

A Friendly Bait

by

Paraskevi Koursarakou

Foteini Lioliou

Sofia Mavrou

In this story, a fable that seems to be addressed to children predominantly, readers are introduced to two main characters, whose interaction recreates a very common and hackneyed situation that we may find ourselves in. Since the beginning of time, people have had the urge to interact with others and communicate their experiences, feelings and thoughts. In “A Friendly Bait,” we suggest that this urge is indeed so powerful that forces the butterfly to leave her second thoughts and instincts behind.

The butterfly as a symbol has invited several interpretations across different cultures. However, a dominant interpretation is the one which places the butterfly as the embodiment of freedom, as stated by Marianna Fernandes Costa and Jorge Coelho Soares in their work “Free as a Butterfly.” By the term “freedom,” we also refer to the freedom of choice we hold, especially since the butterfly chooses to trust the cat. Due to her faith in earnest relationships, she is victimized and finds herself at the mercy of the antagonistic force in the story, the cat. The cat represents curiosity and jealousy, which are rather common human feelings towards something different, strange or new, and not necessarily towards something that is considered to be objectively beautiful. It is also worth mentioning the fact that the cat represents a manipulative friendship, which has the tendency to drain us and to not let us realize the hidden grace and joy of everyday little things. Actually, a great number of people have connected cats, especially black cats, with devilish powers and bad luck. A lot of them have also written stories based on this prejudice. One of them is Magdalen Wing_Chi Ki in the work “Diabolical Evil and ‘The Black Cat,’” which discloses this particular prejudice.

After you start reading this story, you will be able to recognize that the target audience of the storyline is not limited to children as it describes common feelings during childhood, adolescence and the early stages of adulthood. “A Friendly Bait” conveys a powerful message which lies on the fact that you should always trust your instinct and have second

thoughts about a person that unexpectedly enters your life. Not everyone that we meet in our trail carries sympathy and goodness for us. However, we should not lose our hope towards humanity, just because of some infelicitous misadventures. This story comes as a warning sign that prompts us to not let ourselves completely passive towards someone that wants to hurt us.

Works Cited

Fernades Costa, Mariana and Jorge Coelho Soares. “Free as a Butterfly: Symbology and Palliative Care”, 26 Jun. 2015

www.scielo.br/j/rbagg/a/pY5XpWHG4SCfcL3p9fTb4FR/?format=pdf&lang=en

Wing_Chi Ki, Magdalen. “Diabolical Evil and ‘The Black Cat.’” *The Mississippi Quarterly*, vol. 62, no. 4, 2009, pp. 569–89. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/26477258. Accessed 6 Apr. 2023.