

The Claiming of Sleeping Beauty Study Guide

The Claiming of Sleeping Beauty by Anne Rice

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Plot Summary

Beauty's Release by Anne Rice, writing as A. N. Roquelaure, is the third part of an erotic trilogy following Sleeping Beauty through her adventures after being rescued. Beauty is a royal sex slave who is kidnapped from the Village and sent to another kingdom to serve the Sultan. She finds love as she learns new ways of life in another realm and is forced to leave her love behind when she is rescued and returned to the life of nobility. Beauty's Release is an erotic fairy tale that explores sexual nature through the eyes of one of the best-known fairy tale characters created.

The first part of the trilogy introduces Princess Beauty to the life of a royal sex slave serving in the palace in Prince Charming's dominion. In the second part, Beauty is punished and sent to the Village to serve in disgrace. Beauty's Release opens in the cargo of a ship, where Beauty and several other royal sex slaves from the Village have been kidnapped and are being carried to another realm to serve the Sultan. Tristan cries continually because he misses his Master, Nicolas, whom he loves. Laurent and Beauty discuss love, leading Laurent to decide he does not understand the love she talks about. Laurent reminisces about Palace life and his time in the Village on the Punishment Cross, ending with the raid.

The ship pulls into harbor and the slaves are paraded through the marketplace into the Sultan's palace where they are led into a courtyard and positioned for inspection. Lexius, the first Master that inspects the new slaves, chooses Laurent, Elena, Tristan and Beauty, and he leads them to a chamber where he informs them that he demands perfection from his slaves. He inspires loyalty and the desire to please him in all of his slaves.

After Beauty is bathed and prepared by the grooms, Lexius leads her down a corridor into a chamber with a small passage. Master coaxes her through the passage where she finds the Harem of Beautiful and Virtuous Wives. The Harem carries her to a couch where they examine her genitals before pleasuring her. Meanwhile, Laurent and Tristan are also prepared for their servitude. Lexius arrives to lead them to a garden where male slaves are mounted on crosses. As Tristan is mounted, Laurent taunts Lexius about being a eunuch to avoid being mounted on his cross.

Beauty awakes with the Harem still caressing her and sees a woman standing apart from the others, staring at Beauty. When the others notice the woman, they bow to her in respect, leading Beauty to conclude that this beautiful woman is the Sultana. Once she leaves the Harem, Beauty is bathed, oiled, and then positioned in a niche where she is unable to move. An unseen person cracks the doors, and Beauty is left feeling very lonely. In Lexius' bedchamber, Laurent is forced to perform oral sex on Lexius but he overpowers, rapes and beats Lexius.

The doors finally open completely and a lord approaches Beauty. When the lord introduces himself as Inanna while releasing Beauty from her bonds, Beauty realizes it is the Sultana from the Harem. Inanna leads Beauty to her bedchamber where she



inspects Beauty. When Beauty begins to explore Inanna, she finds that Inanna's genitals have been mutilated inhibiting sensation, but Beauty still manages to bring Inanna to climax. The two women fall asleep in each other's arms.

Lexius leads Laurent back to the Garden of Male Delights where Laurent is mounted upside-down on his cross and whipped. A banquet takes place and after the lords eat, the slaves are removed from their crosses and repeatedly raped orally and anally. After the lords are sexually satiated, Laurent is pulled from the circle of slaves and led to a chamber full of other slaves, including Tristan, who are oiled and groomed again. The slaves are led to the Sultan's garden where they are inspected before the Sultan finally chooses Tristan and Laurent as his companions for the evening.

Lexius leads Tristan and Laurent to the Sultan's bedchamber where they are forced to chase a ball before Tristan, Laurent and the Sultan have sex. After, Lexius and Laurent leave the Sultan's room. Laurent falls asleep during his bath and awakens in Lexius' bedchamber, where he masters Lexius again. Laurent demands Tristan be brought to him and the two discuss their pasts and presents before they both master Lexius. As Lexius leads them toward the garden to be mounted on their crosses, four lords approach them.

Beauty awakens to knocking and, realizing their danger, wakes Inanna and bids her farewell. Beauty rushes away so as not to implicate Inanna in her disappearance. Several lords see her, and when she runs away, they chase her. They carry her to a ship that moves out of the harbor. Tristan refuses to leave with the men. Laurent insists that Lexius accompany them, and when Lexius is given the opportunity, he refuses to remain in the Sultanate.

On the ship, the slaves mourn leaving the Sultanate to return to Queen Eleanor's realm. Beauty and Laurent manage to become lovers during their journey. Near the end of their voyage, the Captain of the Guard presents Beauty with clothes and announces her release from slavery, causing her much anguish.

Laurent, Tristan and Lexius are bound and taken to the palace for the Queen's sentencing. The Queen decides to keep Lexius but sentences the others to one year in the pony stables. Tristan and Laurent are taken to the stables where the head groom, Gareth, instructs them and prepares them for their work. After the day's work is done, the ponies are released into a recreation yard where they are raped many times. Laurent rapes one of the other ponies, Jerard, in retribution and becomes his Master.

Beauty refuses all of her suitors but she is interested in this prince. She masters him and he begs to serve her but she rejects him as well. Lexius has adjusted to life as a pony, with Jerard as his slave and Gareth as his lover. The Captain of the Guard arrives one day and tells Laurent that his father has died and he is now king. Laurent returns to his kingdom and sets everything to rights. When he is told that he needs a wife, he travels to see Beauty and demands that she marry him. She is delighted and the two set off to be married and "live happily ever after."



Prologue: The Story So Far

Prologue: The Story So Far Summary

Beauty's Release by Anne Rice, writing as A. N. Roquelaure, is the third part of an erotic trilogy following Sleeping Beauty through her adventures after being rescued. Beauty is a royal sex slave who is kidnapped from the Village and sent to another kingdom to serve the Sultan. She finds love as she learns new ways of life in another realm and is forced to leave her love behind when she is rescued and returned to the life of nobility. Beauty's Release is an erotic fairy tale that explores sexual nature through the eyes of one of the best-known fairy tale characters created.

In the Claiming of Sleeping Beauty, Beauty is awakened by a kiss to find herself naked and Prince Charming raping her. She is taken to his kingdom to serve as a royal pleasure slave with the consent of her parents. In Queen Eleanor's court, she is trained to be a naked princess. She is the Prince's favorite but is sent to the Village when she rebels against his orders.

In Beauty's Punishment, Beauty is sold on the auction block to Mistress Lockley's Inn, where she becomes the plaything of the Captain of the Guard. Tristan, another slave, becomes a horse serving the Queen's Chronicler, Nicolas, who he falls in love with. When the Village is raided by the Sultan's men, Beauty and Tristan are kidnapped and learn they will not be ransomed but will serve at the Sultan's until it is determined that they will return to the Queen's realm.

Prologue: The Story So Far Analysis

This brief chapter serves to introduce the reader to Beauty's recent past. It introduces the main characters and explains how Beauty came to be a royal sex slave. It also alludes to Tristan's love for his Master and Beauty's attraction to Laurent.



Laurent: Captives at Sea

Laurent: Captives at Sea Summary

Laurent wakes in the hold of a ship, nearing the Sultan's domain. He gazes at each of his fellow captives, all wearing gold mesh between their legs to prevent them from yielding to their sexual urges. Beauty is blond, fair featured, intriguing while Rosalynd has curly black hair and is very attractive. Elena has straight brown hair and is the most spirited of the three naked princesses on board. Next, Laurent regards Dimitri's black hair and cold demeanor while sleeping, though he is the best natured of the six when awake. Finally, Laurent's gaze rests on Tristan, the muscular, blond prince who was taken from the Master that he loved.

Laurent details their sexual deprivation during the long journey. Their hands are bound if they dare touch their genitals, yet they are forced to continually observe each other's nakedness with no method of slaking their sexual urges. They are also warned at their capture that they are expected to remain silent. Elena is the only one to break this ordinance, and, as a result, she is gagged, bound and suspended from a chain in the ceiling until she quiets. The others crave sexual contact even more as the grooms stroke Elena's vagina as a reward for quieting.

Laurent converses with the clever, disdainful Elena about their approach to the Sultanate and her excitement and expectations for new adventures. When Laurent mentions that the Sultan may have so many slaves that they will be unnoticed, Elena decides that they must distinguish themselves. She also teases Laurent for his fears because, as she declares, he only ran away from the castle to see how it would feel. Laurent also has a conversation with Beauty when she defends Tristan's tears with the fact that he loved his Master and misses him, even though she cannot fathom what it would be like to love one's Master or Mistress. Laurent believes that he loved his Mistress, Lady Elvera, but questions if Beauty means a deeper love. Laurent ponders on how they have all changed since becoming slaves, beginning as blushing, awestruck royalty and being converted to sexual beings that revel in their nakedness.

Laurent: Captives at Sea Analysis

The first chapter introduces and describes the captives on the boat. It also gives us insight into the main characters: Laurent, Beauty and Tristan. It is told from Laurent's point-of-view, as a first person narrative. The reader is also given some details about their condition now and previously, in the Queen's realm, such as the rules and punishments that control a royal sex slave's life. The language used in reference to the sexual information provided is interesting to note, such as the males and females tend to call their genitals "sex", providing the connotation that sex is all their genitals are seen as. The tone when discussing the punishments received also indicates a casual, accepting attitude towards the sadistic and masochistic sexual relationships found in the

Queen's kingdom. There is some foreshadowing as Laurent mentions his interest in Beauty several times throughout the chapter.



Laurent: Memories of the Castle and the Village

Laurent: Memories of the Castle and the Village Summary

Laurent reminisces about his days in the palace serving Lady Elvera. He misses his morning whipping which is followed by a chase through the garden in order to catch and rape one of the princesses. He regrets that, though he wanted to, he was never able to couple with Beauty, the Crown Prince's favorite. He feels that the sex slaves' position is particularly degrading because of their equality with their Masters. The fact that one day they will return to their positions as royalty makes it very uncomfortable and embarrassing when Princes from other lands visit and receive demonstrations of the sex slaves' servitude.

Two days before the raid on the Village, Laurent decides to run away from Lady Elvera's household. Although he is happy with his Mistress, he is tempted by the fear of running away and luxuriates in the horror and thrill of being captured which he knows is inevitable. He is caught the same night and is mounted to the Punishment Cross and sent to the Village, a disgraceful fugitive in the sight of thousands of witnesses. He enjoys being strapped to the Punishment Cross with his head pulled back, limbs bound and a wooden phallus inserted into his anus; he also enjoys the beatings he receives while on the Punishment Cross. Laurent loves the Punishment Cross and wants to stay on display forever but his punishment ends too soon when the Sultan's men kidnap him among the others. The raiders take them to the ship's hold where the Queen's emissary warns them to be silent, as they will be treated like animals.

Laurent considers his love for Lady Elvera and compares it to Beauty's idea of love. He also thinks about Tristan's love and relationship with his Master. He does not believe that the three feelings are the same. He also compares Lady Elvera and Beauty and wonders if their personalities make the difference in regard to love.

Laurent: Memories of the Castle and the Village Analysis

This chapter presents Laurent's character more clearly. Although he liked palace life, he had a perverse desire to conquer his fear, even though he knew it would result in punishment. The reader is reminded of the sado-masochistic environment when Laurent describes his enjoyment of the Punishment Cross and his regret in the short length of his punishment. This chapter includes the first appearance of homoerotic content as Laurent is penetrated by the phallus on the Punishment Cross and the soldier kisses him as he is having sex with the village girl.



There is also more foreshadowing regarding Laurent and Beauty's relationship as he mentions desiring her in the palace as well as considering her opinions when thinking of his love for Lady Elvera. The continual references to Beauty raise questions in the reader's mind concerning Laurent and Beauty's relationship in the future. Laurent's thoughts of his equality with the foreign Princes who master him for a night foreshadows his return to royal life. Also Laurent's interest in whether those Princes desire to be a Master or a slave raises the question of what Laurent's desires may be, if permitted to choose.



Beauty: Through the City and Into the Palace

Beauty: Through the City and Into the Palace Summary

Beauty awakens to Laurent and Tristan discussing the fact that the ship is now at anchor, and she is impatient to find out what will happen in this new land. As well-dressed attendants groom the slaves and adorn them with jewels and glitter, Beauty ponders whether her new dream to find love will be fulfilled at the Sultanate. The grooms attach clamps to the slaves' nipples and fasten chains to the clamps, torturing and pleasuring them simultaneously.

The sex slaves are led ashore, in the midst of the busy marketplace, and forced to kneel on a cushion, legs spread in a position to show their genitals. Beauty is abashed by the indignity of the situation and realizes that in this realm, her royalty carries no weight; she is just a slave. While the cushions are lifted and carried in a procession towards the Sultan's palace, the slaves are expected to maintain their posture. They are set down in a corridor in the palace and their lead ropes are passed between the people in front of each one's legs and settled between the lead's teeth. Heads down in a submissive gesture, they lead themselves toward the courtyard in this manner. On the way, they pass a corridor of statues, which Beauty realizes in horrification are not status but living slaves being used for decoration.

Beauty: Through the City and Into the Palace Analysis

This chapter is the first time that Beauty is introduced outside of Laurent's point of view. She is presented by a limited-third person narrator, which enables the reader to see how proud she remains despite her submissiveness. The attendants' preparation of the slaves signifies the view taken of sex slaves, which is as animals incapable of reasoning. This is further reinforced by the clamps and chains, used to lead them about like a horse is led. The body décor used to prepare them also indicates that they are their bodies and their minds are not important. Foreshadowing and repetition are used when Beauty dreams of finding love at the Sultanate, as before mentioned by Laurent.



Beauty: Examination in the Garden

Beauty: Examination in the Garden Summary

Three men enter the garden but one is obviously the most important. He surveys the circle of slaves and approaches Beauty first. She kneels submissively with her eyes downcast as the Master inspects her, slapping her breasts. At an unknown signal, the grooms lift Beauty in the air, with her legs spread for the Master to inspect her genitals. The Master moves on through the princesses and princes. When he finally ends at Laurent, bold Laurent dares to look in the Master's eyes. Laurent receives the hardest slaps, and the Master anally probes him with a fist.

Finished with the inspection, the Master signals and Laurent's chain is hooked to the Master's slipper. Beauty's terror that only Laurent has been chosen is lessened when she, Tristan and Elena are connected behind Laurent. The four are led into a chamber behind the new Master. Because of the repeated admonitions to keep silent, the slaves are shocked when the Master addresses them in their own language.

Beauty: Examination in the Garden Analysis

The inspection scene is very important to this book for two reasons. First, it shows the dehumanizing and degrading way that these slaves are treated. Secondly, it presents their state of mind, which shows no resentment and a desire to please, even in the most humiliating circumstances. Foreshadowing is heavy in this chapter as well. Beauty's fear to lose Laurent could be contributed to her desire to please but can also be seen as a personal regard for him. The Master seems to take a special interest in Laurent, conveying the idea that there may be something between the two of them. Finally, at the end of the chapter, the slaves are spoken to for the first time. The fact that this Master recognizes them as intelligible beings unlike the rest of the Sultanate foreshadows his experience that result from this difference.



Beauty: Mysterious Master

Beauty: Mysterious Master Summary

The new Master introduces himself as Lexius, the Sultan's Chief Steward of the Grooms. He announces that he chooses few slaves to perfect and that he indeed requires perfection. Beauty's interest and attraction to the Master is intense and she notices that the other slaves seem to be equally enrapt in his speech. As Lexius walks around the room giving his speech, he continually caresses and reassures the slaves with his gentleness.

His manner is such that he inspires loyalty and the desire to please in Beauty and the others. Although he shows no anger, it is obvious that he is very demanding. At last, he tells them that they will now proceed to the purification process before being put to use. He reminds them that they must crawl at all times and be absolutely silent. As they leave the room, he caresses each of them a final time, lingering a bit on Laurent.

Beauty: Mysterious Master Analysis

Foreshadowing and irony is present in the fact that Lexius speaks to the slaves. Foreshadowing occurs because he acknowledges their ability for higher reasoning, putting them on a more equal plane with himself. This is ironic since Lexius is the Chief Steward of the Grooms, insinuating that he is at an even higher social standing than the other grooms and should view the slaves as even lowlier than the others view them.

Also, Lexius' demand that they be perfect and distinguish themselves foreshadows the adventures that follow, where the characters followed distinguish themselves quite nicely. It is reminiscent of Elena's aspirations to distinguish herself. Beauty's interest in Lexius and his interest in Laurent foreshadow the future relationships that occur between the three of them.



Beauty: The Rites of Perfection

Beauty: The Rites of Perfection Summary

Beauty is led into a chamber where the grooms indicate for her to kneel with her head down and hands behind her neck. The grooms wash and oil her thoroughly. Then a nozzle enters her vagina and she is aroused, even though its purpose is only to cleanse her. When the grooms place a similar device in her anus, filling her to the point of explosion, Beauty feels invaded and ashamed. The grooms rinse her off, leaving her purified but weak. Just as she thinks she will collapse, Lexius appears to hold her as the grooms dry her off.

Beauty looks at the Master and desires him. She wonders how she could ever have considered loving him when she loves him already. Lexius leads her to another room where he personally applies more oil to her body, fastens her hair on top of her head and adorns her with jewelry. He then attaches the nipple clamps and leash and leads her down a corridor. Beauty reflects on the past and cannot remember wearing clothes because naked life seems so natural to her. She is very sad that Lexius must now give her away because she wants to serve him.

Beauty: The Rites of Perfection Analysis

Beauty's purification process reiterates the view held at the palace that the slaves are equivalent to animals. She is cleansed internally so as not to bring anything to the Sultanate from another land. Instruments are used to cause her to excrete, as though she could not perform that function on her own. Although Beauty's complete subjugation to her lifestyle is visible by her lack of connection with her past life as royalty, she still feels invaded and ashamed by the purging process. Also, when Lexius finishes the preparation, her hair is fastened to the top of her head to prohibit it from covering even her neck. Her entire body must be visible and available for enjoyment. As Lexius prepares Beauty, she admits her desire to love, foreshadowing her future relationship(s).



Beauty: The First Test of Obedience

Beauty: The First Test of Obedience Summary

While Lexius talks with two male servants in his language, Beauty hears women's laughter though no women are present. Lexius finishes his discussion and guides Beauty to a small opening in the wall, through which she sees sunlight and hears women's voices. Suddenly she is terrified as she realizes that this must be the Harem of Beautiful and Virtuous Royal Wives. Beauty pulls back and Lexius gently pushes her forward, whispering for her not to fail him.

When Beauty emerges on the other end of the passage, she is instantly surrounded by many beautiful women, who lift her up and inspect her. The women carry her to the center of the room and place her on a couch, pry her legs apart and gather to look at Beauty's genitals. Beauty wonders if they have never seen another woman's genitals or even their own.

One woman in the Harem forces her way through the crowd and feels Beauty's genitals, finding her clitoris and stimulating it. While she does this, others begin to play with Beauty's breasts and another kisses her. Beauty decides that she loves them all as she reaches climax. The women in the Harem once more lift Beauty and carry her toward a god-like statue. She is manipulated to be entered by the phallus on the statue. As she orgasms again, she begs to be kissed. The Harem returns her to the pillows where she falls asleep as they continue stroking and kissing her.

Beauty: The First Test of Obedience Analysis

Lexius' declaration that Beauty pleases him seems to reiterate her feelings for him. This seems to foreshadow a future relationship between the two. Beauty's fear of pleasuring a large number of people at once shows itself ironic when she enters the room to have the Harem pleasure her instead. Foreshadowing occurs when Beauty sees the Harem's wonder and fascination with her genitals and her questions whether they have never seen female genitals.

Laurent: For the Love of the Master

Laurent: For the Love of the Master Summary

Laurent and Tristan must go through a cleansing ritual beginning with grooms bathing the men and shaving their faces. They are beaten when they attempt to rub their penises against one another, but they manage to try again while the grooms rinse them after their bowels have been purged. They are separated before they climax, left feeling weak between the two events.

Lexius leads Laurent and Tristan to a garden where servants are scurrying about setting up for a banquet. The male slaves are mounted on wooden crosses, with a crossbar under their arms, their heads bent down and a phallus inserted in their anus. Laurent begins to dread being placed on a cross as he watches Tristan being mounted.

Laurent whispers to Lexius, suggesting that he is a eunuch. Lexius is furious that Laurent would dare to speak where he knows that it is prohibited. Laurent continues taunting the Master, hoping that he will be punished and avoid being mounted on his cross until dinner. Lexius slaps Laurent for his impertinence, adjusts a cock ring to fit Laurent's genitals and attaches a leash. As he is pulled on his hands and knees towards the palace, Laurent begins to wonder if he has doomed himself to a worse fate than the cross with his impertinent tongue.

Laurent: For the Love of the Master Analysis

The fact that the men receive two colon purges foreshadows that they will be more intimately involved with the Sultan than Beauty who only receives one. It also seems to suggest that men are seen as less clean in the Sultanate. There is irony and foreshadowing present in the fact that Lexius inspires both fear and admiration in Laurent. The garden scene provides more detail about the culture at the Sultanate. It becomes evident that this is a very sexual nation. The men hanging on crosses foreshadow their use during the banquet being prepared. As it has already become evident that the nation is a patriarchal society, it is easy to assume that the dinner guests will be men. This foreshadows homoerotic content.

Parallelism presents itself when Laurent sees the crosses, similar to the Punishment Cross in the Village. Ironically, he enjoyed the Punishment Cross but dreads these. Laurent's spirit and determination to distinguish himself as the rebel returns to find him taunting Lexius. Lexius becomes very angry at the insinuation that he is a eunuch, indicating that maybe this statement is true. Laurent's fear returns when he is led from the garden because he realizes that he may now become privy to an even worse punishment. Laurent seems to act before he thinks which is seen repeatedly in his rebellious acts.



Beauty: The Watcher

Beauty: The Watcher Summary

Beauty awakens and gazes at the sea of beautiful women around her, one woman standing apart from the others. When Beauty makes eye contact, the strange woman attempts to hide, attracting the attention of the other women in the Harem. They all look at her, and seeing who she is, bow to show respect. From this, Beauty deduces that this beautiful one must be the Sultana.

Beauty is extremely attracted and interested in her and wishes the Sultana would join the others. They retain eye contact until one of the other women bends to kiss Beauty, moving into their line of sight. Beauty gives over to the sensations and pleasure, falling asleep. She awakens again at twilight and the wives take her back to the passage. Beauty glances back at the Harem and sees the Sultana watching her still.

Beauty encounters several grooms on the other side of the passage, but Lexius is not there. She is bathed, oiled and taken into a large chamber alone and led to a niche in the wall. She is terrified as she realizes that she will be used as a statue like those she saw earlier. The grooms attach a collar to her neck, fasten it to the wall and tie her arms behind her back. Then they separate her legs and bind them with silk, displaying her genitals.

Beauty struggles to free herself but her bonds are too tight to break so she ceases her struggle and daydreams of Lexius and the Sultana. She nearly falls asleep to the far off sounds of talking and laughing until she hears a clicking sound. She sees that the doors have been cracked and an unseen person is watching her, making her feel lonelier. She yearns for the person to come to her, even to beat her, but time passes without the doors moving.

Beauty: The Watcher Analysis

Foreshadowing is used in this chapter as Beauty questions why the Harem is so eager to give pleasure but want nothing in return. When the Sultana and Beauty exhibit their mutual attraction and intrigue with each other, foreshadowing is used again to suggest a possible encounter between the women, which is reinforced by the fact that the Sultana remains so elusive. Foreshadowing also occurs at the end of the chapter when the door cracks and someone watches Beauty secretly. This implies that something may happen with this unknown person and Beauty. There is also a parallelism in the secret watcher and the Sultana from the Harem as both of them observe her without wanting to be observed.

The idea of dehumanizing reoccurs as Beauty is prepared to be positioned as a statue. The slaves in the Sultanate are not people but objects to be used for pleasure, amusement and decoration, permitted no personal time or control. This is reemphasized



when the lords walk by without even a glance at Beauty. The tone changes from one of desolation and loneliness to eeriness when an unseen person cracks the door to the chamber and stares at Beauty.



Laurent: A Lesson In Submission

Laurent: A Lesson In Submission Summary

Lexius leads Laurent to his bedchamber and Laurent smiles as Lexius retrieves a whip to rebuke Laurent for speaking in the palace. When Laurent begins taunting Lexius again, asking if Lexius is a eunuch, Lexius becomes furious and questions if Laurent is trying to elicit his own rape. Lexius unties his robe and tells Laurent to approach. When Laurent does so, Lexius instructs him to take his penis and scrotum into his mouth. Laurent does exactly as he is told, moving his hands to the back of Lexius' body. Laurent flings Lexius to the bed, entangling Lexius in his robes.

Laurent ties Lexius' hands behind his back and gags him. Whenever Lexius attempts to rise or to speak, Laurent slaps him. Laurent tells Lexius how beautiful he is and how he desires to dress as a lord and kidnap Lexius and use him as a sex slave in the middle of the desert. Laurent enters Lexius' anus with some difficulty due to the tightness. After his release, Laurent forces Lexius to his hands and knees. Laurent beats him with the whip and finally stops when Lexius is sobbing and swaying. Laurent penetrates him again and when he reaches climax, he tells Lexius that he is finished and will now obey Lexius completely. Lexius dresses and gazes out the window. Both men are very confused by this encounter.

Laurent: A Lesson In Submission Analysis

Although Laurent believes that taunting Lexius about being a eunuch will provoke him to have sex with Laurent, this seems to be contradicted when Lexius asks if this is the plan. It is very ironic that Lexius would punish Laurent with exactly what Laurent wants, especially when Lexius has vocalized that he understands Laurent's reasoning. Although Laurent has already been established as rebellious, it is also ironic that he rapes Lexius. First, he attempts to provoke Lexius into taking him and his excitement in orally pleasuring Lexius is such that it is completely unexpected when Laurent suddenly turns into the aggressor. Laurent's interest in possessing a slave is foreshadowed earlier when he questions whether foreign princes desire to be Master or slave.

Irony and foreshadowing occur in the role reversal of Lexius and Laurent as master and slave. It is ironic in the fact that it is a role reversal at such extreme odds of the way that their lives function. It foreshadows the roles that each will take later in the story. The fact that Lexius does not struggle very much is also very interesting to note. Although Laurent is much stronger and overpowers him, Lexius is the head groom of the Sultanate and, with one shout, he could summon legions of servants that could easily restrain Laurent. Lexius chooses to submit to Laurent's overtures instead, indicating that Lexius longs for the punishment that Laurent gives him, perhaps subconsciously as suggested in his later confusion. It is also apparent that Lexius has not been used in this way previously because of his tightness when Laurent enters him the first time.



Beauty: Mysterious Customs

Beauty: Mysterious Customs Summary

As Beauty remains bound in her niche, the doors finally open to reveal a richly dressed lord who approaches Beauty and plays with her genitals. Beauty learns that this stranger, Inanna, is the Sultana. Inanna cuts Beauty's bonds, covers Beauty in her cloak and rushes Beauty back to her bedchamber.

Beauty notices that Inanna is wearing a higher and tighter girdle than earlier and is nearly overwhelmed with the desire to release her from her bonds. When Beauty suggests unfastening the girdle, Inanna laughs before looking sorrowful. Inanna leads Beauty near her bed where she explores Beauty's breasts. Finally, Beauty releases Inanna from her girdle and undresses her. Inanna begins to pull away but Beauty kisses her. Then Inanna bursts into tears and climbs across her bed, sobbing into her pillows causing Beauty to believe that she is ashamed of her sexual urges.

Beauty turns Inanna onto her back and begins to stimulate Inanna's breasts, but Inanna gestures that they must stop and she pulls away to cover her genitals. Beauty moves Inanna's hands and begins to stroke the area, trying to tell Inanna that it is acceptable. When Beauty explores Inanna's genitals more closely, she realizes that Inanna's clitoris has been removed and her labia have been cut to half of their natural size. All that is used for female enjoyment has been removed, leaving only what will give a man pleasure. Through gestures, Inanna makes it clear to Beauty that all the women in this land have been mutilated the same as she. Beauty now understands the curiosity that the women in the Harem felt about her.

Beauty wants to make Inanna feel so she orally pleasures her. When Inanna finally reaches climax, she kisses Beauty and cries in happiness. Beauty realizes that they could both be in danger because the women of the Harem obviously are not supposed to feel pleasure.

Beauty: Mysterious Customs Analysis

Although there has been much homoerotic content up to this point, this is the first instance of homoerotic content involving two women. Ironically, this occurs in a location where women are prohibited from feeling and are seen as lesser beings. This is revealed when Inanna dresses as a man in order to obtain Beauty's company, suggesting that a woman would be prohibited from walking about the palace in the evening. This is even more obviously demonstrated in the mutilation of Inanna's genitals function only for a man's pleasure. The sexuality of the realm is based on men's pleasure without regard for women's pleasure.

Inanna's shame and embarrassment about what her genitals look like shows that she is aware that it is not natural. Her desire to feel pleasure is embodied in her releasing and



guiding Beauty to her room. Inanna's examination of Beauty's genitals shows her desire and her curiosity about the natural state of her genitals. When Beauty orally pleasures Inanna, she is able to work her to her first climax, indicating that Inanna's mutilation does not completely inhibit sensation. Beauty's thoughts of Laurent during her encounter foreshadow their future together as she reflects back on his body even while in the throes of passion with another.



Laurent: The Garden of Male Delights

Laurent: The Garden of Male Delights Summary

Lexius leads Laurent back to the garden and gives orders without sounding angry. The grooms bind Laurent to the cross upside-down and blindfold him. On Lexius' command, the grooms whip Laurent relentlessly until the lords enter the garden for the banquet. Laurent reflects back on the Punishment Cross in the Village and is proud to be distinguished again as the rebellious, punished one.

When Laurent is unbound and stands upright, several of the lords surround him and Laurent notices the same happening to the other slaves as well. One man enters Laurent anally and another enters him orally. He is used in both locations by one man after another until he loses count of how many have violated him. This excites him because he knows that Lexius is in the area, witnessing the whole event. After awhile, a groom pulls Laurent from the circle, replacing him with another slave. The groom motions for Laurent to follow him.

Laurent: The Garden of Male Delights Analysis

In the beginning of the chapter, Lexius takes a moment to gather his wits and his personality, which indicates that he had been unnerved during the prior events with Laurent. The lack of anger displayed when Lexius commands Laurent's punishment provides evidence that Lexius enjoyed the rendezvous. Laurent's pride at being punished results from his belief that it sets him apart from the others. He feels it gives him strength because in order to be punished, he must rebel, which is a display of his power. Laurent glories in Lexius watching due to his desire but also because he is giving Lexius an example of a good slave.

The climate of the banquet is used as a further description of the attitude of the realm. Punishments and sex are the totality of the entertainment provided and rape is practiced repeatedly. It is interesting that this is a garden where male slaves are provided to satisfy the desires of the lords. It raises the question of whether there is also a Garden of Female Delights or if all of the lords enjoy men's flesh. The slaves are treated much like the women of the Harem in the fact that they are prohibited pleasure and their bodies are used as vessels for the sexual gratification of the lords with no regard to the slaves' sexual needs.



Laurent: The Great Royal Presence

Laurent: The Great Royal Presence Summary

The grooms lead Laurent into a chamber with many other slaves, most of which display the same marks of punishment as Laurent has from the whip. A phallus is inserted into his anus and his body is oiled. Lexius appears to finish dressing him. Laurent is collared and nipple clamps are applied. The slaves are made to squat down as near the ground as possible while maintaining their balance and then are placed in line, with Laurent behind Tristan. The slaves are led forward into a garden.

The Sultan enters with servants and begins surveying his slaves. The slaves begin to moan and sway to display their passion for the Sultan. Laurent joins in the foray, terrified that he will not be chosen. When the Sultan comes closer, he examines Tristan closely. At a motion, Tristan is led away; he has been chosen. Laurent is happy for Tristan but begins to cry, afraid he will not be chosen. The Sultan is next to Laurent now and wipes his tears. Since his fingers are so close, Laurent dares to kiss them. Laurent is chosen as well and paired with Tristan and the two follow the Sultan, his attendants and Lexius

Laurent: The Great Royal Presence Analysis

When Laurent first observes the other slaves in the chamber, he notices that many of them have also been punished, implying that Laurent is going to be punished further for his earlier indiscretion. When he realizes that this is not the case, he resumes mocking Lexius about his desires. His insolence shows that he wants to be master instead of slave. The slaves are made to assume the most subservient posture imaginable, obviously to further instill into their mind the greatness of the man they will encounter.

Although Laurent is happy that Tristan has been chosen, he is still devastated for himself, lest he not be chosen. It has become apparent to Laurent at this point that the only person whose opinion matters in this realm is the Sultan, and he wants to obtain a high opinion of himself from the Sultan. There is extreme irony in Laurent and Tristan being chosen out of the multitudes available to the Sultan's disposal, reminiscent of Elena's desire on the ship to distinguish herself. Also, it is ironic because Laurent feels in the garden that he has distinguished himself by being punished, but now he realizes that true discernment is the Sultan's notice.



Laurent: The Royal Bedchamber

Laurent: The Royal Bedchamber Summary

Laurent and Tristan, the only slaves chosen, are led into the Sultan's bedchamber, which is decorated with slaves. As the Sultan explores the welts on Laurent's back, a result of his whipping, Laurent is deeply ashamed. His shame escalates to the point of tears when he is forced to march across the room and back as a display, but the Sultan wipes his tears. As Tristan is forced through the same procedure, Laurent has the opportunity to observe that the Sultan is youthful, handsome, pleasant and not proud. Next, Tristan and Laurent play a game in which Lexius rolls a ball across the floor and the boys chase it, still in their submissive squatting position, and retrieve it with their hands tied behind their backs. In each round, the loser is whipped.

Tristan wins four of the five rounds and on the fifth, Laurent sobs for pain and shame. Once more, the Sultan wipes Laurent's tears and leads Laurent and Tristan to his bed. Lexius positions Laurent and Tristan mouth to penis where they are signaled to orally pleasure one another. After they simultaneously climax, they are separated. Laurent is laid on his back and the Sultan kisses Laurent, probing his mouth to taste Tristan's semen, licking it all out, bringing Laurent the realization that the Sultan likes men's ejaculation. Tristan mounts the Sultan from behind and enters him anally while Laurent thrusts his penis between the Sultan's legs. Once Tristan and Laurent climax again, Laurent is turned onto his stomach, the Sultan enters him anally, and Tristan begins thrusting into the Sultan's anus again.

Laurent: The Royal Bedchamber Analysis

The fact that Laurent and Tristan are the only slaves chosen is reminiscent of Elena's decision on the ship to distinguish herself since Laurent and Tristan have obviously gotten the Sultan's attention in a positive way. Laurent's fear of displeasing the Sultan displays the power that the Sultan exudes. He is a man of presence. He is confident but not arrogant, and Laurent recognizes that this is true power. Laurent is usually rebellious and proud but is humbled in the company of this great man. Laurent's pride is manifested slightly in his shame at being on display both in the march across the room and in the game that he and Tristan are forced to play.

The game gives a clear example of the animalistic treatment of the slaves in the Sultanate. They are pitted against one another and forced to retrieve a ball with their teeth, similar to a dog playing catch with its owner. They must flaunt their bodies and prowess for the delight of the Sultan. The Sultan obviously enjoys men. The fact that he enjoys them immensely is displayed in many ways. He delights in their game. He also luxuriates in being a voyeur, watching the men pleasure each other. When he engages in sex with them, he receives pleasure from all aspects. He likes the taste of semen,

and he appreciates entering men anally and being entered anally, unlike the lords in the garden who are only concerned with their own release.



Laurent: More Secret Lessons

Laurent: More Secret Lessons Summary

Lexius motions for Laurent to follow him out of the room, leaving Tristan with the Sultan. Lexius tells him that all of the men that the Sultan was given to choose from are new; yet the Sultan chose both Tristan and Laurent. Laurent now chooses Lexius who asks him to be gentle. Laurent forces Lexius to orally pleasure him. Then he lifts Lexius and anally enters him. Laurent whips Lexius and positions himself as Master in their relationship.

Laurent demands that Lexius call for Tristan but Lexius does not want to serve anyone but Laurent. Laurent once more threatens to run away with Lexius and insists that Lexius send for Tristan, which he finally does. Once Tristan arrives, he and Laurent discuss many things, such as the Sultan and Nicolas, Tristan's former Master that he loved. Tristan no longer misses Nicolas, and he loves the Sultanate because it makes him feel less lost. Slaves at the Sultanate are nothing but bodies, pleasure and feeling and because they are all nothing, they are all connected, creating a new order. Tristan feels that Laurent is disturbing this order by mastering Lexius.

Laurent persuades Tristan to examine Lexius as a slave, and Tristan admits that Lexius has the potential to be a good slave. Tristan whips Lexius, and then as he enters Lexius anally, Laurent orally pleasures Lexius. After they all climax, Laurent and Tristan discuss their plans to teach Lexius how to be a good slave. Lexius then tells the slaves that they pleased the Sultan so much that they will perform in the Sultan's garden in the morning, chasing the ball. As they need sleep to be able to perform, Lexius leads them toward the garden to be bound to the crosses that are their beds. On the way, four lords approach carrying two rolled up carpets. Laurent wonders why they do not have servants assisting them, but realizes what is happening when Tristan yells "No!" Unfortunately, it is too late, they are completely surrounded.

Laurent: More Secret Lessons Analysis

Lexius' conversion from master to slave is brought to a climax here when he leads Laurent to his room for a repetition of earlier in the day. It is now obvious that he liked what occurred and desires to be mastered. The role reversal that Lexius and Laurent have completed foreshadows their futures in the end of the book. Tristan also masters Lexius. Although he is conflicted at first, ultimately Tristan's desire to be master serves as evidence of Laurent's earlier declaration that everyone has both desires surging in them.

Laurent's devotion to his friends is shown when he asks for Tristan to be called to the bedchamber. He enjoys talking to his friend, and he allows him to help train Lexius. Tristan's acceptance of what he refers to as the new order in this land shows his



flexibility and the overwhelming power of the Sultanate. Tristan's discussion about Nicolas foreshadows their future encounters. Laurent threatens to run away with Lexius, which is repetitious from their last encounter and foreshadows the next event. The Sultan's pleasure and his choice of Tristan and Laurent for his games reflect upon Elena's discussion with Laurent about being distinguished. The lords approaching with rolled up carpets at the end of the chapter is odd but the tone changes to being ominous with Tristan's distress.



Beauty: Into the Arms of Fate

Beauty: Into the Arms of Fate Summary

Beauty awakes in Inanna's bedchamber to persistent knocking at the door. Terrified, she waits until the knocking ceases before waking Inanna. As Beauty prepares to leave, Inanna embraces her passionately and the pair kisses. Through a mutual determined look, they both seem to understand that this will not be their only encounter, that they will find a way to be together again.

Beauty runs through the palace as fast and far from Inanna as possible so that Inanna will not be implicated in the affair. Beauty searches for the grooms, knowing that they will be aware that she has not maintained her position throughout the night, but as a slave, she will not be expected to verbalize anything. When she thinks of the possibility of Lexius questioning her whereabouts during the night, she determines that she will not reveal Inanna in her disobedience, no matter what punishments may be meted out.

Beauty looks ahead to see several lords approaching her. When they chase her, she wonders why they do not send for the grooms. The lords catch her and wrap her in a shroud. They carry her out of the palace, through the marketplace and onto a ship.

Beauty: Into the Arms of Fate Analysis

When Beauty awakes to hear knocking at the door, she is terrified. Inanna is also terrified when she is informed. The great danger that the two will be in if their rendezvous is discovered is apparent in their mutual reactions. Although Beauty is new in the land and does not know the customs as clearly as Inanna, she has already managed to grasp the restraints placed on women, particularly wives of the Harem. She displays this knowledge as she attempts to place as much distance as possible between Inanna and herself before being caught. Her desire to protect Inanna suggests that Beauty has learned to love.

Beauty's intellect is shown here, perhaps for the first time. She knows that she will be caught and acknowledged as having disobeyed orders, but she is anxious to protect Inanna because she knows that she will not be verbally questioned. She cannot prevent her own punishment but by alienating herself through distance from Inanna, her secret will not be found out because the customs of the Sultanate prevent slaves from speaking. She does recognize that Lexius may speak to her and punish her but this excites her due to her attraction for Lexius.

When Beauty is finally found, it is by several lords who overtake her and kidnap her. This foreshadows her leaving the land and parallels the beginning of the book when she was kidnapped from the Queen's realm and brought to the Sultanate. It is unfortunate that she is kidnapped directly after finding love and this suggests that love is not probable for Beauty in the near future.

Laurent: Decision for Lexius

Laurent: Decision for Lexius Summary

Tristan shouts that he does not want to be rescued, enraging the rescuers, which include the Captain of the Queen's Guard and Nicolas, Tristan's former Master. The men restrain Lexius and command Tristan and Laurent to lie on the carpets. Laurent is worried about the danger for Lexius if he is blamed for the kidnapping so Laurent agrees to be rescued only if Lexius comes with him. The men agree to Laurent's conditions, but once Laurent and Lexius are on the carpet, they hold Laurent down and advise Lexius to move. When Lexius remains in his position, they tell him if he does not move he will be taken. Lexius does not move and he and Laurent are rolled into the rug together. The men carry their bundles away.

Laurent: Decision for Lexius Analysis

Tristan does not want to leave the Sultanate, even though Nicolas, his former master and love, arrives to rescue him. This amplifies Tristan's previous statement that he finds a higher reasoning in the Sultanate and has truly adapted to its customs. The fact that Nicolas wants to rescue Tristan foreshadows a love that Nicolas continues to harbor for Tristan. It validates Tristan's former love for his master and foreshadows a future relationship between the two men.

Laurent's insistence that Lexius accompany him portrays his regard and concern for Lexius. He refuses to leave Lexius to face the punishment for allowing two of the Sultan's slaves to be kidnapped. The guards' display treachery when they attempt to allow Lexius to escape but more importantly, this serves to show that Lexius chooses to depart the Sultanate for the Queen's realm. Lexius makes a decision to change his destiny and become a slave instead of continuing in his path as a master.



Beauty: Revelations at Sea

Beauty: Revelations at Sea Summary

In the hold of the ship at sea, Beauty is arguing with Nicolas that she did not want to be rescued. Beauty's former master, the Captain of the Guard, is also on the expedition and he leads Beauty into his cabin to inspect her body. When the Captain of the Guard spanks Beauty, she decides that she wants to belong to him again. They have sex, and afterward, the Captain forces Beauty to dance as he beats her with his belt.

Later while the rescuers are eating dinner and Tristan and Lexius are sleeping, Laurent and Beauty discuss Lexius' presence on the ship and Laurent's transformation to Master. Beauty is very attracted to Laurent but she convinces herself that she cannot possibly fall in love with him. Laurent mounts her and points out that this may be their only chance, and Beauty concedes to make love with him. Beauty wonders what will happen once they return to the Queen's realm, and she determines that she will run away and be sent to the Village if sentenced to serve in the Palace. Laurent spends the voyage mastering both Tristan and Lexius, and Beauty wonders how he will manage his conversion back to a slave.

The Captain of the Guard leads Beauty to his room and reveals a chest containing dresses and finery. The Captain tells her that she is being released to her father because her parents, Queen Eleanor's greatest allies, are furious that the Queen allowed Beauty to be taken overseas. They demanded that she be returned home where she will be married immediately. Beauty does not want to return to palace life and begs for a reprieve, but the Captain tells her she must dress herself immediately. Beauty lies naked and cries all night until Laurent enters the cabin to assist her in dressing. She finds the clothing uncomfortable and confining and Laurent pities her situation.

Beauty: Revelations at Sea Analysis

All three slaves are angry and unhappy at their rescue from the Sultanate, proving that they have adapted very happily. They all bring things with them from the Sultanate as well. Beauty continually thinks of Inanna and she has learned to be more forward. Laurent has learned to be a Master as well as a slave. Tristan no longer loves Nicolas. Nicolas is angry at Tristan's indifference toward him because Nicolas requested that he be allowed to rescue Tristan. Nicolas is obviously still in love with Tristan and he attempts to hide his hurt by projecting anger and indifference at Tristan. The display of Nicolas' feelings foreshadows his and Tristan's future relationship in the Village. Tristan's love has been extinguished because Nicolas did not punish him for his refusal to leave the Sultanate, and Tristan will only love a strong master.



Beauty and Laurent's coupling foreshadows their future together but it also is a climax concerning their attraction for one another throughout the book. Laurent's transformation to Master is complicated by his approach to the Queen's realm where he will not have the opportunity to be anything but a slave. This foreshadows his punishment at the hands of the Queen. The Captain of the Guards presents the chest of finery to Beauty, announcing her return to royalty. Her sorrow to leave slavery and her disregard for clothing foreshadows her future with her suitors. Laurent's refusal to kiss her announces his acceptance of the difference in status, ironic and amplified because he made love to her not long before the announcement. Beauty's ascension to the deck is symbolic of her ascending to a higher social status, from slave to royalty.



Laurent: Judgment of the Queen

Laurent: Judgment of the Queen Summary

Although Laurent has seen other slaves released, he is very upset to see Beauty return to her realm. After she is gone, the slaves are bound, sitting with their hands behind their back and their wrists tied to their ankles. Then he realizes that they are rebels because they rebelled at being rescued. They are carried through the Village and the Marketplace to the Palace and presented to the Queen for judgment. The Queen asks who Lexius is and why he is present before her. The Captain of the Guard tells the Queen of his refusal to save himself. The Queen inspects Lexius who begs to serve her, and she decides to sentence him to two weeks in the kitchen before allowing him to be brought to her chamber as her personal slave.

Finally, the Queen addresses Laurent and Tristan angrily. She sentences both of them to one year in the pony stables where they will live as horses and pull carts for the townspeople. At the end of the year, they will be sold on the auction block for the remainder of their time in her service. As they are carried to the stables, Tristan cries and Laurent is horrified.

Laurent: Judgment of the Queen Analysis

Laurent's extreme sorrow at seeing Beauty leave the Queen's realm emphasizes his feelings for her and foreshadows their future relationship. The binding of the slaves as rebels foreshadows their extreme punishments as such. Laurent's skills as a Master are validated when Lexius is sentenced to serve the Queen, a high honor. It is very ironic that the punishment declared by the Queen is being a pony. First, they will be treated like animals, much like the Sultanate but with more degradation. Also, on the ship, Beauty worries about Laurent's return to being a slave. He has now been sentenced not only to being a slave but to being the lowest of the slaves. The contradiction from going from Master to a slave of the slaves is perhaps the most extreme in the book.

Laurent: First Day Among the Ponies

Laurent: First Day Among the Ponies Summary

When Laurent and Tristan are taken to the stables, they meet Gareth, their groom, who explains a little about pony life, such as the fact that they are proud animals. The Captain then tells the slaves that being a pony is not just another aspect of their slavery but a "way of life unto itself". At Gareth's command, Tristan and Laurent march to the last stall where they are instructed to bend at the waist and lap the water in the trough. As Gareth grooms his new charges, their dinner is brought to them. They are directed to devour the hot soup as a horse rather than a human. They are given boots that have horseshoes attached to the soles. Phalluses with horsetails dangling on the outside are inserted in their anuses. They are harnessed and bitted, and nipple clamps and cock rings are applied to their bodies. Gareth polishes Laurent and Tristan and attaches a bell to their penises before attaching them to a team of four other ponies.

Laurent is dejected under this new form of degradation. They must act like ponies, stamping their feet and tossing their heads. After the day's work is complete, Laurent and Tristan are unharnessed and fed. Pillows are laid in their trough so that they must lean over a rail to sleep. Gareth tells them that they are both fine ponies before leading them out of their stall. They march as he leads them to the recreation yard where they are told they must stay on their hands and knees and remain quiet.

Laurent notices that there are many other ponies in the recreation yard. The other ponies surround him and rape him repeatedly. First, a pretty boy takes him anally as another uses his mouth while still another begins to orally pleasure Laurent. Laurent finds that the pretty boy's name is Jerard. Laurent spanks Jerard and tells him that next time he will ask first. He then commands Jerard to wash Laurent's penis and then orally pleasure him.

Laurent: First Day Among the Ponies Analysis

In the pony stables, the slaves are treated like animals. Although Laurent and Tristan were treated like animals in the Sultanate, the only animalistic characteristic expected of them was their silence. As a pony, they must act the role they are given. This is the most animalistic treatment that is presented in the book. They receive and eat their food as horses. They sleep like horses. The Captain of the Guard foreshadows this new lifestyle when he tells Laurent and Tristan that it is another way of life. Laurent displays his feelings for Lexius and Beauty when he asks the Captain of the Guard to inform him of any gossip regarding them, foreshadowing his future relationship with Beauty.

Rape occurs as soon as Tristan and Laurent are released into the recreation yard. The ponies are not allowed to touch each other in their stalls or while working so this time period is the only in which they are allowed an outlet for their sexual frustrations.



Laurent has been trained to be used sexually so that this invasion does not present itself negatively to him. He is happy to have sexual contact. This scene also presents a parallelism to the banquet scene in the Garden of Male Delights at the Sultanate. There, too, the slaves were repeatedly raped. The main difference is that the ponies in the recreation yard pleasure Laurent as well as receiving pleasure. Jerard is the first pony to anally rape Laurent, but the roles are reversed when Laurent rapes him. Laurent converts himself back into a Master with Jerard as his slave.



Beauty: Courtly Life in All Its Glory

Beauty: Courtly Life in All Its Glory Summary

Beauty is in her parlor at her father's palace interviewing a prince that is petitioning her hand in marriage. Beauty tells the prince to bolt the door and place a stool in the center of the room. He is told to undress and to stand on the stool for inspection. The prince is astonished at this idea but does as Beauty commands.

She inserts a candle in the prince's anus and forces him to hold it there. As she whips him, the prince declares that he loves Beauty. Beauty unhooks the lower part of her dress and commands the prince to orally pleasure her. Afterward, they have intercourse. Then, she dresses and tells him to do the same. When she declares that she will not marry him, he begs to be her slave but Beauty wants to be a slave, not a Master. Beauty weeps, desiring slavery again. She cannot rise to the status of Master like Laurent did. As she walks through the village, Beauty thinks of her villagers' erotic desires.

Beauty: Courtly Life in All Its Glory Analysis

It is obvious that Beauty has not adjusted to her royal life because she is so desperate to be a slave again, wishing that she could return to Queen Eleanor's realm. She longs for something from her past as a slave. Beauty attempts to master the prince but she is not happy with her reversal because she wants to be a slave. This foreshadows her relationship with Laurent.



Laurent: Life Among the Ponies

Laurent: Life Among the Ponies Summary

Although it takes awhile, Laurent becomes accustomed to life as a pony, and he and Tristan are requested often. Because ponies are forbidden to climax in public, villagers often manually stimulate the ponies' penises, resulting in punishment upon climax. Laurent is punished for this by having his hands and head locked into a pillory for hours. Then a mixture of flour and honey is applied to his butt, genitals, nipples, belly and chest before he is sent to pull the street sweeper's cart for hours. Back at the stables, he is pilloried again and the slaves are allowed to rape him anally and orally. The punishment is even worse though when Laurent is caught nuzzling with Tristan in his stall. During a day of work, Laurent is made to wear a phallus covered in an amber-colored liquid and inserted in his anus, causing profuse itching. When he gets back to the stables, he promises to be a good pony so Gareth dips a phallus in oil and inserts it in Laurent's anus repeatedly to relieve the itching sensation.

Laurent and Tristan are both happy being ponies. Tristan's happiness dissipates, however, when Nicolas begins loitering around the stables. After he interrogates Tristan about his life as a pony, Nicolas breaks down and admits that he loves Tristan and the months of separation have been agonizing. They orally pleasure one another and decide to be secret lovers. When Tristan returns to the stables, he tells Laurent what occurred and that Nicolas plans to petition the Queen to buy Tristan at the end of his year as a pony. The Captain of the Guard visits the boys, and Laurent learns that Lexius serves the Queen daily and is becoming a good slave although the Queen is hard on him.

Laurent wonders why he loves his servants but never his Masters. Then he realizes that is not completely true because he loves Gareth, who is always near and considerate. He loves Jerard too and he loves whipping the other ponies, but he dreams of whipping Gareth. Although he never whips him, he does have a sexual relationship with Gareth. Regardless of this relationship, Gareth remains a stern master.

As the year nears its end, the Queen agrees to allow Nicolas to purchase Tristan. Laurent hopes that he will remain a pony. He is worried what will happen if he is sold at auction. One evening as Laurent and Jerard cuddle in the recreation yard, the Captain of the Guard enters. He bows to Laurent and addresses "Your Majesty". Laurent is devastated and does not want to leave slavery. His clothes are presented to him in the stables, and after he dresses, Gareth tearfully bids farewell to the prince. One of the Queen's advisers informs them that Laurent is no longer a prince. Laurent's father has died and he must return to his kingdom to rule as king. Laurent is angry with his father for dying and forcing him to return to royalty.



Laurent: Life Among the Ponies Analysis

Laurent's acceptance of pony life is very uncharacteristic as he is usually so rebellious. This is demonstrated in his shame at being punished, although he has always been proud of being the rebellious slave in the past. The nature of the punishments reinforces the animalistic treatment of the ponies. This also seems to be contradictory to Laurent's proud nature. Regardless of its uncharacteristic nature, Laurent loves being a pony and wants to continue his slavery in the stables.

Many relationships are resolved in this chapter. Through Nicolas' hiring Tristan as a pony, they have been reunited and Tristan's future as a slave has been resolved. Lexius is referred to for the last time in the book as being a good slave in service of the Queen. Laurent has completely Mastered Jerard and has a sexual relationship with Gareth. The only unresolved relationship, between Laurent and Beauty, is foreshadowed for the last time when Laurent questions the Captain about her and decides that he does not want to know when her marriage is a certainty.

The tone when the Captain of the Guard enters the recreation yard is ominous and foreboding. Because it has never happened before, Laurent dreads the results. Laurent's devastation at learning that he must be royalty again draws a parallel to Beauty's reaction. The irony in Laurent's case is that in the beginning of the book, he mentions his desire to be a royal again. The depth of this sorrow is revealed in his reaction to his father's death. He is angry with his father for dying and he displays more sorrow at no longer being a sex slave than at his father's death.



Moment of Truth

Moment of Truth Summary

Very annoyed with wearing clothes, King Laurent attends a quick conference with Queen Eleanor in which he is given several mementos from the Village and the Palace. He rushes home, arriving in two days. He organizes everything that has gone astray since his father's death. He punishes crimes and rewards services, proving himself the powerful monarch the kingdom desperately needs. After the hectic first several weeks conclude, he realizes that he misses being a slave but, as Lexius would say, it is not his destiny. Laurent loves being king. His advisors approach him one day to suggest that he marry and reproduce immediately in order to insure succession to the throne. He agrees and asks who the eligible princesses are, but before he can receive a response, he suggests Princess Beauty. His advisors agree that she is the best choice but she refuses all suitors. Laurent ignores their suggestions to write to her father officially and packs for his journey, including several trinkets from Queen Eleanor.

King Laurent arrives unannounced to the pleasure of Princess Beauty's father, but Laurent is warned that she rejects all suitors. Laurent is confident and tells the King to "leave it to [him]." Laurent enters Beauty's parlor, sneaks behind her and covers her eyes. Beauty, outraged, demands to know who does such a thing. When she hears that it is the suitor she will not refuse, she recognizes Laurent's voice, and they share a passionate kiss in greeting. Upon Laurent's command, Beauty tells her father that she will marry Laurent. When she returns to her parlor, Laurent tells her to bolt the door so that he can prepare her for their journey. Beauty is very excited as he attaches clamps to her nipples and vaginal lips. Then he applies a bit of the amber-colored liquid from the stables to Beauty's clitoris. Laurent promises that he will ravish her as soon as they arrive at his palace.

Laurent mounts Beauty in front of him on his horse, excited that she is to belong only to him. Laurent knows that he will be Master, and she will be slave. During their journey home, Laurent panics when he realizes how much he is going to love her. Beauty is happy that she will be his forever. He tells her "and we shall live happily ever after, as the fairy tales say" to which she replies "yes, happily ever after, and a good deal happier, I think, than anyone else could ever guess."

Moment of Truth Analysis

Laurent's immediate submersion into court life shows his strength of character and his pride. He intends to be a good king. His longing for slavery parallels Beauty's longing for slavery. His immediate thoughts of Beauty upon the suggestion of marriage prove his feelings for her and lead to the resolution of their relationship. His arrogance concerning Beauty's acceptance of his proposal is characteristic of Laurent's pride throughout the majority of the book. His bringing the trinkets to his proposal to Beauty shows his

awareness of the reason she refuses the other suitors. Laurent is aware of Beauty's desire to be mastered. The book concludes with Beauty and Laurent's confidence in their perfect happiness with each other and the resolution of their relationship. The phrase "happily ever after" serves to remind the reader that this is a fairy tale and to end this fairy tale properly.



Characters

Beauty

Beauty is one of the main characters in the book and is known as Sleeping Beauty from the fairy tale. The beautiful blond princess serves in Queen Eleanor's court as a naked princess but is banished to the Village for disobedience. During a raid on the Village, she is kidnapped and taken across the sea to the Sultan's lands. There she is given to the Harem of Beautiful and Virtuous Wives for examination. She is rescued from her bonds by Inanna, and the two women make love. When she leaves Inanna's room in the morning, she is rescued by men from Queen Eleanor's realm. On the journey home, she and Laurent become lovers. The last night at sea, she is devastated by the news that she is being released from slavery and must return to her parents. Returned to royalty, she rejects all suitors, finally mastering one who she sends to be a slave for Queen Eleanor. She is thrilled when Laurent arrives to propose and she accepts him hurriedly. The couple plan to marry and live happily ever after.

Beauty has never been in love but reveals to Laurent that she desires to fall in love. She is interested in Lexius and thinks she may learn to love him. She falls in love with Inanna but must leave her when she is rescued. Laurent is very attracted to Beauty, and she is attracted to him as well. Although Beauty tells herself that she cannot fall in love with him, eventually she comes to love Laurent. She enjoys slavery and is very submissive. She has no desire to be a Master. This is perfect for her and Laurent's relationship since he enjoys being the Master. She possesses some pride but very little. Her parents are Queen Eleanor's greatest allies.

Laurent

Laurent is the other main character, a naked prince serving Lady Elvera in Queen Eleanor's court. He is sentenced to the Punishment Cross in the Village when he runs away. He is kidnapped during the raid and taken to the Sultanate. To avoid being bound to a cross in the Garden of Male Delights, he taunts his Master, Lexius, who takes Laurent to his bedchamber. Laurent overpowers Lexius and sets himself up as Master. Laurent is bound to the cross and whipped during a banquet, at the end of which he is taken down and raped repeatedly. He then is presented with many others before the Sultan who chooses Laurent as one of his companions for the night. After sex with Tristan and the Sultan, Laurent is taken to Lexius' room where he and Tristan master Lexius. On their return to the garden, they are rescued against their will, bringing Lexius along. During the journey to Queen Eleanor's realm, Laurent masters Lexius and Tristan and couples with Beauty. The Queen sentences him to a year as a pony, which he learns to love. One day, the Captain of the Guard brings Laurent the news that his father is dead and he is King. After restoring order, Laurent is told that he needs a wife, and he immediately seeks out Beauty. Upon obtaining her, he plans a happy life together.



Laurent is proud, arrogant and rebellious. He is constantly punished but this gives him pride because it distinguishes him from the other slaves. He is easily able to assume a position as Master or slave and enjoys both as well. Laurent is very capable as a monarch. He is handsome and well endowed according to Beauty.

Tristan

Tristan is a handsome, blonde naked prince. He is also sentenced to the Village and kidnapped. He undergoes most of the same events as Laurent, with the exception of the first encounter with Lexius and the addition of personal time with the Sultan. He is in love with his Master, Nicolas the Queen's Chronicler, and mourns him when he is kidnapped. When he adjusts to the Sultanate, he decides that he is no longer in love with Nicolas. He rebels when Nicolas rescues him, emotionally wounding Nicolas. Later, as a pony, he is reunited with Nicolas and their relationship is renewed.

Lexius

Lexius is the Sultan's Chief Steward of the Grooms. He chooses Laurent, Beauty, Tristan and Elena to perfect. He is the only person from the Sultanate who believes that sex slaves are capable of higher thought processes. He experiences a role reversal with Laurent and Tristan, becoming their slave. When they are rescued, he does not save himself and he is taken with them. He begs to serve Queen Eleanor. She sentences him to two weeks in the kitchen as a precursor to serving her.

Inanna

Inanna is one of the women in the Harem of Beautiful and Virtuous Wives. Because of the other wives respect for her, Beauty believes that she is the Sultana. She is the most beautiful of the wives and has violet eyes. She rescues Beauty from a niche in the wall and the two make love. Inanna reveals to Beauty her genital mutilation. She is brave to risk punishment for a night of passion and seems determined to do so again before Beauty is rescued.

Nicolas

Nicolas is the Queen's Chronicler and Tristan's Master in the Village. He joins the expedition to rescue Beauty after obtaining permission to rescue Tristan as well. His feelings are hurt when Tristan does not want to be rescued. Nicolas is in love with Tristan and eventually, he admits this and the two reunite. He learns to be the strict Master that Tristan needs.



Captain of the Guard

The Captain of the Guard is Beauty's Master in the Village. He is part of the expedition to rescue Beauty. He is friendly with Laurent and Tristan, and he misses Beauty greatly when she is restored to her crown. He is handsome and well-endowed. He is also very loyal to the Queen.

Jerard

Jerard is a pretty boy in the pony stables who rapes Laurent the first day in the recreation yard. Later, Laurent rapes him in retribution and masters him. He is solely Laurent's for the rest of Laurent's time in the stables. He petitions Gareth for the privilege of being teamed with Laurent and Tristan often.

Gareth

Gareth is the head groom in the stables, given special charge of Laurent and Tristan because the Captain of the Guard says that he is the best groom. He introduces each new instrument and seems to care about his ponies. Laurent learns to love him and the two become lovers.

Sultan

The Sultan is very handsome and young. He is not arrogant and seems casual in the power he exudes. His presence makes Laurent and Tristan realize their own insignificance and strive to please him. He likes men's ejaculation.

The Prince Courting Beauty

This unnamed prince is mastered by Beauty and then his proposal is rejected. He is a very handsome blond with violet-blue eyes and broad shouldered. He goes to Queen Eleanor's realm and begs to serve as a naked prince.



Objects/Places

Sultan's Palace/Sultanate

The Sultan's Palace is where Beauty, Laurent, Tristan, Elena, Dimitri and Rosalynd are taken when they are kidnapped from the Queen's realm.

Niches

Niches are located in the walls in the Sultan's Palace and are decorated with bound slaves. Beauty is situated in a niche after her afternoon with the Harem, and it is from her Niche that Inanna rescues her.

Inanna's Bedchamber

Inanna's bedchamber is where Beauty is led when Inanna rescues her from her niche. It is where they make love.

Harem of Beautiful and Virtuous Wives

The Harem of Beautiful and Virtuous Wives are a group of beautiful women who are allowed no sexual contact, save serving the Sultan. Their genitals have been mutilated so that they receive no pleasure. They enjoy inspecting Beauty's whole genitals. Inanna is a member of the Harem.

Garden of Male Delights

The Garden of Male Delights is a garden in the Sultanate where male slaves are bound to crosses and their bodies are used for the lords' entertainment. This is where Laurent and Tristan are placed.

Lexius' Bedchamber

Lexius' Bedchamber is the only place where he speaks to his slaves and allows them to speak. It is also where Laurent makes his transition to Master and Lexius makes his transition to slave.

Sultan's Bedchamber

The Sultan's bedchamber is ornamented with slaves and a fountain. It is where Laurent and Tristan are taken to pleasure the Sultan when they are chosen in his garden.



The Village

The Village is the area in Queen Eleanor's realm where the commoners live and where many slaves, such as Beauty, Laurent and Tristan are sentenced to serve as punishment.

Pony Stables

The Pony Stables is where Laurent and Tristan are sentenced to serve upon their return to Queen Eleanor's realm.

Recreation Yard

The recreation yard is a small fenced area that ponies are allowed to use for a few hours daily when they are not working. This is where Laurent first encounters Jerard.

Punishment Cross

The Punishment Cross is a device used to punish runaway slaves, such as Laurent. The slave is mounted and beaten in view of the Village.

Amber-colored Liquid

The amber-colored liquid is a punishment tool used in the stables that causes extreme itching wherever it is applied. Laurent also uses this on Beauty for their journey back to his palace.

Trinkets from the Queen

The Queen presents Laurent with trinkets upon his release from slavery. These are devices from the Palace and the Village that are used on slaves. Laurent uses several of these on Beauty for their journey.



Themes

Seeking Love

Beauty has never been able to fall in love with her master and she wonders how it would feel to love one's master. She decides that she would enjoy loving someone and being loved and seeks love throughout the book. She shows an immediate interest in Lexius and determines that she loves him by their second encounter. She declares that she loves the Harem when they are pleasuring her. Both of these declarations result in naught. Beauty displays feelings of love during her encounter with Inanna and in her attempts to protect Inanna. After she is removed from the Sultanate, she frequently thinks of Inanna. Ironically, Beauty does not declare herself in love with Inanna who is the first person she displays love for. On the voyage home, Beauty and Laurent have sexual encounters, but she decides that she could never love Laurent. She opposes her previous statement when she requests that the prince tell Laurent that she remembers and loves him. Her wish for love is finally fulfilled when Laurent proposes to Beauty and the two set off to love and be loved for the rest of their lives.

Laurent questions love also. He thinks that he loved his Mistress, Lady Elvera, until he discusses love with Beauty and determines that he has not felt the emotion that she describes. Later, in the stables, he once more ponders love and his ability to love his slaves but not his Masters. Laurent confesses love for Lexius, Tristan and Jerard. The only Master he admits to loving is Gareth who is kind and affectionate. Ultimately, his search for love is concluded in his marriage to Beauty.

In the beginning of the book, Tristan mourns leaving his love, Nicolas. With time at the Sultanate, he begins to view life differently and no longer feels that he loves Nicolas. He rebels when Nicolas attempts to rescue him. Nicolas nurses this hurt and displays disregard for Tristan as a result. Once Tristan is sentenced to the pony stables, Nicolas is able to see him more often. Eventually, Nicolas hires Tristan and the two are reconciled. At the end of Tristan's sentencing, Nicolas has been given leave from the Queen to purchase Tristan and the two plan to be together indefinitely.

Pride

Laurent has been raised as a prince and royalty are generally instilled with pride. This upbringing is contradicted by his training as a pleasure slave, but Laurent still manages to present himself as a proud individual throughout his journey. Laurent exhibits pride in being displayed on the Punishment Cross because it distinguishes him. He enjoys presenting himself as rebellious because he feels it shows his strength and disregard for the punishment that is an inevitable result of rebellion. Laurent shows his pride in punishment again in the Garden of Male Delights when he is proud of his whipping, separating him from the other slaves on crosses. His encounter with the Sultan later



causes him shame through the evidence of his punishment. It is also ironic that he regards his punishments in the pony stables with shame.

Laurent also shows his pride when reminiscing about the foreign princes' visits and being made to serve them. He is ashamed when this occurs because he knows that he will one day be returned to his royal position and be required to engage in politics with these same people. Upon his father's death, Laurent is released from slavery to be King. King Laurent is a very capable monarch and shows his pride when courting Princess Beauty. Beauty's father warns Laurent that she refuses all suitors but Laurent tells him not to worry. He also shows his arrogance and pride when he announces himself to Beauty as the suitor she will not refuse.

Homosexual Erotica

Homosexual erotica is presented repeatedly throughout this novel. It is actually more common than heterosexual erotica. When Laurent reminisces about life in the Village, he refers to the Punishment Cross and describes the phallus that was inserted in his anus. He also mentions the soldier that provides him with a village girl for sex. As Laurent is having sex with the village girl, the soldier kisses him. Laurent's encounters with Lexius are homoerotic since they are between two men. This theme is repeated in the Garden of Male Delights, in the Sultan's room, in the pony stables and at Nicolas' house.

A slight variation of this theme occurs between Beauty and the Harem. When Beauty is presented to the Harem, the women all pleasure her. The only woman that refrains is the Sultana, Inanna. Later, Inanna guides Beauty to her bedchamber where the two engage in sexual acts that are likely forbidden.

This purpose of the large quantity of homoerotic content serves to illustrate the sexual experimentation and freedom that is present in the culture. It also enforces the idea of sexuality being the only purpose for the slaves. The slaves do not seem to regard their partners as male or female. Their only concern is the pleasure that they give and that they receive.



Style

Point of View

The point of view in this novel varies from chapter to chapter. The chapters titled with Laurent's name are told from Laurent's perspective in the form of a first person narrative. The chapters titled with Beauty's name are relayed through a limited third person narrator who knows the actions that occur and Beauty's thoughts but cannot provide the thoughts of other characters.

The text of the novel is mostly exposition but there is some dialogue present throughout the book. This lack of verbalization throughout directs the focus to the sexual relationships and the ideas of love that are present. Many of these relationships, along with the thoughts that the reader is privy to, provide the foreshadowing that occurs during the story.

Laurent and Beauty's thoughts and feelings about other characters seem to guide the action of the plot a great deal and without access to these thoughts, the elements of the story would be very abrupt, with the actions occurring without any evidence of their approach. Nearly all of the foreshadowing and irony utilized in the book are presented through Laurent and Beauty's thoughts rather than their words.

Setting

The novel is set on Earth but it is set in a past time. It is set probably in the middle ages, which is when most fairy tales were set. The Queen's realm is located in Europe, likely England or France as many of the characters have fair complexions. In Queen Eleanor's realm, two locations are emphasized. The Palace is where the nobility live while the Village is the home of the commoners and the punished slaves. The distinction between these two locations serves to show the time period through the clear division of the social classes. It appears that the language spoken in Queen Eleanor's realm is English since the book is written in English.

The Sultanate is located in the Middle East, likely Saudi Arabia or somewhere nearby. It is described as a desert and overseas from Queen Eleanor's realm. The language spoken is not the same as is spoken in Queen Eleanor's realm and can be inferred to be an Arabic tongue of some sort.

Queen Eleanor mimics the Sultanate's sexual customs in her own realm but the rest of the world is not as preoccupied with sex as these two nations. This is evidenced by the princes who visit the Queen's realm and are fascinated with the slaves, not understanding how they are made to yield to servitude. The last locations visited are Beauty's home and Laurent's home. Although neither is described in detail, the necessity of clothing and the lack of mentioning pleasure slaves serves to reinforce the



fact that other realms do not practice the sexual activities that are so prevalent in Queen Eleanor's court and in the Palace of the Sultan.

Language and Meaning

The language used in this novel is generally very vulgar in terms of erotica. It is very sexually graphic and used to show the casual nature of sex in the environment described. The common usage, for example, of the word "sex" in reference to genitals seems to infer that this is the use for this part of the anatomy. The common usage of more vulgar terms, such as "cock", reinforces the casual nature of sexual relationships in the sphere. The manner in which homoerotic content is mentioned is also casual, showing itself to be a common occurrence as well.

The references to punishment and sado-masochistic sex suggest that it is regarded as acceptable sex in the world of this book. It seems to be the preferred sex contact amongst the sexual slaves due to the training they have received and they mention it with a complete disregard for the idea that it is abnormal.

The language used is very modern English. The ideas presented are not. Much of the language used enforces the idea of physical attributes being much more important than mental or emotional characteristics. Very seldom are characters' feelings described but each aspect of their physical appearance is detailed in each scene. The language used regarding their sexuality, especially in regarding oneself, is generally seen as degrading in our society but do not have the same connotations in the society indicated in the book. This is especially evident in the treatment of the word "rape" which is used repeatedly with the correct denotation, but with the feelings exhibited by the characters uncharacteristic of modern society. Although they refer to rape when they are sexually violated without their consent, they do not seem to abhor the situation but rather to luxuriate in it given certain circumstances, such as sexual deprivation.

Structure

This novel is divided into twenty-four chapters, consisting of varying lengths. Each chapter's name begins with the perspective that will be used to narrate the events, either "Laurent" or "Beauty". This is also the character that is most closely followed in the chapter. The remainder of the chapter's title refers to a summary of what occurs during the chapter. Most of the chapters detail a short amount of time but several near the end summarize longer periods. The prologue provides summaries of the first two books of this trilogy. The last chapter does not begin its title with a name like the others do and it is told from Laurent's perspective but it also concerns Beauty much more than his other chapters.

The plot is fairly complicated as the point of view jumps between Beauty and Laurent in such a way as to cause confusion about when each event is occurring in a timeline. The timeframes are a little ambiguous. Often the passed time is described as unknown but it is unclear if this time period lasts minutes or hours. A full page may describe the events



of minutes while months may be summarized in only a few pages. The frequent flashbacks to the Village and Palace life while in the Sultanate lead to confusion about the actions occurring throughout the novel. Likewise, when the slaves arrive at the Village, they frequently have flashbacks to the Sultanate. This can confuse an inattentive reader easily but overall, the novel is easy and interesting to read. It is a very interesting variation of "Sleeping Beauty" for mature readers.



Quotes

"Then we must find some way to distinguish ourselves, Laurent...I don't want to be just one of a thousand suffering little Princes and Princesses. We must see that the Sultan knows who we are." -Elena, "Laurent: Captives at Sea" p. 5

"[Laurent] is quite well stripped of the accoutrements that would make him a man in the outside world, only the better to expose the fleshly accoutrements that make him a man for my service. Imagine yourself as naked, as defenseless, as thoroughly subjugated. You might serve, too, rather than risk a gamut of even more ignominious corrections." -Lady Elvera, "Laurent: Memories of the Castle and the Village" p. 11

"I liked being condemned. I liked being this grim and frightening exhibit of folly and suffering, even as I quaked at the sounds that signaled a fresh whipping, as the tears spilled uncontrollably down my face." -Laurent, "Laurent: Memories of the Castle and the Village" p. 15

"We are only slaves here. No royalty accompanies us now. We are merely expensive and fine, like the other merchandise brought from the hold of the ships." -Beauty, "Beauty: Through the City and into the Palace" p. 28

"Those few slaves I pick, those I choose to perfect and offer to the Sultan's Court are always apprised of my aims, and my demands, and the dangers of my temper. But only in the secrecy of this chamber. In this chamber I want my methods to be understood. My expectations to be fully clarified." -Lexius, "Beauty: Mysterious Master" p. 47

"Her mind protested that she could not be invaded in this final way, that she could not be rendered so helpless...She was overcome with something like shame. But it wasn't shame. All privacy and choice had been taken from her. Not even this act was to be hers along anymore, she understood." -Beauty, "Beauty: The Rites of Purification" p. 53-54

"What have you got under that robe that you torment us like this? You're a eunuch, aren't you? I don't see any hair on your pretty face. That's what you are, aren't you?...Well, are you a eunuch? Or have you got something under those fancy robes worth ramming into me?" -Laurent, "Laurent: For the Love of the Master" p. 71-72

"You're almost too beautiful. Makes me want to sneak out of this place, with you naked, strapped over my saddle, the way your Sultan's soldiers stole me. I'd take you out to the desert, make you my servant, beat you with that thick belt of yours, as you watered the horse, fed the fire, made my supper." -Laurent, "Laurent: A Lesson in Submission" p. 86

"You took me out of my wrappings. Should I take you out of yours?" -Beauty, "Beauty: Mysterious Customs" p. 95



"What a terrible thing to be so pretty when you are sad. Sadness shouldn't be pretty."
-Beauty, "Beauty: Mysterious Customs p. 95

"The sex was mutilated! The clitoris had been cut out, and there was nothing there but a tiny smooth pad of scar tissue. And the pubic lips had been sheared to half their size, and they too were thickened with scar tissue...The little kernel of pleasure excised, yes. And the lips too. And nothing left but the portal that a man might enjoy. The filthy, selfish beast, the animal." -Beauty, "Beauty: Mysterious Customs p. 99

"She indicated herself, her hair, her body, to mean 'women', then made sweeping gestures all around to mean 'all women here' and pointed to the scarred sex inquiringly. Inanna nodded. She confirmed it with another sweeping gesture of her own: 'Yes,' she said in Beauty's own tongue, 'All...all....'" -Beauty, "Beauty: Mysterious Customs p. 99

"It is my destiny to be what I am. And I cannot change that any more than you can change yours!" -Lexius, "Laurent: The Great Royal Presence p. 117

"But you can't pick whom you serve. That's the trick. You must give yourself over to the idea of service. You must surrender to that...And each true Master or Mistress becomes all Masters and Mistresses." -Laurent, "Laurent: More Secret Lessons" p. 136

"She could see the determination in Inanna's eyes. There would be nights ahead to rival this one, no matter what the danger." -Beauty, "Beauty: Into the Arms of Fate" p. 149

"He stood trembling, but he did not raise a finger to help himself... 'Get up,' he said to Lexius. 'Or we'll take you, I swear it.' And I laughed softly to myself as I saw Lexius lie motionless and silent, unable to save himself." -Laurent, "Laurent: Decision for Lexius" p. 154

"Beauty, please! Don't you understand? It was you we were sent to rescue from the Sultan. Your father and mother are the Queen's closest allies. They heard at once of your kidnap and were outraged that the Queen let you be taken across the sea. And they demanded that you be brought back." -Captain of the Guard, "Beauty: Revelations at Sea" p. 166

"You must understand something about being a pony. It is not merely another part of your slavery. It is a way of life unto itself." -Captain of the Guard, "Laurent: First Day Among the Ponies" p. 182

"Fear is only important when you have a choice. Or some control." Gareth, "Laurent: First Day Among the Ponies" p. 187

"We're speaking a universal language of pleasure, aren't we, Prince?" -Beauty, "Beauty: Courtly Life in All It's Glory" p. 205



"Will you go? If you do, and you see the slave Prince Laurent, tell him that I remember him and I love him." -Beauty, "Beauty: Courtly Life in All It's Glory" p. 209

"Princess Beauty to you, Laurent." -Captain of the Guard, "Laurent: Life Among the Ponies" p. 227

"'Prince' is no longer the proper address for our gracious ally. Your majesty, I bring you the sad news that your father has died, and you are now the ruler of your Kingdom. The King is dead, long live the King." -Queen's Adviser, "Laurent: Life Among the Ponies p. 230

"My advisers came to me and told me I must take a wife and father a child to insure the succession... 'Princess Beauty!' I whispered. 'She would be the wisest choice without question, but she refuses all suitors.'" -Laurent/Adviser, "Moment of Truth" p. 233

"Your Lord and Master is here, the suitor you will not dare to refuse!" -Laurent, "Moment of Truth" p. 235

"'And we shall live happily ever after,' I said through my kisses, 'as the fairy tales say.' 'Yes, happily ever after,' she answered, 'and a good deal happier, I think, than anyone else could ever guess.'" -Laurent/Beauty, "Moment of Truth" p. 238



Topics for Discussion

Why is Laurent proud to be punished? When is he not proud of his punishment and why? When does Laurent show his pride in something other than his punishments and why?

What are the key characteristics of a Master? What are the key characteristics of a slave? How does Laurent exhibit characteristics of both?

Although there is sexual slavery both at the Sultanate and in the Queen's realm, the treatment of the slaves in each locale is different. Discuss the similarities and differences.

How does Beauty and Laurent's relationship evolve through their minimal encounters? How much of their relationship is advanced through their relationships with others?

Discuss the role reversal of Laurent and Lexius the first night that Laurent masters Lexius. Discuss the effects of that role reversal in their final destiny at the close of the fairy tale.

Sex and sexual organs are often referred to by words that are considered vulgar. What is the effect of these words? Are they necessary to the development of the plot? Explain.

Why do the women at the Sultanate undergo genital mutilation? Discuss the implications.

The point of view is told in first person when given from Laurent's perspective, but Beauty's perspective is provided in third person. Why is this? Should the point of view remain in first person from Beauty's perspective as well? How does this benefit the plot and the reader's experience? How does it detract from the plot and the reader's experience?