. When you come up to the horse, you mount and ride a mile or so, passing me on the way, and you tie him and walk on. Like that, Ride-and-tie, ride-and-tie. The horse gets a rest between.

“Well, to begin with, he’ll ask where I spent the night, and I’ll have to tell te truth. I’ll have to say I bundled with you in a hut in the woods.”

Kezia watched him out of sight. Then, swiftly, she undid her bundle and took out the thing that had lain there (and on her conscience) through the night—the tinderbox—Mr. Barclay’s wedding gift to Mr. Hathaway. She flung it into the woods and walked on, skirts lifted, in the track of the horse, humming a psalm true to the silent trees and the snow.



*Short Answer Questions*

1. Two people share one horse and take turns to ride the horse ahead and tie up for the person following behind on foot.

2. The method that Mr. Mears and Kezia slept together. Sleeping with their clothes on when a couple is courting on a winter evening.

Petite Misère

96

By Gabrielle Roy (1909-83)

female

The Day I Sat with Jesus on the Sundeck and a Wind Came Up and Blew My Kimono Open and He Saw My Breasts

120

By Gloria Sawai (1932-2011)

female

Anita's Dance

139

By Marian Engel (1933-1985)

female

The Hockey Sweater

151

By Roch Carrier (1937- )

male

Simple Recipes

155

By Madeleine Thien (1974- )

female