

Originally, these shoes were supposed to be covered in images that represented my favorite stories from this anthology. However, I changed my mind and decided to write quotes from my favorite stories. The quotes are not too easy to read because some of the markers were bleeding really bad. The quotes I chose were the ones that I thought displayed the “weird” in each story. At the beginning of the semester, I learned that “weird” fiction entails “a certain atmosphere of breathless and unexplainable dread of outer, unknown forces must be present” (Lovecraft) and that “weird is produced by the presence of something that shouldn’t really be there—weirdness occurs when two things come together that we don’t ever really normally think of as going together” (Fisher). Stories of the “Weird” fiction genre should leave you with questions and sometimes an uneasy feeling. The stories and quotes that I chose for this assignment did exactly that.

One quote that I chose to use was “the body of a woman fell stiffly out on the stage. The princess... lay there strapped to a steel frame... and in her mouth there was a silk gag” from *The Man In The Bottle* (Gustav Meyrink pg.74). This quote and story left me with a very uneasy feeling because they put on a show as a front to murder two people and the crowd laughed at it. The uneasiness and storyline of this story in my opinion is what qualifies it as a “weird” fiction story. Another quote that I chose was “The fog is not simply vapor, it lives!... The men and women are down. Flat on their faces. ... They are being consumed” from *Night Wire* (H.F. Arnold, pg.157). This story was “weird” because it seemed as if there were outside/supernatural forces at play. The city was under attack by a fog that had colored hues murdering people. This story in my opinion was similar to *The Shadowy Street* by Jean Ray because people were being murdered, going missing, and committing suicide with no evidence as to why. Everyone was afraid of these “Phantom executioners” (Jean Ray, pg. 210). This was a story that truly left me with questions because we were never told who or what was murdering people or why they were murdering people. Another story very similar to this that was also included on my shoes was *It Only Comes Out At Night* by Dennis Etchison. This story left me with the same questions as *The Shadowy Street* did because something had killed everyone at a rest stop but was never seen. Could it have been a vampire?

Another story I included, which was my favorite out of all of them, is *The Little Dirty Girl* by Joanna Russ. This one started out seeming like a “normal” story about a woman meeting a little girl at the store. Then as the story progressed, the little girl continued to show up in the same clothes and started acting very strange. At one point she starts accusing the woman of starving and hating her. The woman eventually came to a realization that the little girl must be a ghost, however, it felt so real that she questioned herself. Then towards the end the woman finds a picture of the little girl and realizes that it's her. This story seemed like the woman might have had a mental breakdown and was seeing her younger self which revealed that she had a bad relationship with her mother. This story left me with questions and an uneasy feeling because the woman couldn't recognize her younger self and displayed signs of neglect and abuse as a child. It left me wondering if that truly was her ghost or if it really was real.

This class has encouraged me to read more “weird” fiction stories and to try other genres that I may not have normally picked out for myself at the beginning of this semester. I truly learned a lot from this class and plan on continuing my exploration of the “weird” fiction genre.

Pictures of my Shoes:







