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“La Belle Dame Sans Merci”

John Waterhouse’s painting “La Belle Dame Sans Merci, inspired by Keats’s poem of the same title, illustrates the moment of the knight’s seduction while at the same time hints of the horror to come both for this particular man and all men.

One quote to show this is “She took me to her elfin grot and there she wept and sighed full sore and there I shut her wild wild eyes with kisses four. “This shows that when she was in pain he kissed her eyes and was there to comfort her in her darkness.

Another quote is “She found me roots of relish sweet and honey wild, and manna-dew and sure in language strange she said –“I love thee true” This shows that she was seducing the man with her sweet words and sweet action. But then she truly reveals herself.

The last quote is “I saw pale kings and princes too, pale warriors, death-pale were they all; they cried—“la belle dame sans Merci thee hath in thrall”