

Paradoxes used in « The Story of an Hour » to showcase the contradictory emotions of Louise. Mrs Mallard, « wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment » as she was informed of the death of her husband. The term wild stands for strength and power, while abandonment refers to surrender. This literary device implies that Louise was torn between two strong emotions : one the result of the accumulated preconceived standards of how she should act, and the other is the outcome of the sense of freedom she felt at that moment. In the beginning of the story, Louise was represented as Mrs Mallard, by the family name of her husband, as if she belonged to him and as a sickly passive stereotypical wife. Yet, Louise shows strength as an unconventional woman who refuses to give up and follow the mass. Besides, paradox is again used to describe the « monstrous joy » Louise feels. She realizes something wonderful and terrible at the same time, her husband is dead but she is finally free. She is no longer the weak wife but rather the woman who knows how to plan for a new bright life. These passages hints that marriage is more of a cage that holds Black women from being their true selves and live according to their own plans