

metamorphoses 22 & 1

Thetis: Greek sea nymphs who can change her form
 mother of Achilles
 attempted to make immortal by dipping into the river
 아킬레스건은 22.5cm (heel - only part that has not been dipped).

Thetis → younger mother

— : Thetis

— : Pursuer Peleus?

① Biblical Allusion:
 crucifixion of Christ
 (죄악의 짐을 짊어짐)
 가난한 것 → blue-some
 ⇒ suffering, sacrifice
 carrying burden

② Idiom:
 carrying the burden

바라보아주려
 trying to dance
 for him

controls her

to avoid
 (powerful)

* Romantic movement:
 interested in the transformation
 of nature - danger of anthropogenic
 developments

Allusion → related to power. sacrifice

Thetis : powerful to transform
 powerless to get out from the pursuer
 power dynamics.

→ self-diminutive
 song bird (small, delicate)

I shrank myself
 to the size of a bird in the hand
 of a man.

Sweet, sweet, was the small song
 that I sang,
 till I felt the squeeze of his fist.

Then I did this:
 shouldered the cross of an albatross
 up the hill of the sky.

Why? To follow a ship.
 But I felt my wings
 clipped by the squint of a crossbow's eye.

So I shopped for a suitable shape.
 Size 8. Snake.
 Big Mistake.
 Coiled in my charmer's lap,
 I felt the grasp of his strangler's clasp
 at my nape.

Next I was roar, claw, 50 lb paw,
 jungle-floored, meat-eater, raw,
 a zebra's gore
 in my lower jaw.
 But my gold eye saw
 the guy in the grass with the gun. Twelve-bore.

→ Format of the poem Caducl (Tomy)

- written in sestets
- 6 line verses
- irregular lines: reflect her state
 shape-shifting
 endeavour to escape
- short line → desperation
- idiom: humor
 contemporary context
 modern voice
- rhyme: parathyme (not perfect rhyme)
 internal rhyme (우렁)
- establish rhythm
 visualise concept
- alliteration
 assonance (vowel) (공리공산)

Sibilance: musical
 (Song of a songbird)

→ please the man.
 → even though Thetis pleases him, still tries to control her.

Intertextuality
 Allusion to
 'The Rime of The
 Ancient Mariner'
 'albatross around my neck'

Sibilance (s): movement of a snake

assonance: broad vowel sound to create
 an impression of power
 all the words are stressed to illustrate
 the heavy pounding of animals

powerful than lion.
 hunter

please → appease → avoid

I sank through the floor of the earth
 to swim in the sea.
 Mermaid, me, big fish, eel, dolphin,
 whale, the ocean's opera singer.
 Over the waves the fisherman came
 with his hook and his line and his sinker.

I changed my tune
 to racoon, skunk, stoat,
 to weasel, ferret, bat, mink, rat.
 The taxidermist sharpened his knives.
 I smelled the stink of formaldehyde.
 Stuff that.
 I was wind, I was gas,
 I was all hot air, trailed
 clouds for hair.
 I scrawled my name with a hurricane,
 when out of the blue
 roared a fighter plane.

British
 animals

바라보아주려
 trying to dance
 for him
 바라보아주려
 trying to dance
 for him

다행히 succumbs to him

what he wanted
 but not her.

transformation

belonging her
 only objective
 to be submissive
 to the groom
 found some
 kind of motherhood
 (submission) in her
 submission

Then my tongue was flame
 and my kisses burned,
 but the groom wore asbestos.
 So I changed, I learned,
 turned inside out - or that's
 how it felt when the child burst out.

overpower. subdue her
 giving birth to Achilles
 unexpected
 liberation을 주면서 끝난다!

정신사육
 Asyndeton: listing all diff animals

transforming into
 different forms
 (power as a goddess)
 reference to animals

Flame resistant material
 종말의 아: 1. Submission
 2. finding liberation
 in her submission
 due to Achilles.

change in
 identity due to
 the birth

- formed of forced submission? (gesture) 'turned inside out' - painful submission
 literal - metaphorical
- form of liberation by finding motherhood? Stops pursuing her when she becomes a mother
 ⇒ 책임감? 깨끗한 줄기 날라?
- both? strength, resilience to mothers out of forced submission
 pursuer: many man in her life?

성공적 → 성공 이야기의 존재감과
 power의 형식.
 무한한 노력 - 증명하는 것까지
 잔다... 20 돌아온다.

men 이야기
 power를 증명하는 이야기.

Mrs Darwin .playful
· subtle

↳ diary: journal entry

7 April 1852. (parallel to the way Darwin keeps his discoveries)

Went to the Zoo.

I said to Him → godlike figure in evolution

Something about that Chimpanzee over there reminds me of
you.

↳ relates to his discoveries

Capitalized nouns: underlining the importance of the nouns
'Him' 'chimpanzee'.
emphasize the high reputation of Darwin

Charles Darwin

- proposed the theory of evolution (natural selection)
- diary: journal entry based on empirical observations

- imagines the woman next to the famous male figures,
 - imagining their relationship
 - bringing womanhood into the histories who are often written out of the history and not getting as much credit as the males did
- 잘 알려지지 않은 역사적 여성들을 포함하여 가부장/남성위 권위를 불러일으킴.
- ↳ highlight on the contribution of female who are often written out in the history.

Mrs Sisyphus

King of Corinth
infamous for general trickery & twice cheating death
forever rolling a boulder up a hill in the depths of Hades

That's him pushing the stone up the hill, the jerk. → straightforward
I call it a stone – it's nearer the size of a kirk. → church → emphasizing the size.
When he first started out, it just used to irk,
but now it incenses me, and him, the absolute berk. → idiot
I could do something vicious to him with a dirk. → dagger

Think of the perks, he says. → perk = power? → test from god?
What use is a perk, I shriek,
when you haven't the time to pop open a cork → show Sisyphus's desire to achieve power
or go for so much as a walk in the park? → which diverges with his wife.

He's a dork. → portrays his absurdity
Folk flock from miles around just to gawk. → 열광하는 사람
They think it's a quirk, → 기이한 일
a bit of a lark. → 농담.

A load of old bollocks is nearer the mark.
He might as well bark → 멍청이.
at the moon – → informal swear words
that teckin' stone's no sooner up
than it's rolling back
all the way down.

And what does he say?
Mustn't shirk → avoid → power on her part
keen as a hawk, → contradicting to the wives
lean as a shark
being silent.

Mustn't shirk!
→ repetitiveness of his task.

→ main theme: lack of power in her marriage
" of Sisyphus

→ so eager to regain his power
but ends up having nothing
and even losing his relationship w/
Mrs. Sisyphus.

→ sad, subtle tone

But I lie alone in the dark, → loneliness
feeling like Noah's wife did
when he hammered away at the Ark;
like Frau Johann Sebastian Bach.
My voice reduced to a squawk, → 랐랭 소리.
my smile to a twisted smirk; → 찌웃음
while, up on the deepening murk of the hill → reflects on
he is giving one hundred per cent and more to his work. → their marriage

→ feeling left out, lonely to Sisyphus not paying attention to her.
→ excluded (accepted?)
→ consequence of his desire to gain power.
→ only devoting his time to himself

- uneven rhyme
↳ discomfort to her husband.
- aggressive, straightforward
- informal as it she is talking to s.o. close.
- afterstory of the myth
- wife of Sisyphus (perspective)
↳ portrays on the womanhood
→ punishment
→ work

→ playful, humour

A person in her own rights (independent) → Anne Hathaway → wife of Shakespeare. Also connecting with the sense of equality, mutuality Mrs. → 가리운 것 같다 (누구의 소유물인 것 아님).

→ epigraph (as a backdrop) 'Item I gyve unto my wife my second best bed...'

포함, S가 creative writer가 되게끔 하는 배경

→ Sonnet form

use of range of literary terms to show the profession of Shakespeare. Both of them become his writing themselves.

→ What symbolized their relationships. The bed we loved in was a spinning world of forests, castles, torchlight, clifftops, seas where he would dive for pearls. My lover's words were shooting stars which fell to earth as kisses on these lips; my body now a softer rhyme to his, now echo, assonance; his touch a verb dancing in the centre of a noun. Some nights, I dreamed he'd written me, the bed a page beneath his writer's hands. Romance and drama played by touch, by scent, by taste. In the other bed, the best, our guests dozed on, dribbling their prose. My living laughing love - I hold him in the casket of my widow's head as he held me upon that next best bed.

euphemism for oral sex; their uniqueness of their relationship

→ erotic poem: a poem ab. a couple (S&A) loving & enjoying each other
→ Elizabethan era: sexuality was taboo.
unequal social status bet. genders
A.H. talks how S was 'serving' her for her pleasure, etc.
→ Talks about mutual love, mutuality, viewing each other positioned the equal position.

→ A.H. ⇒ S's muse?
(가장 벗어나 있진 않음이란)
romanticized S's sonnet
: male lover?
스폰 관계?

→ why not first? *
→ Not good relationship.
→ Asyndetic list (열거법) brings list of similar things.
→ Romanticized imagery.
→ describing what they did in bed
→ harmony
→ equality, fit together
→ active word (physicality, activeness)
→ reflected his work.
→ Parallelism sensory 'images', = sensual pleasure that they receive from e.o.
→ literary term making poetry in bed.
→ Shakespeare's S's remembering him.

- S: Apr. Smith has been baptized. to avoid the uniform of a clergy.
- 연상녀 (26살 @ 1801 결혼)
- 3 children (pregnant bet. marriage) (Susanna, Judith, Hamnet)
- 24 children?
- religious group activity
- turbulent times
- Catholic? 가톨릭? 로마 가톨릭?
- skepticism of their relationship
- 67 died, outlived Tys
- London → remained for plague
- S ⇒ write w/ key themes (relationship bet. people) humour
→ also whole sonnets
- died @ 11 Hamlet?

* Effect of the poem in a sonnet form
→ form to express particular love
→ mostly used from Shakespeare

* Second-best-bed casket ⇒ treasure box / coffin.
→ metaphor carried forward

→ present-continuous tense as it he is still alive.
→ alludes to sonnet 18 immortalise her beauty through the sonnet
→ his beauty of artwork is still continued by the poem.

→ Her character strong, independent-minded, clever
→ similar to the characters made by Shakespeare

Context :
Gorgon, beautiful
Poseidon → Athena's temple & IIIA
Killed by Perseus

Medusa

A suspicion, a doubt, a jealousy ^{not 분노/증오}
grew in my mind, ^{↳ another woman being involved.}
which turned the hairs on my head to filthy snakes,
as though my thoughts
hissed and spat on my scalp.

My bride's breath ^{↳ destruction of marriage. beloved Medusa}
soured, stank
in the grey bags of my lungs. ^{↳ equally stressed}

I'm foul mouthed now, foul tongued, ^{↳ swearing a lot}
yellow fanged. ^{↳ crying w/ rage}
There are bullet tears in my eyes.

Are you terrified? ^{↳ responding her hurt. anger}

Be terrified. ^{obsessive?}
It's you I love,
perfect man, Greek God, my own; ^{↳ contemporary context: her husband}
but I know you'll go, betray me, stray
from home.

So better by far for me if you were stone. ^{↳ better for you to be gone}

I glanced at a buzzing bee,
a dull grey pebble fell
to the ground.
I glanced at a singing bird, ^{↳ cannot live through casually}
a handful of dusty gravel ^{↳ sweet disintegrating}
spattered down. ^{↳ suggestion of his impending death}

I looked at a ginger cat,
a housebrick
shattered a bowl of milk.
I looked at a snuffling pig,
a boulder rolled ^{↳ association w/ man}
in a heap of shit. ^{arrogance. selfish. greed mostly masculinized}

reference of mythology
= metaphor

↳ fresh & bitter
sweet really sweet
turned into something
really bitter.

old

also associated w/
image of old.

obsession

turning things into
rocks
↳ rage from her
allowing her to
transform it to stone

I stared in the mirror.
Love gone bad ^{↳ toxic relationship. Love going wrong}
showed me a Gorgon.

I stared at a dragon.
Fire spewed
from the mouth of a mountain. ^{↳ did not turned into a stone → due to rage}

And here you come ^{↳ Perseus → who ultimately kills her.}
with a shield for a heart
and a sword for a tongue
and your girls, your girls. ^{↳ seductive & attractive.}

Wasn't I beautiful? ^{↳ sisters.}
Wasn't I fragrant and young?
Look at me now. ^{↳ sorrowing cliché of once beautiful woman. comparison to what she was → revenge}

Husband start to look at other girls while Medusa is aging.

doesn't lend
open his heart
to her.

* Lexical Cluster: words that have similar meaning

e.g. Stone, wall, gravel, pebble
River, stream, etc.

→ words with violence, destruction → suggest a lot of intensity of her emotion within herself?

→ " looking
→ " stone

→ How 'I' and 'me' are used?

Gender types?
husbands (older men) seeking for young fresh women
Women (ex-wife) being obsessive on ↑ (girl) men

half god
power to make spells from herbs.
sailors raze Circe
before O turn up
to the island.
positive
Circe
→ odysseus forced her to restore
& spend a month and had a son

turning them into pigs = revenge
I'm fond, unlike some, of the pig,
of the tuskier, the snout, the boar and the swine.

One way or another, all pigs have been mine –
under my thumb, the bristling, salty skin of their backs,
in my nostrils here, their yobby, porky colognes.
I'm familiar with hogs and runts, their percussion of oinks
and grunts, their squeals. I've stood with a pail of swill
at dusk, at the creaky gate of the sty,
tasting the sweaty, spicy air, the moon
like a lemon popped in the mouth of the sky.

But I want to begin with a recipe from abroad

which uses the cheek – and the tongue in cheek
at that. Lay two pig's cheeks, with the tongue,
in a dish, and strew it well over with salt
and cloves. Remember the skills of the tongue
to lick, to lap, to loosen, lubricate, to lie
in the soft pouch of the face – and how each pig's face
was uniquely itself, as many handsome as plain,
the cowardly face, the brave, the comical, noble,
sly or wise, the cruel, the kind, but all of them,
nymphs, with those piggy eyes. Season with mace.

Well-cleaned pig's ears should be blanched, singed, tossed
in a pot, boiled, kept hot, scraped, served, garnished
with thyme. Look at that simmering lug, at that ear,
did it listen, ever, to you, to your prayers and rhymes,
to the chimes of your voice, singing and clear? Mash
the potatoes, nymph, open the beer. Now to the brains,
to the trotters, shoulders, chops, to the sweetmeats slipped
from the slit, bulging, vulnerable bag of the balls.
When the heart of a pig has hardened, dice it small.

synonyms
a lot of words
used to describe
'pig' → bring on humour
→ similar to 'Fan Freud'.

(humorous)
→ use of 'idioms'
similar to 'Salome'
pig = s.o.
she loved?

Dice it small. I, too, once knelt on this shining shore
watching the tall ships sail from the burning sun
like myths; slipped off my dress to wade,
breast-deep, in the sea, waving and calling;
then plunged, then swam on my back, looking up
as three black ships sighed in the shallow waves.
Of course, I was younger then. And hoping for men. Now,
let us baste that sizzling pig on the spit once again.

→ space market
okentek · becmi wata

Mrs Icarus

I'm not the first or the last
to stand on a hillock,
watching the man she married
prove to the world
he's a total, utter, absolute, Grade A pillock.

(돌려진 말)
euphemisms
of 관투!!

Sigmund Freud: psychologist '심리학의 아버지'
Oedipal complex / Castration theory

Frau Freud

= Mrs Freud in German

• humorous
• mocking

→ academic convention 이식 대장들을 부르는 어조

Ladies, for argument's sake, let us say ^{↳ implies the academic acceptance of Freud's theories.}
that I've seen my fair share of ding-a-ling, member and jock,
of todger and nudger and percy and cock, of tackle,
of three-for-a-bob, of willy and wink; in fact,
you could say, I'm as au fait with Hunt-the-Salami
as Ms M. Lewinsky – equally sick up to here
with the beef bayonet, the pork sword, the saveloy,
love-muscle, night-crawler, dong, the dick, prick,
dipstick and wick, the rammer, the slammer, the rupert,
the shlong. Don't get me wrong, I've no axe to grind
with the snake in the trousers, the wife's best friend,
the weapon, the python – I suppose what I mean is,
ladies, dear ladies, the average penis – not pretty . . .
the squint of its envious solitary eye . . . one's feeling of
pity . . .

↳ Castration theory

phallic theory

1. Oedipus Complex
에디피콕스 증후군 (?) → driven by phallus

↳ born to love their mother
→ highlights people's unconscious desires

2. Castration Theory → driven by lack of phallus

여자: 관투가 없어... 매우 슬퍼

관투 없 부러워 ~ 관투 갖길 원함

always trying to recover that phallus they have
from the lack of ㅈ

Context 설명 : (biblical + oscare Wilde's version)

- dance good
- immediate agent in the execution of John the Baptist
- Herodias 가 살해 하려던 남편의

Salome

- ① Modern women
- ② serial killer
- ③ Avenging Angel

I'd done it before

(and doubtless I'll do it again, → not unusual, sooner or later) but thinks she need to stop doing this

woke up with a head on the pillow beside me - whose? -

what did it matter? → a lot of question marks (very casual night before - blur.

Good-looking, of course, dark hair, rather matted;

the reddish beard several shades lighter;

with very deep lines round the eyes,

from pain, I'd guess, maybe laughter;

and a beautiful crimson mouth that obviously knew

how to flatter . . .

which I kissed . . .

Colder than pewter → metaphorical material / implies that the man is not alive.

Strange. What was his name? Peter?

Simon? Andrew? John? I knew I'd feel better

for tea, dry toast, no butter. → hangover (주취)

so rang for the maid. → wealthy women on her own.

And, indeed, her innocent clatter

of cups and plates,

her clearing of clutter,

her regional patter,

were just what I needed -

hungover and wrecked as I was from a night on the batter.

→ even if she killed him, she thinks it is justifiable.

→ idiom (colloquial) = go out & get drunk

→ acting casual even if she committed murder

→ previous victims followers of Jesus (apostles)

→ lot of imagery of red

→ casual sex: common behavior of all women: men + real 파로파탈?

→ playing 장래 배우?

→ sarcastic tone: how experienced he is to seduce women.

→ ellipsis so nice.. but need to go

→ metaphorical material / implies that the man is not alive.

→ doesn't even remember his name.

→ wealthy women on her own.

→ even if she killed him, she thinks it is justifiable.

→ idiom (colloquial) = go out & get drunk

Never again!

I needed to clean up my act,

get fitter,

cut out the booze and the fags and the sex.

Yes. And as for the latter,

it was time to turf out the blighter,

the beater or biter.

who'd come like a lamb to the slaughter

to Salome's bed.

In the mirror, I saw my eyes glitter.

I flung back the sticky red sheets, → blood

and there, like I said - and ain't life a bitch -

was his head on a platter.

→ mainly women are the victims.

but it is reversed in this poem.

→ someone who beats with so

→ S.O who (too) smth / S.O.

→ biblical idiom sacrificed (committing)

→ cold blooded killer who wants trophy

→ psychopathic

→ feels completely nothing completely intentional murder.

→ salome's voice: smart voice, but emotionless very calculative

→ Free verse :X have any identifiable form. structure

→ Ellipsis

→ parenthesis (?)

→ power dynamics?

(realm of gender ← alter. recontextualize. mock)

ties to all contemporary myths ab. the female dangerousness of sexuality. promiscuity

→ acting casual even if she committed murder

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① Significance of sewing
= 'life-time industry' create)
= a way that she controls her own world

= allusion to fate sisters (Moirai)
→ the way she finds her true self (identity independent from other men.)

Penelope → Minor character
Wife of the King of Ithaca

= faithful wife.

At first, I looked along the road hoping to see him saunter home among the olive trees, a whistle for the dog who mourned him with his warm head on my knees.
Six months of this and then I noticed that whole days had passed without my noticing.
I sorted cloth and scissors, needle, thread,

→ 누미라왔으면 좋겠다는 마음??
→ personification.

→ passive하기 못하는 Wife → mourning for her husband.

가면 배우.
faithful · loyal · w/ fidelity = not her

express it visually opening another

→ pretends as if she is a widow.

And when the others came to take his place, disturb my peace, without men who she needs to be faithful towards.
I played for time. I wore a widow's face, kept my head down, did my work by day, at night unpicked it.
I knew which hour of the dark the moon would start to fray, as complex as men are.
I stitched it.

→ did it to stay independent → does not want to disturb her peace
self sufficient; content w/ all tropes of widow

her own agency → own beings. individual possess a depth of emotions

How does she find her own path of identity by herself?
→ 이것이 내가 알고자 하는 것

Grey threads and brown pursued my needle's leaping fish to form a river that would never reach the sea.
I tricked it. I was picking out the smile of a woman at the centre of this world, self-contained, absorbed, content, most certainly not waiting, when I heard a far-too-late familiar tread outside the door.
I licked my scarlet thread and aimed it surely at the middle of the needle's eye once more.

conveys what is going to happen

evocation of enunciation?

→ faith sisters

By portraying a image of a woman which goes against the traditional stereotype of women

→ 이것이 또 얼마나 아름다운 생각인가?
→ 사람들 trick한 여자의 모습??
→ 자신의 존재를 지키기 위해
→ 보여주기 위해

→ dramatic monologue colour.

① Allusion to the Trojan war. myth in a perspective of the minor character. portraying the womanhood of the myth.

② Imagery of colour. → how she is portrayed diff. to her image in the original myth.
③ Symbolism of embroidery & unstitching. motif. sewing parallels w/ colour emotional

What is the significance of this?

Complex character depth than other imagine her to be.

→ lost herself as faithful · loyal life.

in a wild embroidery of love, lust, loss, lessons learnt; then watched him sail away into the loose gold stitching of the sun.

→ development.
allusion to the original mythology.

→ cross stitching undone.

contrast traditional women → 자기
Penel - → makes her own story

foreshadowing

→ 자신의 verb

my thimble like an acorn → 도토리

pushing up through umber soil.

Beneath the shade → 그늘

I wrapped a maiden in a deep embrace

with heroism's boy

and lost myself completely

in a wild embroidery of love, lust, loss, lessons learnt;

then watched him sail away

into the loose gold stitching of the sun.

female fertility
Goddess of fruit, crops, vegetation
Mother of Persephone.
Demeter
by heides (하늘)가 내려요.

Symbol of motherhood, fertility

하늘이 내려
아기 땅에
가다가 양산기슭에
두둥둥.

2월

Where I lived - winter and hard earth.

I sat in my cold stone room
choosing tough words, granite, flint,

to break the ice. My broken heart -
I tried that, but it skimmed,
flat, over the frozen lake.

She came from a long, long way,
but I saw her at last, walking,
my daughter, my girl, across the fields,
in bare feet, bringing all spring's flowers
to her mother's house. I swear
the air softened and warmed as she moved,

the blue sky smiling, none too soon,
with the small shy mouth of a new moon.

possessive pronouns
Echo of Little Red Cap.
hope, light, fertility
also related poem

→ In a form of our
→ Anne Helen W. was 1911.
→ TrIBUTE to the faith of women?
→ There were more about women & their and

Female relationship
cyclical → new beginning

뒤날 개질력인 시공 그만해 시마

Afterword

What I wanted to do in the book was to look at all the stories - fairy tales, myths, stories from history, film and popular music or whatever, stories of heroes or villains which had informed me as a writer, part of my cultural ancestry. I wanted to celebrate them, in a way, but also find a truth which hadn't been amplified previously. The way I wanted to do that was to find a female perspective on the character, and I did that by finding a personal connection with the fairy tale, myth, piece of cinema, etc., so that although I'm wearing the mask of Queen Herod or Mrs Beast I'm not disconnected from my own place, my own life. It might be that it is autobiographical in the sense that it is true to my imaginative life or my emotional life but not necessarily true to the actual details of my life. At a later stage, I ordered the poems in a loose chronological movement. We start with 'Little Red Cap' which is about a young girl becoming a poet and end with 'Demeter' which is about a woman becoming a mother, so that it follows the arc of my own life in some ways.

What you can do as a poet is take on a story and make it new. Dramatists do this all the time. One of the poems in the book is 'Pygmalion', which has been used as a template by writers from George Bernard Shaw to Willy Russell in *Educating Rita*; old stories which are made fresh.

Therefore the original concept was to take stories I'd been formed by, from childhood. In my particular case I had a Catholic upbringing, I went to a Catholic primary school and then a convent school, so stories from the Bible, particularly the New Testament, were part of my background on a daily basis; there was church more than once a week, confession and communion and that sort of thing, and my brothers were altar boys. These stories are very close to me, and I didn't just think 'one from the Bible, one from Shakespeare'. These tales were just there in the way

in which family stories and family mythology are always there. I completed thirty poems but there could have been a lot more.

For me these poems are a celebration really – of language, relationships, being human. To write about anything at all, even if you're critical of your subject, is to celebrate, is to make something, to add something to the world. It's a giving act. I never felt, in the writing of the *World's Wife* poems, that the main endeavour was to have a go at certain aspects of maleness, although I can see that that's part of what comes out of the content. My aim was to find hidden truths or fresh, female ways of looking at familiar things.

I didn't want every woman in the book to be better than the men. That wasn't my agenda, so I wanted to look at unpleasant aspects of being female as well as look at ways of being male. I wanted to look at ways of being human really. It just so happens that the stories that I grew up with feature men – Faust, Midas, Tiresias, Pilate, King Herod – what I've tried to do is put some female into it. I wasn't trying to attack the male, but put the female into it, into the story.

With all of them, I'm looking at the story, and I'm thinking the events are the same but I might change the interpretation of events. And of course the main change is from male to female views of things: that's what you say, but what does she say? And in any situation there'll be a different explanation of events. In that sense, although the book has been called a feminist manifesto, and I am feminist and it is feminist, my aim was larger than that – I wanted to be able to expand the stories and to bring in extra layers of truth. I wanted to add, and not take away from the originals.

Carol Ann Duffy

Taken from an interview with Barry Wood,
2005, for *Sheer Poetry*

→ *World's Wife* illustrates the way Carol Ann Duffy characterizes woman characters appeared in the mythology, fairy tales known by most of the people. Amplifying the various woman narratives in the family stories ^{which} address that women are as complex as men, challenging the old tropes placed on the woman characters in the original stories.

but not
anti-male.
not generalisation on
masculinity but
focuses on the individual
characteristics of male