

Beauty's Punishment Study Guide

Beauty's Punishment by Anne Rice

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.



Contents

Beauty's Punishment Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Prologue: The Story Thus Far.....	5
Parts 1-3.....	6
Parts 4-6.....	8
Part 7-8.....	10
Parts 9-10.....	12
Parts 11-14.....	14
Parts 15-17.....	17
Parts 18-20.....	19
Parts 21-23.....	21
Parts 24-26.....	23
Parts 27-28.....	25
Characters.....	27
Objects/Places.....	30
Themes.....	32
Style.....	34
Quotes.....	36
Topics for Discussion.....	38



Plot Summary

Beauty's Punishment is a continuance of the legendary fairy tale, "Sleeping Beauty," albeit with an extremely erotic twist. Ann Rice, writing as A.N. Roquelaure, has taken the beloved princess into a dark and terrible world, where the princess and Tristan, Beauty's lover, are forced into slavery. Beauty and Tristan realize what egregious errors they'd made in judging their individual situations and how those misjudgments have made everything worse, including separation and temporary end to their relationship.

The book begins with Beauty being awakened by the Crown Prince after 100 years asleep. The long sleep was the result of a spell being placed upon the princess by an evil queen, who was jealous of the princess' beauty. As detailed in the curse, Sleeping Beauty would only awaken when kissed by a prince. A Crown Prince came upon Beauty in the woods and kissed her, ending the spell.

Beauty's Punishment reveals that not only did the Crown Prince kiss Beauty but also ravaged her. Beauty was immediately smitten by the Crown Prince and agreed to go with him to the Court of Queen Eleanor, the Crown Prince's mother. According to the rules of the kingdom, if Beauty's parents agreed, the young princess would become part of the kingdom as a slave in order to teach her all the ways of obedience and refinement. Beauty's parents agree.

At the Court of Queen Eleanor, Beauty becomes the personal slave to the Crown Prince and his mistress, Lady Juliana. Juliana is a former slave, who takes delight in punishing Beauty, obviously forgetting her own days of torture. Due to acts of disobedience, Beauty is sent off to a spring auction where she and other slaves will be sold to the highest bidder. The slave will belong to a new master for a period of three years, which can be extended contingent upon the slave's behavior. During those three years, the slaves must do everything they are told without question or argument. The masters are encouraged to beat, whip and abuse their slaves daily.

Beauty is sold at auction to Mistress Lockley, an innkeeper. As with most of the other masters and mistresses, Mistress Lockley is a cold and unforgiving owner. Beauty and Lockley's other slaves are routinely beaten, abused, offered up as playthings for patrons, and used sexually in every possible way. During Beauty's stay at the Sign of the Lion, Beauty finds love in the form of a ruthless Captain of the Guard and also develops a great fondness for her mistress.

Meanwhile, Beauty's lover, Tristan, has also been sold. Tristan now belongs to Nicolas, the Queen's Chronicler and Chief Historian. Tristan must bear the same hardships and utter humiliation as the other slaves, although Nicolas eventually becomes fond of the new slave. Tristan and Nicolas become lovers, and it appears as if Tristan may stay on with the new master.

Beauty and Tristan are reunited by chance. Nicolas allows the pair to spend time together, as long as he can watch and is not found out by the other masters.



In the end, Beauty and Tristan, who dared not escape, are taken away by a band of horsemen. Not knowing the reason, the slaves have no choice but to cooperate. Taken aboard a Sultan's ship, Tristan and Beauty are treated with a kind of reverence. The story ends while Tristan and Beauty are still aboard the ship, not knowing what will happen when they arrive at the Sultan's palace.



Prologue: The Story Thus Far

Prologue: The Story Thus Far Summary

Sleeping Beauty awakens to find herself naked and completely infatuated with the Crown Prince, who saved her. With the consent of Beauty's parents, the Crown Prince takes her to the family home at the Court of Eleanor. Upon arrival, Beauty discovers that she is only one of a hundred slaves, all naked princes and princesses who must work to earn their release.

Almost immediately, Beauty is put onto a cart to be taken to auction where she will be sold to the highest bidder.

Prologue: The Story Thus Far Analysis

Sleeping Beauty, also known as Beauty, has awakened to find her savior ravishing her body. Beauty immediately confuses lust with love and is willing to do anything the Crown Prince desires. Arrival at the Court of Eleanor brings feelings of disbelief and betrayal, which later turns to anger and defiance.

Beauty is shocked to learn that her education and discipline include being punished on a daily basis and eventual sale at auction.



Parts 1-3

Parts 1-3 Summary

Beauty, Tristan and the other slaves are driven to the auction in the village marketplace. The group remains naked, herded like cattle into the back of the cart and subject to rough roads and no protection from the elements. The slaves arrive at the marketplace and are met by the Commander of the Patrol, a vicious man who delights in humiliating the slaves.

Beauty and Tristan manage to talk while on the cart. Amid the other slaves, they are pressed close together. Due to the rough roads and jostling of bodies, the couple has a surprising chance to have sex. Afterward, Beauty and Tristan talk about how they went from being honored slaves serving their masters to "bad slaves," who were sent to be sold at the auction. Tristan relayed thought about giving into Lord Stefan's wishes because it was easier than disobeying his master. Beauty refuses to submit to either the Crown Prince or Lady Juliana, whom she serves.

Tristan confesses that Lord Stefan was once his equal in rank and the two hunted together, as well engaging in other princely activities. While alone in the woods, Stefan became Tristan's submissive lover.

Beauty and Tristan cling to each other anxiously over the current situation.

The slaves are removed from the cart. Tristan and Beauty are separated. The Commander of the Patrol warns the slaves to be quiet.

The slaves have not been put down in the center of the village as expected. Instead, the slaves are expected to run from the outskirts of the village into the center of the town where the marketplace and the auction block await.

The slaves are smacked with paddles while they run, given no mercy as to where they are being hit. As the slaves finally enter the village, the villagers mock and cheer. Once in the marketplace, the slaves are forced into a pen. Beauty makes an attempt to get to Tristan but is pushed back into the crowd. The Commander orders that the men are to be groped and encouraged to become erect so that they can be put on display. Those who do not comply are beaten.

The Commander of the Patrol recites the rules of the annual Spring Auction. Tristan takes his place on the block where he is fondled, displayed and beaten by both the Commander and several villagers. Bidding ensues. The Commander holds out until there is a fair price bid for the slave. Nicolas, the Queen's Chronicler and Chief Historian wins Tristan for a price of 25 gold pieces. Tristan is taken away.

Beauty is next to go on the block.



Parts 1-3 Analysis

The slaves must endure public humiliation as a result of misdeeds. There is no room to move aboard the cart as it is standing room only. Being treated as cattle only serves to prove to the slaves that none holds any worth in the eyes of the royal court.

The Commander of the Patrol is a sadistic man who takes great joy in torturing and displaying the slaves. The torment continues until after each slave is sold.

Beauty performs yet another illegal act by having sex with Tristan aboard the cart. No one seems to notice or care, although it becomes apparent to the Commander of the Patrol.

Beauty begins to show a change in personality when she refuses to take Tristan's advice about being obedient. Tristan tries to convince Beauty that it's the best way to stay in the castle and eventually be released from the clutches of the Crown Prince. Beauty refuses.

The separation of Beauty and Tristan is only another insult and humiliation the couple must share. It is small in comparison to the auction, the beatings and the humiliation experienced on the auction block but being together would have offered each a modicum of comfort.

More than before, Tristan is treated like a piece of livestock while on the auction block. The Commander demands that he be displayed in every way possible and fondles Tristan to show the crowd the slave's attributes. The torment continues while various bidders stake their claims on the handsome Tristan. Upon reaching the sum of 25 gold pieces, the Commander releases Tristan, who is soon forgotten.



Parts 4-6

Parts 4-6 Summary

Beauty is displayed much as Tristan had been and is fondled, sexually violated and beaten. The crowd leers and cheers at Beauty's humiliation. Beauty cannot tolerate the humiliation any longer and begins to kick and struggle. For her efforts, Beauty is tethered and strung up so that the villagers get an even better view of the slave for sale.

Bidding begins. The Commander did the same as before and coaxed the highest possible amount from the crowd. For the sum of twenty-seven gold pieces, Beauty was sold to Mistress Jennifer Lockley, innkeeper of the Sign of the Lion.

Beauty is put into restraints, then taken away. Like Tristan, Beauty is paraded through the village square amid leers and grasping hands. Beauty feels the residue of the beatings from the Commander of the Patrol as well as the auctioneer. A strange feeling overcomes Beauty and she realizes that she is beginning to like the way the beatings feel.

Thus far, Mistress Lockley has not spoken. Beauty wonders what is in store. As Beauty and the new mistress approach the Sign of the Lion, Beauty is shocked to see another princess slave hung beneath the sign bearing the inn's name. The slave girl is bound and has been beaten. However, when the slave spots Mistress Lockley, she comes to life in order to please.

Inside the inn, Beauty sees a number of slaves on hands and knees, scrubbing the floor with brushes clenched between their teeth. Mistress Lockley informs Beauty that she will be expected to obey every command given, to kiss the boots of the mistress and show appreciation for daily beatings bestowed upon her. Beauty is confused by the sights and doesn't know how to react. There is something about Mistress Lockley that Beauty likes, the way she speaks in cold but simple terms. Beauty wonders if the mistress takes pleasure in the beatings she gives to the slaves.

Mistress Lockley fondles Beauty, nearly bringing the slave to orgasm. Beauty is in torment as the mistress pulls away, then proceeds to smack Beauty's buttocks with a paddle. The beating is severe, but Beauty begins to react with enjoyment to the pain.

Beauty's curiosity awakens when she sees the Captain of the Guard. Beauty finds him handsome and does not object to becoming the man's sex slave for the evening.

Beauty is bound and taken outside into a large grassy area. There is an open shed with smooth wooden shelves on which slaves slept. A crude woman was washing another slave in a tub of soapy water while the slave's hands were bound to a fig tree overhead. The woman scrubbed the slave with brushes as if he were a piece of meat. Mistress Lockley called for Prince Roger. Beauty realizes that Roger is the same slave she had first seen scrubbing the floor in the inn.



Beauty is left to the care of Prince Roger who will bathe and scrub her body. Beauty asks Roger if he will speak to her. Roger says that he will speak but must be careful not to get caught by the mistress or the old woman. Those who are caught are displayed on the Public Turntable in the village.

Roger tells Beauty of his downfall and how he became a slave to Mistress Lockley. Roger was a former slave at the castle until he ran off with one of the princess slaves. The couple was gone for two days before being found. Roger was eventually sent to auction, but the princess was kept at the castle where she eventually became a member of the court. Beauty deduces that the former slave turned lady is Lady Juliana. Juliana became Roger's mistress. Roger ran away from Juliana and was sentenced to be sold.

Beauty is shocked that a former slave could become such a cruel tormentor. Roger tells Beauty that some day she may have a slave of her own and will be the same way.

Parts 4-6 Analysis

Beauty struggles against collapse as she stands on the auction block. As feared, the auctioneer treats Beauty in much the same way as Tristan. Beauty is beaten and sexually violated, which only increases the humiliation. Beauty is tormented by the auctioneer and crowd until she has a small mental breakdown. Even knowing it would be far worse for her, Beauty cannot help fighting back. Beauty does manage to keep silent, knowing that revealing any intelligence or ability to speak could make the situation all the worse.

Beauty has been humiliated and must learn to become submissive to her new mistress. Although Beauty felt ashamed and embarrassed at being put on display, she also experiences a perverse pleasure in the way she had been treated. The beatings, while painful, offered a sense of sexual pleasure to the princess.

Beauty is enthralled by the new surroundings. It is all very different from the castle, and Beauty begins to acclimate to her new home. Beauty struggles with the desire to disobey, wondering what would happen if she was deliberately insubordinate to the mistress.

The Captain of the Guard is a curiosity for Beauty as she does not fully understand the man's importance. Beauty only knows that the mistress aims to please the Captain and his men, who routinely pay well for food, drink, and sex.

Beauty becomes embroiled in the sights and lessons learned at the Inn. Prince Roger fascinates Beauty. The story of Roger's insolence and escape from the castle leaves Beauty in disbelief. Roger seems to enjoy his life at the Inn, and Beauty decides that if she is expected to be a bad girl, then it's time to start acting like one.



Part 7-8

Part 7-8 Summary

Mistress Lockley tied Beauty's hands and took the slave inside where the mistress would dry her hair. Beauty was marched upstairs to a private chamber where the Captain of the Guard awaited. Beauty knelt on the floor not knowing what to do. The Captain lifted Beauty's long golden hair and pulled the princess slave to her feet. The Captain ordered Beauty to show herself so that he may see her endowments. Beauty was embarrassed and did not comply. In response, the Captain pushed Beauty against a table and took her. The Captain ravaged Beauty's body until he was satisfied. Beauty was allowed to stand up. Immediately, Beauty was ordered once again to show herself. Under the Captain's instructions, Beauty masturbated for him.

The Captain proceeded to ravage Beauty once again by using the handle of a jeweled dagger. Beauty was sent into shocking orgasm and gave herself completely to the experience. The Captain claimed Beauty as his slave.

Soon after it was over, Beauty was forced from the room. The Captain ordered Beauty to walk straight ahead, with head high.

Beauty is marched into the town square by the Captain. Beauty sees other slaves and realizes that it seems to be a normal thing for the villagers. Everywhere there are slaves sleeping, marching and working. The slaves are all but ignored by the villagers except when the villagers choose to taunt or hit the slaves who are tied up and helpless.

Beauty is led to a spot in the marketplace that is filled with hundreds of people watching a slave being tortured. The slave is forced to look at the crowd and recognize that he is being punished for some misdeed. The crowd cheers much like they did on the day of the auction. Beauty sees the Public Turntable go around and around as a man paddles the slave mercilessly.

Other forms of torture are present. One is a maypole with black ribbons secured at the top with an iron ring. Slaves are made to walk in circles while four men paddle the slaves as they pass by. The Captain orders Beauty to be tethered to the pole. A man places a leather collar around Beauty's neck and attaches the princess to the maypole.

Beauty quickly discovers that one is forced to keep pace with the others or fall into the dirt. Beauty falls once and is hit by a paddle. The prince on the turntable has been released, only to be replaced by a blond prince, who is quickly shackled into place. Beauty also notices the slaves who have been lined up to be smacked, groped and violated by villagers.

Finally, Beauty's time at the maypole ends. The Captain orders Beauty to march to the line of slaves. Along the way, Beauty notices a number of brightly-colored tents behind



the turntable. At the entrance of each tent is a man who barks out offers to the villagers. Each tent houses a prince or princess that can be had for a small price.

Beauty's lust for the Captain increases. The Captain marches Beauty back to the Inn where the pair returns to the Captain's bedchamber. Once there, the Captain takes Beauty. Beauty gives into all the Captain does and later, they sleep.

Part 7-8 Analysis

Once again, Beauty allows herself to be used and humiliated for someone else's pleasure. The embarrassment Beauty feels begins to fade, and she takes great pleasure in the experience with the Captain of the Guard. Beauty becomes smitten with the Captain and wants to beg him not to leave. Beauty will be the Captain's slave and do anything he might wish.

Beauty follows the Captain's orders, more out of the desire to please him than anything else. With each moment that passes, Beauty becomes more infatuated with the Captain, lusting for his body and wanting to please.

The experience at The Place of Public Punishment is no more than a curiosity for Beauty. The state of the slaves is becoming normal to Beauty, and in that, the princess takes comfort. Being tethered to the maypole is a humiliating punishment, and Beauty realizes that one can be punished for anything or nothing at all. While Beauty is being marched around the circle with the other slaves, she keeps an eye on the Captain, who is watching the parade. Beauty is consumed with lust for the handsome Captain and wants nothing more than to be with him once again.

Back at the Inn, Beauty begins to act more like the Captain's lover than his slave. Beauty speaks to the Captain, calling him "master." Beauty has fallen for the man who would torture her without a second thought. After sex, the pair sleeps.



Parts 9-10

Parts 9-10 Summary

Tristan remembers the auction and how foolish he was to have been brought there. Beauty's face and words are in Tristan's mind, and he wonders if obeying the new master would be foolish or wise. Nicolas, The Queen's Chronicler, paraded Tristan through the town square making sure that the slave's posture was so that all of his attributes would be noticed by the villagers.

The town was quiet as Tristan walked through it and for that, the prince slave was thankful. A belt was used to strike Tristan's buttocks and to make sure he walked with his head back and knees high. In the middle of the street Nicolas made Tristan halt and asked if the slave had ever been taught to march. Nicolas promised that Tristan would learn the skill. Then Nicolas forced Tristan to his knees where the prince slave was required to kiss the bulge in Nicolas' breeches. Against Tristan's will, the act aroused him.

While the march through the town continued, Tristan heard Beauty's words and protests regarding the requirement to obey the master. Tristan began to rethink the former declaration of obedience and longed for someone to soothe him during this difficult time.

A trio of young boys followed Tristan and Nicolas through the town. Finally, Nicolas stopped and seeing that the boys had no money, allowed them to play with Tristan. The prince slave was fondled, violated and whipped by the boys until Nicolas declared that there had been enough sport.

Tristan was told to enter Nicolas' house on hands and knees. The house was rich and elaborately decorated. Tristan was taken into a room where a lady was writing at a desk. The woman examined Tristan. The prince slave was fitted for leather phalluses of various sizes which he must wear while serving as a slave to Nicolas. After being fitted, it was determined that Tristan would have to wear the large phallus until he was properly "broken in."

Another use for the ringed phallus becomes clear as Tristan is hitched to a wagon. Instead of horses, teams of slaves pull the wagons through the streets. Reins are placed over the shoulders of each slave, a belt hooked around each waist, and a clip is attached to the ring of each phallus. The reins pull back the heads of the slaves and the phalluses are used to push the slaves forward. Tristan is exceedingly appalled and horrified by the fact that all slaves are wearing phalluses; the horsehair attached to them makes it appear as if the slaves have tails.

Tristan is urged by Nicolas to move faster. Finally, the slaves reach a thatched cottage in an area surrounded by farms.



Parts 9-10 Analysis

The words of Tristan relay a sense of mortification and horror. The prince slave has been humiliated more than he thought was ever possible. Being used as a plaything in the center of the town is horrifying, particularly since Tristan was used to entering such towns in princely fashion, not as a slave.

Nicolas and the lady at the house are both cold, treating Tristan like an animal. Tristan is shocked when he realizes that the new master intends to have a leather phallus inserted into his anus and that the slave is expected to wear it at all times. Fitted at the end of the phallus is a ring by which Tristan can be directed.

Tristan finds that he is in a surreal state and cannot believe what is happening to him.

Tristan experiences horror after horror. When it seems that the humiliation cannot get any worse, it does. Being forced to go out into public while wearing the phallus with a horse's tail, Tristan finds that all wagons are drawn by slaves instead of horses. The prince slave is forced into the cue with other slaves, and together they are required to pull Nicolas' wagon to a place in the country. Tristan begins to go mentally numb.



Parts 11-14

Parts 11-14 Summary

Tristan is told that the slaves are considered to be "ponies" and will be treated as such. The slaves are released from the harnesses and taken to a stable where they are bound once again. The slaves must take a leather bit into their mouths so they can be washed and then massaged with oil. Afterward, Tristan and the rest of the ponies are led to a trough filled with stew. The stew must be eaten without using any hands. Milk must be lapped up from a bowl.

After the meal, Tristan is instructed to bathe each slave's genitals with his tongue. As the prince slave does each act, he is on the verge of a painful orgasm with no chance of release. When each of the other five slaves has been taken care of, Tristan is bound once more. The slaves are expected to rest.

Jerard, a fellow pony, relays how he came to be a slave. A failed escape had him sent to the village for a period of three years. After two long years, Jerard has learned to take great pride in being a pony.

After a brief rest, the slaves are taken into an orchard where they must retrieve apples from the ground. The slaves are bound and prodded with phalluses. The apples must be collected and placed into a basket using only their mouths. No teeth marks can appear on the apple skin.

The slaves return to Nicolas' house. The mistress, Julia, strokes and comforts Tristan before he is taken away by Nicolas.

Beauty wakes up in the Captain's room at the Inn. Surprisingly, the Captain allowed Beauty to sleep while he arose and dressed. Once awake, the Captain ordered Beauty onto the floor, where he used a belt to whip various parts of her body. As the beating goes on, Beauty begins become aroused by the Captain and the pain that is being inflicted.

Later, Beauty is cleaned up and goes to the Inn where soldiers are enjoying food and drink. Among the soldiers is the Captain, who sits in a chair across the room watching Beauty. The Captain offers Beauty to any soldier who wants to touch or have sex with the slave. Many men take advantage of the offering and Beauty takes part in a great orgy. At the end of the orgy, the Captain takes over. Once again, the Captain uses a dagger to arouse Beauty and repeatedly enters her with the dagger.

At the end of the night, Beauty returns to the Captain's room.

Nicolas takes Tristan to the Place of Public Punishment. The crowd cheers and jeers as the slaves are punished on the Public Turntable as well as other means of torture and



humiliation. When Nicolas is asked why Tristan should be punished, Nicolas replies, "Because of his good looks".

Tristan faces much torture on the Public Turntable. The prince slave is groped, violated, and severely beaten. The audience eats up the punishment and humiliation of the slaves. During the whipping by the Whipping Master, the villagers throw food and other objects at Tristan.

After Tristan is released from the bonds, he is taken aside to an area where he is bathed and groomed.

Tristan and Nicolas return to the house. Tristan is required to crawl inside on hands and knees. Nicolas directs Tristan to the bedchamber. Once inside, Nicolas removes all of his clothes and orders Tristan to come to forward. Tristan does as Nicolas orders. Nicolas seduces Tristan where a master would usually order sex. The two have sex and eventually, Nicolas tells Tristan that he may return the favor.

Tristan sleeps in the master's bedroom.

Beauty is beginning to forget the days before the Inn. The memories of the Queen Eleanor's castle and the previous childhood are fading from her mind. Beauty believes that she is in love with the Captain, even though he forces Beauty to do a wide number of things from groveling at his feet to scrubbing the room to having sex with the other soldiers. Beauty has convinced herself that the Captain returns the love and is becoming willing to do the master's bidding.

Nicolas feels he must show the depth of the mastery held over Tristan. By taking Tristan to the Place of Public Punishment, Nicolas attempts to declare his superior standing over the slave. Nicolas' actions are in conflict, however. Shortly after punishing Tristan, Nicolas is caring in helping the slave to his feet. Tristan is confused by Nicolas' behavior.

Nicolas takes another step toward civility in the relationship with Tristan. It is unheard of for a slave to take a master unless ordered but Nicolas has given Tristan the choice. Tristan is surprised by Nicolas' behavior but takes advantage of the opportunity. Afterward, Tristan is content and amazed at being allowed to sleep with Nicolas.

Parts 11-14 Analysis

Tristan continues to be mortified by the expectation that the slaves will be forced to trot through the streets pulling Nicolas and Julia's wagon. The reins and phallus show Tristan the correct posture for trotting, and soon, Nicolas has stopped hitting Tristan.

In the stable, Tristan is blissful while getting a bath. The massage relieves some of the muscle pain, although Tristan remains exhausted.



Eating from a trough is yet another insult. Tristan is momentarily relieved that the slaves have been left to the care of a stable groom. Tristan soon realizes that the groom will carry out orders for Nicola and Julia.

Being required to tongue bathe the other slaves is not completely distasteful to Tristan. The most difficult part is that the prince slave is painfully aroused and will get no relief. During the brief rest, Tristan fantasizes about Beauty and the former relationship with Lord Stefan. Tristan craves both emotional and physical release.

Tristan's relief at being returned to the master's house is short-lived. Nicolas has plans for Tristan, which fills the slave with trepidation.

Beauty is beginning to forget the days before the Inn. The memories of Queen Eleanor's castle and her childhood are fading from her mind. Beauty believes that she is in love with the Captain, even though he forces Beauty to do a wide number of things from groveling at his feet to scrubbing the room to having sex with the other soldiers. Beauty has convinced herself that the Captain returns the love, so she is becoming willing to do the master's bidding.

Nicolas feels he must show the depth of the mastery held over Tristan. By taking Tristan to the Place of Public Punishment, Nicolas attempts to declare his superior standing over the slave. Nicolas' actions are in conflict, however. Shortly after punishing Tristan, Nicolas is caring in helping the slave to his feet. Tristan is confused by Nicolas' behavior.

Nicolas takes another step toward civility in the relationship with Tristan. It is unheard of for a slave to take a master unless ordered, but Nicolas has given Tristan the choice. Tristan is surprised by Nicolas' behavior but takes advantage of the opportunity. Afterward, Tristan is content and amazed at being allowed to sleep with Nicolas.



Parts 15-17

Parts 15-17 Summary

Tristan is harnessed along with the other slave ponies to make the morning round in the village. Nicolas walks beside Tristan, pausing to kiss the slave's eyelids. The other slaves do not seem to notice. The harnesses are tighter than before and Tristan finds that he is unable to move except for the straight ahead march that all ponies must make.

Once in the village, Tristan recognizes the Captain of the Queen's Guard. The Captain is the one who originally captured Tristan and took him to the Queen's castle. The Captain takes delight in seeing Tristan again and accepts Nicolas' offer to touch and fondle the prince slave.

Tristan remembers the Captain as a handsome man, and the Captain returns the compliment. Tristan notices that some of the people in the village think of Tristan fondly as he is fed and given much wine. The Captain quizzes Tristan about the reason he was sent to the village. Tristan can hardly speak due to the leather bit in his mouth. The Captain realizes that Tristan displeased Lord Stefan, not the Queen. The Captain is intrigued by the fact that the slave would disobey his master, who was also a former lover. Tristan admits to himself that he despises Lord Stefan for the previous caring and tenderness Lord Stefan had given Tristan.

Tristan is taken to the Sign of the Lion and left there by Nicolas. Tristan meets Mistress Lockley, who manacles his penis and warns the slave to behave or face a whipping.

Beauty is forced down the stairs from the Captain's bedchamber. Mistress Lockley is displeased with Beauty for not following orders and using her tongue as the princess slave had been taught. Mistress Lockley informs Beauty that all the other slaves have been sent to the Punishment Shop so that Beauty can be dealt with properly.

Beauty is tied down, whipped and sexually violated by the mistress. When Beauty thinks that she can take no more, the mistress brings in the large white kitchen cat who is encouraged to lick Beauty's entire body.

After Beauty is untied, the mistress paddles her.

Beauty has a number of chores to do outside. After a series of chores, Beauty takes a break while some of the other slaves sleep in the grass. A red-haired prince catches Beauty's eye, and although it is forbidden, Beauty approaches the man.

Prince Richard is a slave that has been in the company of Mistress Lockley for a year. Richard openly admits to loving the mistress and fears being forced to return to the castle. Richard hopes that Mistress Lockley will pay Queen Eleanor so that he may stay



at the Inn. Richard confides that he needs severe and harsh punishment as well as direct orders.

Richard tells Beauty that both Mistress Lockley and the Captain are in love with Beauty.

Richard also reveals that a princess has escaped from the village.

Parts 15-17 Analysis

Nicolas openly shows affection for Tristan, a fact that does not escape the notice of the Captain of the Guard. As the two men discuss Tristan and how he came to be a slave, Tristan realizes that both men are fond of him in some way.

The mention of Lord Stefan fills Tristan with shame. Tristan has realized that he craves the punishments and degradation that take place in the village and that Lord Stefan's love makes him ill.

Tristan is fearful that Nicolas has left him behind with Mistress Lockley. The mistress assures Tristan that Nicolas has finally found the slave he deserves.

Beauty doesn't object completely to the punishment doled out by the mistress. Beauty does feel shame at her behavior and feels that she deserves the punishment. After the mistress is finished, Beauty becomes horrified as the kitchen cat is allowed to violate her body. Beauty is filled with horror and shame.

Beauty sees a lot of herself in Richard. Beauty also feels the need for the harsh punishments and the attention of Mistress Lockley. Beauty believes that she is also in love with both the Mistress and the Captain and feels joy when Richard says they love her as well.

The idea of escaping is absurd to Richard. Slaves rarely make it out of the kingdom and Richard has no desire to leave the mistress.

Beauty is fascinated by Richard's observations and no longer feels alone.



Parts 18-20

Parts 18-20 Summary

Tristan is returned to the manor house where he serves as Nicolas' footstool through many long hours of dinner and conversation. Tristan listens to the conversation and learns what the rest of the masters and mistresses think of the slaves. Tristan realizes how lowly he has become.

After Tristan is released from the duty as a footstool, Mistress Lockley takes him to the Public Tents. Mistress Lockley pays ten pence so that Tristan may have his way with one of the princesses. Tristan greedily takes the princess as Mistress Lockley stand and watches. Tristan is forced to look at the mistress during sex. Afterward, Tristan wants to please Mistress Lockley but does not ask for fear of being laughed at or whipped.

Mistress Lockley takes Tristan back to the Inn where he retires to Nicolas' bedchamber.

Mistress Lockley amuses herself with the slaves as they work and play in the grass. The mistress pays attention to each, fondling, kissing and violating each one in turn. Beauty is jealous of the attention that the other slaves receive.

After the work is done, Beauty and Prince Richard accompany Mistress Lockley to her bedchamber. The mistress undresses and with Beauty and Richard at her feet, allow them to take her. Beauty thoroughly enjoys pleasing Mistress Lockley and doesn't want to stop. As the afternoon wears on, Mistress Lockley takes both Beauty and Richard into her bed.

After the mistress is through with the slaves, they are sent downstairs to serve the patrons.

Tristan returns to Nicolas' bedchamber where the master is drinking wine. Nicolas surprises Tristan by allowing the slave to drink wine out of a goblet. This is the first time in half a year that Tristan is allowed to drink out of a glass.

Nicolas encourages Tristan to speak freely and asks the slave how it felt to be "properly harnessed." Tristan replies that at first he was scared but now takes pride in serving the master. Nicolas also asks Tristan what emotions were present when the slave Tristan was taken to the Place of Public Punishment and the Public Turntable, even though he had committed no crime. Tristan reveals that at first he was humiliated but realized that the punishment was deserved just because that is a slave's lot in life. Tristan also says that the punishments have become something to be expected and even desired.

Nicolas questions Tristan regarding his behavior while acting as a pleasure slave to Lord Stefan. Nicolas wants to know if it is true, that the men were lovers long before Tristan was brought to the castle. Tristan admitted that it was true and relayed to



Nicolas how he had come to despise Lord Stefan because the master could not control the slave.

Tristan and Nicolas have sex, once again, more as partners than master and slave. Afterward, Nicolas confesses love for Tristan. The men prepare to take a walk in the country.

Parts 18-20 Analysis

Tristan is fascinated by Mistress Lockley. Although the mistress wields a heavier strap than Nicolas, Tristan appreciates her beauty and coldness. Being allowed to have one of the princesses lets Tristan know that he is a favored slave.

Beauty is surprised by the amount of jealousy she feels toward the other slaves as Mistress Lockley plays with them. The jealousy heightens when Beauty is largely ignored while Prince Richard is not.

Once the slaves are inside the mistress' bedchamber, Beauty gets the chance to please the mistress by giving oral sex. The mistress obviously likes Beauty and Richard. Beauty is shocked when the mistress takes the slaves into her bed. Beauty is frightened and exhilarated by the sex involving the two others.

When Beauty and Richard are sent downstairs, Beauty regrets having to leave.

Tristan continues to be surprised by Nicolas' behavior. Being able to drink from a glass is a pleasure that had long been forgotten. The wine also flows freely and Tristan is urged to indulge.

Nicolas takes a great risk by allowing Tristan to speak openly about his emotions and thoughts during the time served as a pleasure slave. Tristan opens up and immediately fears that he has made a mistake in letting Nicolas know everything.

Once again, Nicolas permits Tristan to act more like a lover than a slave. This confuses Tristan, but the slave begins to realize that outside the bedchamber, the routine treatment will continue. The men confess love for each other and prepare to walk, almost as equals, through the countryside.



Parts 21-23

Parts 21-23 Summary

Nicolas takes Tristan on a trip through the countryside, eventually stopping near a hillside. The master builds a fire and the pair sit under the stars and rest. Nicolas reveals that once a year some of the castle princes and princesses are sent into exile to become slaves. This year, Nicolas predicts, Lord Stefan will be among those sent into exile. Tristan is amused by this and says that Lord Stefan has no idea what is involved in slavery.

Tristan asks if slaves are allowed to ask questions or make requests. Nicolas says that it is almost never allowed but that Tristan can ask. Tristan is curious to know what happened to Beauty and if she has accepted the life of a pleasure slave as he has. Nicolas offers to allow Tristan to see Beauty so that the slave can ask the question directly. However, before Tristan can go to Beauty, there will be much hard work and punishment at the Public Turntable.

After the conversation, Nicolas sleeps. Tristan remains awake, watching the master. Tristan thinks that it would be easy to overpower Nicolas and escape to the next Kingdom. Was it a test or trick? Tristan decides that it is far better to stay than to go, be captured and lose Nicolas forever.

The Captain takes Beauty to the soldier's camp outside the village. When they arrive the Captain sees that the soldiers have captured a runaway prince. The prince has been beaten severely, and the soldiers wait for orders on what should be done next. The prince swears that he didn't know about the runaway princess. The Captain orders that the runaway be mounted on a cross, with every part of the body tethered or weighted. After the runaway is painfully mounted, the Captain whips the slave with a belt.

As the Captain takes Beauty into a tent, a soldier approaches. The Captain is irritated at being interrupted but the soldier presses on, revealing the news that a party of raiders has been seen in the woods. The Captain is shocked and orders that the guard be doubled and all should head back to the village. A search party will set out in the morning.

Back at the Sign of the Lion, the Captain tells Mistress Lockley what has happened. Mistress Lockley is also in a state of disbelief. The raiders had come two years before, and everyone is surprised that they would return so soon.

Beauty is mounted to a wall and soon sleeps. The princess slave dreams that she saw Tristan at the Inn.

Prince Roger is in the Captain's bedchamber when Beauty awakes. Prince Roger says that the Captain has allowed Beauty to sleep late and that she should go outside and rest on the grass. There will be no work today.



A sound from the street causes Beauty to go to the window. Down below, a team of slave ponies pull a cart through the village. Strapped onto the cart is Prince Laurent, the runaway slave from the camp. The prince has been badly beaten and has more punishment in store. Beauty is taken aback when she sees that Tristan is at the head of the team of slave ponies. Tristan marches proudly. Beauty notices the weights attached to the pony's nipples and genitals and is fascinated by the sight.

Prince Roger tells Beauty that the Captain has rented her out for the night to Nicolas, Tristan's master.

Parts 21-23 Analysis

Tristan is becoming brave. Speaking is almost always forbidden, but Nicolas encourages it. Tristan is eager to share the story of Beauty and how she was punished for her free-spirited ways. Shock and joy overcomes Tristan when Nicolas tells him that he may see Beauty the next day.

Nicolas shows trust in Tristan by sleeping under the stars. Tristan is not restrained in any way and has thoughts of escape. If the slave is able to escape, he could return to his homeland, confront his parents and live a normal life once more. However, the thoughts of being dragged back to the village by the Captain is unsettling, and Tristan decides that he can't go through with it. Leaving Nicolas and losing him forever would be a torture much worse than any delivered at the Public Turntable.

The Captain shows great impatience at being disturbed before he can have sex with Beauty. When the soldier relays the news of the raiders, the Captain is in a state of disbelief. The soldiers are ordered to take precautions, but the Captain believes that it must be a mistake.

Beauty is fascinated by the idea of a party of raiders lurking in the woods. The princess slave is eager to return to the Inn to talk to Prince Roger or Prince Richard to find out what it all means.

Beauty is full of mixed emotions. Excited to see Tristan, the princess slave also feels that she may have betrayed her former lover. Beauty is confused by the sight of Tristan working as a slave pony. In some way, Beauty is horrified for him. In another way, Beauty is ashamed because she is fascinated and intrigued by Tristan's new position.

Excitement overtakes Beauty when Prince Roger tells her that the Captain has rented her out for the night to Nicolas, the Queen's Chronicler.



Parts 24-26

Parts 24-26 Summary

Prince Richard took Beauty from the Inn to Nicolas' manor house. Beauty was led into Nicolas' bedchamber where Tristan awaited. Immediately, Beauty kisses Nicolas' boots and is shocked that she may stand up in the master's presence. Nicolas tells Beauty that she may stay as long as the couple would like. Afterward, Beauty must be returned to Mistress Lockley.

Tristan and Beauty make love many times. In between, the pair discuss how each has become resigned and delight in the role as pleasure slave. Beauty talks of Prince Laurent and tells Tristan about the rumor of the raiders who are in the woods. Beauty looks up and suddenly sees that Nicolas has been watching the entire time. When the Chronicler hears about the raiders, Beauty is ordered to return to the Inn immediately.

Nicolas is puzzled by the turn of events and cannot believe that the Captain would leave the village unprotected.

Nicolas leads Tristan and Beauty back to the village. Suddenly, there is a great deal of noise coming from outside the village gates. There are shrieks, screams and the sound of a battering ram. Nicolas urges the slaves to run and together the party attempts to seek shelter. However, all the windows and doors to the inns and other buildings have been bolted. Slaves run rampant through the square trying to get away.

The party of raiders breaks through the village gate. Once inside the village, the raiders begin capturing slaves. Tristan tries to protect Beauty to no avail. Beauty is captured by a dark man with a gleaming scimitar. The man throws Beauty onto his horse and rides away. Nicolas is knocked to the ground, and Tristan is also captured.

Beauty is unable to tell how large the party is but it seems to go on forever. The language is foreign to the slaves. The ride is long, lasting through the night. As the party reaches the sea, Beauty blacks out.

Beauty wakes to the presence of a young, angelic-faced boy. The boy warns Beauty to be quiet and the look of fear in his eyes communicates the importance of good behavior. Beauty notices that she has been bathed and massaged with cinnamon scented gold oil. While the angelic boy brushes Beauty's hair, the princess notices many other princes and princesses lay asleep in the room. The boy is very gentle with Beauty and delights the princess as he lovingly strokes her hair and body.

Soon, Beauty is carried to another room and left to be examined by a circle of men. The men examine every part of Beauty as if it is some sort of test. The men approve of the princess and relegate Beauty to a cage. In the cage, there is a large, comfortable bed, covered with blue satin and rose petals. Beauty is fitted with a gold mesh covering so that no one may touch the princess' private areas. Thoroughly fatigued, Beauty sleeps.



When Beauty awakes, she sees that Tristan has also been brought to the room and is caged and being fitted with a mesh apparatus. Beauty wonders what will happen.

Parts 24-26 Analysis

Tristan and Beauty both share immense love and lust for one another. Each explains what it feels like to be a slave and how it was destiny to become resigned to this way of life.

Tristan says that each trip into the village is utter mortification but that Nicolas combines love with punishment and so it is good.

Beauty says that it is not the love that keeps her going but the cold, harsh punishments. Beauty will not give up her soul as Tristan has to Nicolas.

Nicolas is puzzled and worried about the raiders. Of the three, only Nicolas truly understands that the village may be pillaged and what that can mean to the slaves and masters.

Panic strikes the village as the raiders break through the gate. The loose slaves are terrified. While the punishments in the village are severe, there is an element of the familiar. No one knows what the raiders want or mean to do with the captured slaves.

Tristan is unable to protect Beauty and subsequent attempts to reach her fail. Likewise, Nicolas fears that Tristan will be taken away. Tristan is captured and is terrified at the prospect of being separated from Nicolas.

Everything that is ahead of the slaves is a mystery.

Beauty awakes and is taken by the opulence of the room. The cinnamon-scented oil delights Beauty and the princess slave feels pampered once more. The appearance of the angelic boy also pleases the slave who enjoys delicate grooming while she surveys the room.

Tristan is asleep across the room, and Beauty is amazed at how beautiful the prince slave appears in sleep.

Beauty is baffled by the situation but has been warned not to speak. Even if Beauty could speak, it is unlikely that she would be able to understand the foreign language. That bafflement and confusion supersede any terror that Beauty feels.

The men who examine Beauty and the other slaves are mysterious. The men do not speak to the slaves but seem to agree on Beauty's acceptance. There is no choice but to wait and see what happens next. As long as Tristan is with her, Beauty is convinced all will be okay.



Parts 27-28

Parts 27-28 Summary

Tristan hears a familiar-sounding voice on the upper deck of the ship. While the slave could not understand the words, the man's voice had a familiar inflection and spoke the same language. The other slaves awoke and Tristan told them of the arrival of the unknown man.

Beauty hopes that there is still a chance for rescue. The slaves muse about the goings on up above. Soon, a Lord comes to the slaves' room and takes note of each slave. The Lord reports that the pirates have good taste in choosing slaves and that the pirates have paid the Lord for them. Tristan objects, asking the Lord to save them from the pirates. The Lord says that it is not possible, that the slaves will be under the rule of the Sultan, a new master, for a period of two years. After the two years is up, the Sultan will return the slaves to the Queen's kingdom. Tristan continues to object, saying that the slaves cannot know what is ahead for them. The Lord reveals that the Sultan is the one who taught the Queen about pleasure slaves, and while the punishments will be harsher at the Sultan's palace, the slaves will be returned largely unharmed.

Tristan asks about Nicolas' welfare. The Lord assures Tristan that Nicolas is fine, although the Chronicler is grieving for his slave.

The Lord leaves the slaves. Tristan is inconsolable. Beauty reminds Tristan of his own words - that as slaves, they belong to other people.

Beauty awakes and finds that she has been placed on a lavish cushion. The angelic boys, including the attendant that first combed her hair, were painting the princess' body gold. Jewel encrusted adornments are added to the princess' body. Honey and cinnamon oil are used to cover Beauty, leaving her skin glistening and sweet. The boys dip fruit in honey and fill Beauty's body with it. Soon, Beauty is carried into another room. Along the way, Beauty is warned to be silent as before. The circle of men are in the room, sitting cross-legged and murmuring to one another.

Beauty is placed on a long table. Tristan is brought in on a similar cushion. Like Beauty, Tristan is painted with gold cinnamon oil and adorned with jewel encrusted baubles.

Tristan is placed atop the table with Beauty and is encouraged to taste the honey, oil, and fruit. Tristan licks at the honey covering Beauty and begins to take the fruit from inside her. The men sit and watch as Tristan pleasures Beauty. Beauty is eager to return the favor and tastes Tristan's oil covered body, enjoying the taste of the flesh.

Beauty and Tristan are removed from the table and are placed on the floor. Slaves with gold paddles are on hand to give punishment. Silently, Beauty and Tristan are encouraged to continue their lovemaking while being paddled. Each strike of the paddle increases the slaves' pleasure and brings them even closer together.



Parts 27-28 Analysis

Tristan's hopes for rescue are dashed when the Lord explains the Queen's deal with the Sultan. There is no hope to return to Nicolas, Tristan's love and master. Beauty seems indifferent to the new situation, since she has stated that as a slave, she belongs to no one. Beauty reminds Tristan that a slave is to be dissolved into the presence of the master, and that the slave has no say in what is to come.

Finally accustomed to the punishments in the village, the slaves are distressed to learn that at the Sultan's castle, all slaves are treated as animals. The slaves are the lowest life form and will not be spoken to by the master or members of the household staff.

Tristan tries to absorb the news and is grateful when the angelic boys bring another sleeping potion.

Beauty is excited and enthralled to see Tristan. No longer does the princess care about the observers in the room. As Tristan tastes the princess' flesh, Beauty is driven mad with pleasure. Tristan doesn't need to be told what to do. Beauty strains against the orgasms, wanting to please Tristan in return. The whole experience is titillating for the slaves as well as the onlookers.

As in the village, punishment is married with the sex. As Beauty and Tristan are paddled, their desire for each other grows.



Characters

Sleeping Beauty

Sleeping Beauty is the main character of the classic tale about a princess who slept for a hundred years due to the Evil Queen's spell. The appearance of the princess remains true to form as she is adorned with long, golden hair and a small mouth. Beauty is thin and delicate.

Beauty's Punishment begins with the moment Sleeping Beauty is awakened by the Crown Prince. Beauty finds herself being ravished by the Prince, both physically and mentally. Emotionally, Beauty is susceptible to the promises made by the Crown Prince who saved her from the long sleep. Naive, Beauty does not expect to be taken to the Crown Prince's home, the Court of Queen Eleanor, where she will be treated as an honored slave. Fear and defiance play equal parts in the princess, and her innocence creates a fall from grace. While at the castle, Beauty is slave to both the Crown Prince and his mistress, Lady Juliana.

Prince Tristan

Prince Tristan is another slave in the Court of Queen Eleanor. Tristan has golden hair and violet blue eyes. Physical appearance is of great importance, especially when the prince must be displayed at auction. The prince is well muscled and lean, pleasing to the villagers who will bid to buy him.

Fear and defiance both play a part in the Prince's downfall. Tristan has been accused of insubordination toward his master, Lord Stefan. Lord Stefan was once considered an equal to Tristan yet was inferior in both skill and strength. The pair had become lovers but were separated. According to Tristan, the reunion with Lord Stefan was harder on Stefan, who showed embarrassment.

Tristan is less naive than Beauty and quickly learns that being defiant is not worth the price.

Nicolas, the Queen's Chronicler and Chief Historian

Nicolas is the man who purchases Tristan at the Spring Auction. Nicolas is considered to be robust while being slender. Dark, shadowy blue eyes with black centers reveal Nicolas' coldness and are set off by white hair. The man has a fine, long mouth that is unmarked by hardness or mockery yet he imposes strict and unforgiving rules and punishments to Tristan for any small infraction.

Nicolas eventually becomes fond of Tristan and the pair seem to behave more like lovers than master and slave. Nicolas permits Tristan to sleep in his bedchamber and



also allows the slave to take him sexually, something which is very unusual as it relinquishes control.

Mistress Jennifer Lockley

Mistress Jennifer Lockley is the Innkeeper of the Sign of the Lion. The Mistress won the final bid on Beauty. Lockley is a sadist.

In Beauty's eyes, Mistress Lockley is as beautiful as the other slaves who are chosen for their looks. Once the mistress knows the slaves at the Inn, she takes turns doling out minor affections to each and engaging in sexual exploits. Mistress Lockley maintains a strange fondness for Beauty.

Lockley is pale, calm and pretty. Long, black hair falls behind her like a shadow.

Captain of the Guard

The Captain of the Guard is the leader of the local regiment of soldiers. The Captain is a big man with a massive chest, a rugged face, blond hair and green eyes. As a regular patron of the Inn, the Captain receives special treatment from Mistress Lockley. The Captain is taken with Beauty and claims her, although the soldier will allow other soldiers and patrons to have sex with her, as if he is showing off a trophy.

Commander of the Patrol

The Commander of the Patrol is in charge of the slaves at the auction. A cruel man, the Commander takes great delight in the role of punisher. The Commander takes obvious joy in watching the slaves struggle in fear and be humiliated on the auction block.

Lady Juliana

Lady Juliana is a former slave who became Lady to the Crown Prince. A vicious temper and long golden braids are her trademarks.

Crown Prince

The Crown Prince, the dark-haired, handsome son of Queen Eleanor, is the prince who discovered Beauty as she lay asleep from the spell that lasted 100 years. The Prince is taken with Beauty, although he has a mistress at the royal court. The Crown Prince asks for Beauty to become a slave at the court, a request to which Beauty's parents comply.

The Prince and Lady Juliana are harsh with Beauty but the Prince is not as cruel as most masters.



Prince Roger

Prince Roger is a dark, smooth-skinned slave, who is indentured to Mistress Lockley. Previously a slave to Lady Juliana, Roger has been owned by Mistress Lockley for a long time and will never be allowed back at the castle. Roger and Beauty become friends.

Queen Eleanor

Queen Eleanor is the ruler of the kingdom, mother to the Crown Prince.

Prince Richard

Prince Richard is one of many slaves who detail previous slave-related experiences to Beauty.

Whipping Master

The Whipping Master works at the Place of Public Punishment. The man's job is to make sure all slaves are properly whipped, punished and humiliated according to their masters' wishes.



Objects/Places

Court of Queen Eleanor

The Court of Queen Eleanor is home to the royal family. The Crown Prince who saved Sleeping Beauty is the son of Queen Eleanor.

Under the Queen's rule, there are hundreds of naked slaves who are in attendance. The slaves are given by their parents for their own betterment and to learn obedience. The slaves who are in service to the royals are considered to be privileged.

Notable features of the Court include the Training Hall, Bridle Path and the Hall of Punishments. Ultimately, each slave ends up in each place for infractions real or imagined. The Court believes that in order to be taught, the slaves need to be beaten and humiliated on a daily basis.

Auction Block

Once a year, the Spring Auction takes place in the local village. People save money all year in order to attend and bid on potential slaves. Slaves are not only to be sold to wealthy owners, rather, anyone can bid and purchase a slave.

The site of the auction block lies in the center marketplace of the village. Hundreds of residents gather around the auction block not only to purchase a slave, but to ridicule, strike, grope, fondle and humiliate the slaves before, during and after the sale of each.

Village

The nameless village is part of Queen Eleanor's domain. The village is filled with shopkeepers, refined citizens and many unseemly characters. The residents of the village seem to take great pride in the Spring Auction, saving up to attend the event where they might be able to purchase their very own slave - one who was personally chosen by one of the royal family.

Included among the establishments in the village are the Sign of the Lion, public tents in which lesser slaves may be rented, and the Place of Public Punishment.

If any slaves should escape, the villagers will immediately come to the aid of the captors.



Sign of the Lion

The Sign of the Lion is an Inn operated by Mistress Jennifer Lockley. Slaves do the mistress' bidding and keep the Inn up to their owner's standards. Mistress Lockley provides food, drink and slaves for the pleasure of the Inn's customers.

The Inn offers bedchambers to its more illustrious guests, such as the Captain of the Guard. The slaves are required to scrub, clean and maintain the opulent decor of the club as well as serve the food and drink.

The Open Shed

There is an open shed behind the inn where slaves sleep and are bathed. Although the slaves are forbidden to speak, many share stories of their previous lives and the transgressions that led them to the Sign of the Lion and Mistress Lockley.

Place of Public Punishment

The Public Turntable stands in the center of the village at the Place of Public Punishment. Also present is a maypole that must be used by tethered slaves while they are whipped. At the Place of Public Punishment, slaves are displayed and punished for all to see. There doesn't need to be any real infraction or disobedience to be sent there.

Nicolas' Farm

Nicolas operates a large farm in the countryside. Slaves guide a wagon carrying Nicolas and Juliana. On the farm, the slaves are kept in the stables until needed for other chores, such as gathering apples in the orchard, using only their teeth.

Stables at the Farm

Nicolas owns a farm where the slaves are relegated to the stables as royal "ponies." Slaves eat, rest and perform sexual activities as ordered by the master and mistress as well as the stable grooms.

Captor's Ship

Tristan and Beauty are taken aboard a ship that belongs to The Sultan. Aboard the ship, the couple are pampered, fed and allowed to be reunited while en route to an unnamed location.



Themes

Sadism

Sadism lies at the heart of the novel *Beauty's Punishment*. As a central theme, sadism pervades the lives of Beauty and Tristan, the main characters. At first, the main characters, who are slaves, are appalled by the experiences they are expected to endure and perhaps even enjoy.

The first introduction of sadism to the slaves is when they arrive at the palace of Queen Eleanor. Once in residence, the slaves are forced into being "naked pleasure slaves" for a master and/or mistress. The slaves are routinely beaten, sexually violated, humiliated and forced to service not only the master and mistress but others as well.

The level of sadism increases when the slaves are taken to an auction to be sold as a result of disobedience. Aside from not being able to speak or defend oneself, the slaves must endure severe punishments and whipping from various people in the village. Each slave is placed on an auction block, and the entire village watches as genitals are used, beaten and handled by the auctioneer, soldiers or passersby. The slaves are routinely violated and sodomized. The men must wear nipple weights and their genitals are either bound by harnesses or attached to weights.

Once in possession of the new master/mistress, a slave must submit to any sexual act and punishment assigned. The goal of the sadism is to break the slaves down to nothing with the promise that someday they may be allowed to return to a normal life. Oftentimes, that does not happen.

The masters and mistresses, some of whom were also slaves at one time, take part in the pleasure of pain and request the slaves to use them in return. Through this action, some of the masters/mistresses hope to cultivate love and undying loyalty.

Surrender

While a large part of the slaves' servitude is supposed to be devoted to becoming a better sovereign, it is surrender that the masters pursue. The slaves are tortured until their will no longer matters or in some cases, cease to exist. If a slave does not surrender to the master, that slave will be punished brutally. If a slave does surrender, the slave will be punished brutally. Those who surrender are beaten in order to ensure continued surrender.

Beauty, who initially refuses to surrender or obey the commands of her master and mistress, learns to give in to her superiors. Although Beauty gives her body to any who are in a position to demand it, the princess confides that she will never allow any of the masters or mistresses to touch her soul. Still, through the sadistic actions of her mistress and the Captain of the Guard who has claimed her, Beauty has learned to truly



surrender in ways other than the physical. Beauty develops a secret love for her mistress and a more open love and admiration for the Captain.

Tristan had told Beauty that perhaps surrendering to the will of a master or mistress may make it easier to bear the obstacles they face while in servitude. Tristan battles with self will at first, particularly when in servitude to Lord Stefan, a former lover and a royal, who is physically and mentally inferior to the slave prince. It is Nicolas, the Queen's Chronicler, who brings about true surrender in Tristan. Unlike Beauty, Tristan finds love in surrender and fully devotes himself to Nicolas.

Humiliation

Humiliation is one of the greatest tools employed by the masters and mistresses of Queen Eleanor's kingdom. Aside from basking in sadistic joy from watching the slaves struggle, bleed and suffer, the masters and mistresses take great delight in humiliating their charges. One of the first things the slaves learn is that they must enter a room on hands and knees, exposing their genitals as much as possible. A slave must never look his master in the eye unless told to do so. Slaves may not speak unless spoken to since they are low life forms and cannot have anything of importance to say.

Greater than the initial humiliation is the public humiliation each slave must endure. Slaves are often paraded through the village or town square to be mocked, beaten or sexually violated by anyone who passes by. The slaves must accept this as part of their servitude. Worse, each slave is routinely whipped, forced to perform humiliating tasks or is chained to a wall in public. While being punished, each slave is examined thoroughly and roughly so that the whole village may see every attribute he or she possesses. Slaves are bought and sold or rented out on a whim. Tristan, for example, is required to become a "slave pony," harnessed to his master's wagon while wearing weights on his genitals and nipples and a leather phallus with a horse's tail inserted into his anus.

At first, the slaves find this behavior mortifying but some often come to accept it and more tend to crave it.



Style

Style

Point of View

The point of view in *Beauty's Punishment* switches from third person to first person, depending on the chapter. The third person narrative is used in the beginning to set the stage. Eventually, the third person point of view is used only in chapters referring to Beauty and her journey into the world of slavery.

Tristan's story is revealed through a first person perspective. The first person may narrow the scope of the story but offers a first hand, personalized account of the character's story.

Switching between the two points of view can be a bit confusing at times, particularly in the chapters that do not make it clear at the outset which point of view will be used. A more effective approach would be to have written the story in a third person overview with a first person narrative for both characters. The split point of view makes the story feel slightly fractured.

Setting

The setting of *Beauty's Punishment* starts in the forest where Sleeping Beauty is asleep due to the spell cast upon her by the evil queen. Beauty leaves the forest after being awakened by the Crown Prince, and together they travel to the Crown Prince's home which is at the palace of Queen Eleanor. The story makes reference to several places in the castle, but most are only in passing. The real setting of the story comes to light after the slaves are sold at auction.

The auction takes place in a small, nameless village on the coast of a nameless sea. The village is walled to prevent invaders and is guarded by the Queen's Guard.

Inside the village are a diverse group of people. There are a small number of wealthy lords and ladies, many shopkeepers and soldiers, as well as a large number of slaves.

The Sign of the Lion becomes Beauty's home during this period of Servitude. Mistress Jennifer Lockley is the proprietor of the restaurant and inn where the Captain of the Guard maintains a room and many soldiers patronize. The inn is large and well staffed with slaves.

Nicolas, the Queen's Chronicler and Chief Historian, owns a manor house in which Tristan serves. The house is opulent and lavishly decorated with much finery. Adjacent to the house are the stables where Tristan serves as a slave pony. Nicolas also owns and operates a farm where the slaves are required to work.



Language and Meaning

The language used in *Beauty's Punishment* is a bit staid. Although it is clear that there are very strong class lines between the royals, the villagers and the slaves, the language used is all the same. While the slaves are supposedly making an effort to appear as if they are not intelligent creatures, they tend to use the same language as their superiors. It would be better suited to have made a clear distinction between the classes by making the differences in speech more apparent. It would have been most effective to show the slaves losing their refinement of speech throughout the duration of servitude.

The basic backbone of the novel surrounds the erotic adventures of Beauty and Tristan. Many of the acts portrayed, both sexual and otherwise, are described in detail. While many scenes are explicit and use very specific language, the formality seems out of place. The reader should expect some level of formality to keep the novel from being X rated or downright vulgar, but the author explains many things as they might be found in a textbook on anatomy. While this may be a safe way to describe the scene, it also takes away some of the shock value and degradation involved.

Structure

Beauty's Punishment is comprised of 28 parts, including a prologue. Each part is an average of 8 pages long, with the shortest being 3 pages and the longest being 17 pages. The parts, in lieu of chapters, vary between the third person in Beauty's story and the first person in Tristan's story. The parts seem to have no consistency in their order, i.e., there will be one part about Beauty and two about Tristan; 2 about Beauty and 3 about Tristan.

The story itself is very straightforward. The main plot is that of Beauty, who is transformed from a beautiful sleeping princess into a slave at her Crown Prince's castle. Along the way, Beauty meets Tristan, a slave prince. Beauty and Tristan fall in love, or perhaps just simple lust. The slaves are impertinent in many ways and through disobedience are punished by being sent to the auction to be sold to the highest bidder. Beauty and Tristan are separated and the story splits to chronicle each slave's adventures, torments and realizations. Although the two slaves take different paths, they end up in more or less the same position. The slaves are reunited through the permission of Tristan's master, Nicolas. At the end of the story, both Beauty and Tristan are captured by the Sultan's raiding party and taken aboard a ship where at least they can be together until reaching a new land. The book ends while the slaves are still on the ship, performing sex with punishment for an audience.

With short chapters, *Beauty's Punishment* is an easy read. It does tend to be repetitive in its descriptions and events. This is no great piece of literature but for what it is, Ann Rice has made her mark.



Quotes

"It is a wretched service. The auction itself takes place as soon as they arrive and you can well suppose that even the beggars and the common louts about town are there to witness it. Why, the whole village declares a holiday."

Lady Juliana describing the Spring Auction.

Pg. 8

"All those of the village know the rules of the auction. These disobedient slaves offered by our gracious Majesty for hard labor are to be sold to the highest bidder for the period of no less than three months' service as their new Lords and Masters shall see fit."

The Commander of the Patrol

Pg. 17

Beauty felt she would collapse, yet she was standing, and when the soft rawhide boot of the auctioneer kicked her legs apart, she struggled to keep her balance, her breasts shivering with her muffled sobs.

Pgs. 23-24

She was a bad, naked slave, about to be sent to a hardened soldier with an obvious taste for rebels.

Pg. 44

"It seemed I saw everything and nothing, and in a dim moment of excruciating remorse, I pitied the foolish slave whom I had been, dreaming in the castle gardens of disobedience and the village."

Tristan

Pg. 60

I knew my face was disfigured with my struggle.

Tristan

Pg. 66

I saw naked slaves tethered to plows or working on their hands and knees in the wheat, And the feeling of being utterly bereft intensified.

Tristan

Pg. 77

She made some small undulation with her body, not truly meaning to. And at once his strong right hand clamped on her wrists and he rose from the bench lifting her off the floor and up so she dangled above him.

Pgs. 93-94

I did not dare to hope or fear what might happen here.

Tristan

Pg. 110



Beauty folded the petticoat and laid it down, and timidly turned to look behind her. Mistress Lockley, naked as a slave, and easily as beautiful, her hair a black veil down her back, beckoned for both her slaves to come to her.

Pg. 159

Many lights burned in the little windows of the close-peaked-roofed houses. And when we turned into a broad street, I could see far away to the east the lights of the marketplace and hear the dull roar of the crowd in the Place of Public Punishment.

Tristan

Pg. 181

I looked at his long elegant form in the moonlight, the gleaming white of his sleeves, the perfect shape of his calves in their sheathing of supple leather. I belonged to him.

Completely, I belonged to him.

Tristan

Pgs. 185-186

Mistress Lockley pushed Beauty forward, away from the Inn door, and the Captain walked his horse slowly around Beauty as she stood bathed in the light, looking down at her own shivering breasts, her heart thumping deliciously.

Pg. 189

Beauty could scarcely believe her eyes when she looked up and saw Tristan before her. He reached out with both hands and lifted her to her feet.

Pg. 203

High above her loomed a dark-faced rider in flowing robes, his scimitar gleaming at his side as he bore down on her.

Pg. 213

Finally her captors appeared again. She was lifted onto the great thick cushion, like a treasure.

Pg. 229



Topics for Discussion

What might have happened if Beauty had not been insolent toward Lady Juliana?

How might the story have changed if Beauty and Tristan were sold to the same person at auction?

What might Nicolas have been thinking when he paid a high price to purchase Tristan?

Do you think that the villagers respected, admired or feared Mistress Lockley? Explain.

What might have happened if Lord Stefan had returned to claim Tristan after the auction?

What consequences would Prince Roger have faced if he had attempted another escape?

What reason would the villagers have for capturing and returning the slaves to their masters?

What interest does the Sultan have in Tristan and Beauty?

Do you think that the ship's destination of the Sultan's palace will be different from Queen Eleanor's Court? Explain.

Do you think that Tristan and Beauty will be allowed to remain together? Explain.

The book ends while Tristan and Beauty are still aboard the Sultan's ship and their future is unknown. Why would the author have stopped the story before the climax?