

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman

The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman: A Deep Dive into Feminist Literature and Psychological Horror

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman is much more than just a short story; it is a powerful piece of feminist literature and psychological horror that continues to resonate with readers today. First published in 1892, this semi-autobiographical work explores themes of mental illness, gender roles, and the oppressive nature of societal expectations on women. Through the vivid and unsettling imagery of the wallpaper itself, Gilman crafts a narrative that challenges the medical and social conventions of her time, making it a timeless study of the human psyche and the quest for autonomy.

The Historical Context Behind The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Understanding the background against which Gilman wrote this story is crucial to fully appreciating its depth. The late 19th century was a period when women's mental health was often misunderstood and misdiagnosed, frequently attributed to "hysteria" or nervous conditions thought to stem from female biology. Treatments like the "rest cure," which involved isolation and inactivity, were common and often detrimental.

Gilman herself experienced postpartum depression and was subjected to the rest cure prescribed by Dr. Silas Weir Mitchell, the same treatment critiqued in the story. She later wrote *The Yellow Wallpaper* as both a reflection of her own struggle and a critique of the medical practices that silenced women and dismissed their experiences. This context enriches the story's significance as a form of social protest and personal expression.

Plot Overview: What Happens in The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman?

At its core, *The Yellow Wallpaper* tells the story of a woman suffering from what appears to be postpartum depression. The narrator, whose name is never revealed, is brought to a secluded country home by her husband, John, a physician, under the guise of rest and recovery. Confined to a room with disturbing yellow wallpaper, she becomes obsessed with its intricate and chaotic patterns.

As days pass, the narrator's mental state deteriorates. She begins to perceive a woman trapped behind the wallpaper, struggling to break free. This hallucination is a potent metaphor for the narrator's own feelings of entrapment within her marriage, societal expectations, and the prescribed "cure." The story culminates in her descent into madness, symbolized by her tearing down the wallpaper in an attempt to liberate the imprisoned figure she sees.

The Symbolism of the Yellow Wallpaper

The wallpaper itself is not just a setting but a dynamic symbol that evolves throughout the narrative. Initially described as ugly and confusing, the wallpaper represents the patriarchal constraints imposed on women. Its chaotic pattern symbolizes the confusion and oppression the narrator feels.

As the story progresses, the wallpaper's pattern becomes a prison for the woman the narrator imagines behind it. This trapped woman can be interpreted as a representation of the narrator herself or, more broadly, the plight of all women confined by societal roles. The act of tearing down the wallpaper symbolizes a desperate attempt to break free from these restrictions, highlighting the story's feminist undertones.

Exploring Themes in The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

The richness of *The Yellow Wallpaper* lies in its layered themes that continue to inspire discourse and analysis.

Gender Roles and Patriarchy

One of the most prominent themes is the critique of rigid gender roles. John, the husband, embodies the authoritative male figure who dismisses his wife's opinions and feelings, believing he knows what is best for her. His patronizing attitude reflects a broader societal tendency to infantilize women, especially regarding their mental health.

The narrator's confinement and lack of agency illustrate how women were often trapped within domestic spaces and denied autonomy. Gilman exposes the damaging effects of this dynamic, both psychologically and physically.

Mental Health and the Rest Cure

The story is a poignant commentary on the medical treatment of women's mental health issues during the 19th century. The rest cure, which involved isolation and forbidding intellectual or creative activities, is portrayed as harmful and oppressive.

The narrator's gradual psychological decline under this treatment critiques the failure of contemporary medicine to understand or effectively treat women's mental illnesses. Gilman advocates for more compassionate and empowering approaches, emphasizing the importance of self-expression and autonomy in healing.

The Power of Narrative and Self-Expression

Writing the story as a series of journal entries, Gilman highlights the importance of self-expression as a means of survival. The narrator's secret writing is an act of rebellion against the silence imposed on her.

In a broader sense, *The Yellow Wallpaper* champions the value of personal narrative, particularly for marginalized voices. It shows how storytelling can be a powerful tool for asserting identity and resisting oppression.

Literary Techniques and Style in *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Gilman's storytelling is notable for its use of first-person narration, which creates an intimate and immersive experience. The unreliable narrator invites readers into her deteriorating mind, making the horror psychological and deeply personal.

The descriptive language used to portray the wallpaper is vivid and unsettling, contributing to the story's eerie atmosphere. Gilman's use of symbolism, metaphor, and irony enriches the text, offering multiple layers of meaning to unpack.

The Role of Setting

The isolated country house, particularly the room with the yellow wallpaper, serves as a microcosm of the narrator's mental state and societal constraints. The setting's claustrophobic nature mirrors the restrictions placed upon her, intensifying the sense of entrapment.

Unreliable Narration

The narrator's gradual loss of sanity makes her perspective uncertain, which engages readers in piecing together the reality behind her perceptions. This narrative choice deepens the psychological complexity of the story and invites multiple interpretations.

The Enduring Legacy of *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

More than a century after its publication, *The Yellow Wallpaper* remains a cornerstone of feminist literature and an essential text in discussions about mental health. It has inspired countless adaptations, scholarly research, and artistic interpretations.

The story's critique of patriarchal medicine and its exploration of the female experience continue to

resonate in contemporary conversations about gender equality and mental health awareness. For readers and scholars alike, it offers valuable insights into the historical treatment of women and the importance of autonomy and self-expression.

Tips for Reading and Analyzing The Yellow Wallpaper

If you're approaching this story for the first time or revisiting it, consider the following to deepen your understanding:

- **Pay attention to the narrator's tone:** Notice how her voice shifts from calm to frantic, reflecting her mental state.
- **Analyze the wallpaper's description:** The changing imagery is key to interpreting the story's symbolism.
- **Consider the historical context:** Understanding 19th-century gender norms and medical practices enriches your reading.
- **Reflect on the story's feminist themes:** Think about how the narrative challenges traditional roles and advocates for women's autonomy.
- **Discuss with others:** Sharing perspectives can reveal new insights into the story's complex layers.

Exploring *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman is an invitation to engage with history, psychology, and feminism through the lens of haunting and beautiful prose. It encourages readers to question the status quo and recognize the enduring impact of societal expectations on individual lives. Whether as a literary work or a social critique, it remains a compelling and thought-provoking read.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'The Yellow Wallpaper' by Charlotte Perkins Gilman?

The central theme is the oppression of women and the consequences of the rest cure treatment for mental illness, highlighting the detrimental effects of patriarchal control and lack of autonomy on women's mental health.

How does the setting influence the story in 'The Yellow Wallpaper'?

The setting, primarily the isolated room with the yellow wallpaper, symbolizes the protagonist's

mental imprisonment and societal confinement, intensifying her descent into psychosis.

What is the significance of the yellow wallpaper itself in the story?

The yellow wallpaper represents the narrator's mental state and the oppressive structures confining her; its chaotic patterns mirror her growing obsession and psychological unraveling.

How does Charlotte Perkins Gilman use symbolism in 'The Yellow Wallpaper'?

Gilman uses symbolism extensively, such as the wallpaper representing mental imprisonment and gender roles, the trapped woman behind the pattern symbolizing the narrator's entrapment, and the nursery setting emphasizing infantilization.

What role does the narrator's husband play in 'The Yellow Wallpaper'?

The husband, John, embodies patriarchal authority and medical oppression, dismissing the narrator's feelings and enforcing rest cure treatment, which exacerbates her condition.

How does 'The Yellow Wallpaper' critique medical practices of its time?

The story critiques the rest cure, a common treatment for women's mental health issues that enforced isolation and inactivity, illustrating its harmful effects through the narrator's psychological decline.

In what way is 'The Yellow Wallpaper' considered a feminist text?

It is considered feminist because it exposes the oppression of women in both domestic and medical contexts, advocating for women's autonomy and mental health awareness.

What narrative style is used in 'The Yellow Wallpaper' and why is it effective?

The story is written as a first-person journal, which provides intimate insight into the narrator's thoughts and gradual mental breakdown, creating a powerful and immersive experience.

How does the story reflect Charlotte Perkins Gilman's own experiences?

Gilman wrote the story based on her own struggle with postpartum depression and the negative effects of the rest cure prescribed to her, using fiction to criticize the treatment she received.

What is the ending of 'The Yellow Wallpaper' and its significance?

The narrator descends into madness, believing she has freed the woman trapped in the wallpaper by tearing it down. This ending symbolizes both her psychological breakdown and a desperate assertion of identity against repression.

Additional Resources

The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman: A Critical Exploration of Feminist Literature and Psychological Horror

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman is a seminal work of American literature that intertwines themes of mental illness, gender roles, and societal oppression. Written in 1892, this short story has endured as a potent critique of the 19th-century medical establishment and the patriarchal constraints imposed upon women. Its narrative complexity and layered symbolism have made it a cornerstone in feminist literary studies and psychological horror genres.

Historical Context and Background

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, a prominent feminist and social reformer, penned "The Yellow Wallpaper" as a semi-autobiographical response to her own struggles with postpartum depression and the "rest cure" prescribed by her physician. At the time, women's mental health was often misunderstood, and treatments were largely paternalistic, limiting women's autonomy. The story was originally published in *The New England Magazine* and later included in various anthologies that highlight women's voices and feminist discourse.

Understanding the cultural and medical environment of the late 19th century is essential to appreciating the story's impact. The prevailing medical advice for nervous conditions often involved isolation and enforced inactivity, which Gilman's narrative exposes as detrimental rather than curative. This historical lens enriches the reading experience, illuminating how "The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman" serves not only as a personal lament but also as a broader social critique.

In-depth Analysis

At its core, "The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman" is a psychological descent into madness, rendered through the fragmented journal entries of an unnamed female protagonist. Confined to a room with disturbing yellow wallpaper, the narrator's mental state deteriorates as she becomes obsessed with the patterns and perceived figures trapped behind the wallpaper's design. This symbol of entrapment reflects her own confinement within the domestic sphere and the repressive societal expectations placed on women.

Symbolism of the Yellow Wallpaper

The wallpaper itself serves as a multifaceted symbol throughout the narrative. Its chaotic, grotesque pattern represents the confusion and turmoil in the protagonist's mind. The "woman" she perceives struggling behind the wallpaper mirrors the narrator's own feelings of imprisonment and desire for freedom. This imagery underscores the story's feminist undertones, illustrating how women's identities were often obscured or suppressed by patriarchal structures.

Moreover, the wallpaper's color—yellow—carries connotations of sickness, decay, and madness. This aligns with the narrator's psychological decline and the oppressive environment that fosters it. The pattern's shifting complexity also symbolizes the instability of the narrator's mental health and the broader societal instability regarding women's roles and rights.

Themes of Mental Illness and Medical Critique

"The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman" is widely recognized for its critical portrayal of 19th-century psychiatric practices. The protagonist's prescribed "rest cure" is emblematic of medical approaches that prioritized physical inactivity and submission, often exacerbating rather than alleviating mental distress. Gilman's narrative challenges these methods by documenting the harmful effects of such treatments.

The story also explores the stigmatization of mental illness, especially among women. The narrator's husband, John, a physician, dismisses her concerns and infantilizes her, reinforcing power imbalances that contribute to her deterioration. This dynamic highlights the intersection of gender and medical authority, revealing how women's voices were marginalized in both personal and professional spheres.

Feminist Perspectives and Gender Roles

A critical reading of "The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman" reveals a powerful feminist critique of the domestic confinement imposed on women. The protagonist's isolation in the nursery, away from intellectual stimulation and social interaction, symbolizes the limited roles available to women at the time. Her struggle against the wallpaper parallels the fight against societal restrictions that deny women agency and self-expression.

Gilman's story anticipates later feminist literary movements by foregrounding the psychological consequences of gender inequality. The protagonist's rebellion through her obsession with the wallpaper can be interpreted as an act of resistance against patriarchal control. The narrative's conclusion, where she identifies with the trapped woman and symbolically frees herself, marks a complex and ambiguous moment of empowerment and madness.

Comparative Analysis with Contemporary Works

When compared to other Gothic and psychological narratives of the era, "The Yellow Wallpaper by

Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" stands out for its intimate portrayal of female subjectivity and its explicit feminist agenda. Unlike traditional Gothic tales that often emphasize external horrors, Gilman's story internalizes terror, focusing on the mind's fragility under oppressive conditions.

Similarities can be drawn between Gilman's work and that of Edgar Allan Poe or Nathaniel Hawthorne, particularly in the use of symbolic settings and unreliable narration. However, Gilman's feminist lens offers a distinct perspective, turning the psychological horror into a critique of social norms rather than merely a tale of individual madness.

Influence on Modern Literature and Psychology

"The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman" has influenced a range of disciplines beyond literature. In psychology, it is studied as an early narrative that sensitively portrays mental illness and critiques harmful treatment practices. The story's depiction of postpartum depression and the impact of isolation has informed contemporary discussions about women's mental health.

In literary studies, the story continues to inspire feminist criticism and has been adapted into various forms, including theater, film, and visual art. Its enduring relevance lies in its ability to evoke empathy and provoke critical thought about the intersections of gender, power, and mental health.

Key Features and Literary Techniques

Gilman's mastery of narrative voice and style is evident in "The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman." The use of a first-person diary format creates immediacy and intimacy, allowing readers to experience the protagonist's psychological unraveling firsthand. The fragmented, often repetitive prose mirrors the protagonist's mental state, enhancing the story's atmospheric tension.

The story's economy of language and vivid imagery contribute to its haunting quality. Gilman employs irony and ambiguity to challenge readers' perceptions of sanity and authority. The unreliable narration invites multiple interpretations, making the text a rich subject for academic analysis and discussion.

Pros and Cons of the Narrative Approach

- **Pros:** The diary format enables a deep psychological insight, fostering a connection between reader and narrator. The symbolic complexity enriches thematic exploration, making the story multilayered and thought-provoking.
- **Cons:** The ambiguous ending and unreliable narration may confuse some readers. The intense focus on mental deterioration might be unsettling for sensitive audiences.

Despite these challenges, the narrative approach remains a powerful vehicle for Gilman's message.

In examining "The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman," one encounters a literary work that transcends its time, offering enduring insights into the complexities of mental health, gender dynamics, and societal expectations. Its layered symbolism and psychological depth continue to resonate, inviting readers to reflect on the ways in which narratives can challenge and illuminate human experience.

The Yellow Wallpaper By Charlotte Perkins Gilman

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: *Charlotte Perkins Gilman's The Yellow Wall-paper* Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2004 This sourcebook combines extracts from contemporary documents and critical reviews, providing an introduction, a publishing and critical history, a chronology of key events, a guide to further reading and original pictures.

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper (Illustrated) Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2014-04-10 The Yellow Wallpaper is a 6,000-word short story by the American writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman, first published in January 1892 in *The New England Magazine*. It is regarded as an important early work of American feminist literature, illustrating attitudes in the 19th century toward women's physical and mental health. Presented in the first person, the story is a collection of journal entries written by a woman whose physician husband has confined her to the upstairs bedroom of a house he has rented for the summer. She is forbidden from working and has to hide her journal from him, so she can recuperate from what he calls a temporary nervous depression - a slight hysterical tendency, a diagnosis common to women in that period. The windows of the room are barred, and there is a gate across the top of the stairs, allowing her husband to control her access to the rest of the house. The story depicts the effect of confinement on the narrator's mental health and her descent into psychosis. With nothing to stimulate her, she becomes obsessed by the pattern and color of the wallpaper. It is the strangest yellow, that wall-paper! It makes me think of all the yellow things I ever saw - not beautiful ones like buttercups, but old foul, bad yellow things. But there is something else about that paper - the smell! ... The only thing I can think of that it is like is the color of the paper! A yellow smell. In the end, she imagines there are women creeping around behind the patterns of the wallpaper and comes to believe she is one of them. She locks herself in the room, now the only place she feels safe, refusing to leave when the summer rental is up. For outside you have to creep on the ground, and everything is green instead of yellow. But here I can creep smoothly on the floor, and my shoulder just fits in that long smooch around the wall, so I cannot lose my way. A woman gradually suffers a mental breakdown as a result of confinement and denial of her creative energies by her husband.

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2016-07-06 Why buy our paperbacks? Most Popular Gift Edition - One of it's kind Printed in USA on High Quality Paper Expedited shipping Standard Font size of 10 for all books 30 Days Money Back Guarantee Fulfilled by Amazon Unabridged (100% Original content) BEWARE OF LOW-QUALITY SELLERS Don't buy cheap paperbacks just to save a few dollars. Most of them use low-quality papers & binding. Their pages fall off easily. Some of them even use very small font size of 6 or less to increase their profit margin. It makes their books completely unreadable. About The Yellow Wallpaper The Yellow Wallpaper (original title: The Yellow Wall-paper. A Story) is a 6,000-word short story by the American writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman, first published in January 1892 in *The New England Magazine*. It is regarded as an important early work of American feminist literature, illustrating attitudes in the 19th century toward women's health, both physical and mental. Presented in the first person, the story is a collection of journal entries written by a woman whose physician husband (John) has rented an old mansion for the summer. Foregoing other rooms in the house, the couple moves into the upstairs nursery. As a form

of treatment she is forbidden from working, and is encouraged to eat well and get plenty of exercise and air, so she can recuperate from what he calls a temporary nervous depression - a slight hysterical tendency, a diagnosis common to women in that period. She hides her journal from her husband and his sister the housekeeper, fearful of being reproached for overworking herself. Because it's a nursery the room's windows are barred, to prevent children from climbing through them, and there is a gate across the top of the stairs, though she and her husband have access to the rest of the house and its adjoining estate.

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: *The Yellow Wallpaper and Other Stories* Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2012-03-01 Seven charming tales explore relations between the sexes and offer witty insights from a feminist perspective. Includes the 1892 title classic, plus Cottagette, Turned, Mr. Peebles' Heart, and more.

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2014-05-14 It is very seldom that mere ordinary people like John and myself secure ancestral halls for the summer. A colonial mansion, a hereditary estate, I would say a haunted house, and reach the height of romantic felicity—but that would be asking too much of fate! Still I will proudly declare that there is something queer about it. Else, why should it be let so cheaply? And why have stood so long untenanted? John laughs at me, of course, but one expects that in marriage.

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2020-04-21 The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Gilman - is a much celebrated and classic tale by one of the worlds most loved authors. This work is considered an important early work in feminist literature and one which explored issues about women's health, both physical and mental. It is an important and influential work, and a great addition to any book collection.

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper, the Complete Original Novella Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2015-09-02 Many and many a reader has asked that. When the story first came out, in the New England Magazine about 1891, a Boston physician made protest in The Transcript. Such a story ought not to be written, he said; it was enough to drive anyone mad to read it. Another physician, in Kansas I think, wrote to say that it was the best description of incipient insanity he had ever seen, and--begging my pardon--had I been there? Now the story of the story is this: For many years I suffered from a severe and continuous nervous breakdown tending to melancholia--and beyond. During about the third year of this trouble I went, in devout faith and some faint stir of hope, to a noted specialist in nervous diseases, the best known in the country. This wise man put me to bed and applied the rest cure, to which a still-good physique responded so promptly that he concluded there was nothing much the matter with me, and sent me home with solemn advice to live as domestic a life as far as possible, to have but two hours' intellectual life a day, and never to touch pen, brush, or pencil again as long as I lived. This was in 1887. I went home and obeyed those directions for some three months, and came so near the borderline of utter mental ruin that I could see over. Then, using the remnants of intelligence that remained, and helped by a wise friend, I cast the noted specialist's advice to the winds and went to work again--work, the normal life of every human being; work, in which is joy and growth and service, without which one is a pauper and a parasite--ultimately recovering some measure of power. Being naturally moved to rejoicing by this narrow escape, I wrote The Yellow Wallpaper, with its embellishments and additions, to carry out the ideal (I never had hallucinations or objections to my mural decorations) and sent a copy to the physician who so nearly drove me mad. He never acknowledged it. The little book is valued by alienists and as a good specimen of one kind of literature. It has, to my knowledge, saved one woman from a similar fate--so terrifying her family that they let her out into normal activity and she recovered. But the best result is this. Many years later I was told that the great specialist had admitted to friends of his that he had altered his treatment of neurasthenia since reading The Yellow Wallpaper. It was not intended to drive people crazy, but to save people from being driven crazy, and it worked.

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper Charlotte Perkins

Gilman Charlotte Gilman, 2016-12-07 The Yellow Wallpaper (original title: The Yellow Wall-paper. A Story) is a 6,000-word short story by the American writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman, first published in January 1892 in The New England Magazine. It is regarded as an important early work of American feminist literature, illustrating attitudes in the 19th century toward women's health, both physical and mental.

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2014-08-23 It is very seldom that mere ordinary people like John and myself secure ancestral halls for the summer. A colonial mansion, a hereditary estate, I would say a haunted house, and reach the height of romantic felicity—but that would be asking too much of fate! Still I will proudly declare that there is something queer about it. Else, why should it be let so cheaply? And why have stood so long untenanted?

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2019-12-22 The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman is a real classic. You should grab it and read it to experience it yourself. Here's a simple plot to The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman The story details an intricate period in the life of a young woman. Her supportive, though misunderstanding husband, John, believes it is in her best interests to go on a rest cure after experiencing symptoms of temporary nervous depression after the birth of their baby. The family spends the summer at a colonial mansion that strikes the narrator as odd. She and her husband move into an upstairs room. Along with the couple, John's sister Jennie is present serving as the housekeeper. At the time, the windows are barred, the wallpaper has been torn, there are metal rings in the walls - the kind that are used for restraints - and the floor is scratched. The narrator blames all these to children having resided there as most of the damage is away to their reach. Ultimately, readers are left to be unsure what is the source of the room's state, leading them to see the ambiguities in the unreliability of the narrator. It is strongly implied however that the room was formerly used as a prison to contain another mentally ill patient, as the bed has been nailed to the floor and there is a gate at the top of the stairs leading to the room. The narrator devotes many journal entries to describing the wallpaper in the room - its yellow smell, its breakneck pattern, the missing patches, and the way it leaves yellow smears on the skin and clothing of anyone who touches it. She describes how the longer one stays in the bedroom, the more the wallpaper appears to mutate, especially in the moonlight. With no stimulus other than the wallpaper, the pattern and designs become increasingly intriguing to the narrator. She soon begins to see a figure in the design, and eventually comes to believe that a woman is creeping on all fours behind the pattern. Believing she must try to free the woman in the wallpaper, the woman begins to strip the remaining paper off the wall. After many moments of tension between John and his wife, the story climaxes with the final day in the house. On the last day of summer, she locks herself in her room to strip the remains of the wallpaper. When John arrives home, she refuses to unlock the door. When he returns with the key, he finds her creeping around the room, circling the walls and touching the wallpaper. She excitedly exclaims, I've got out at last... in spite of you and Jane, causing her husband to faint as she continues to circle the room, creeping over his inert body each time she passes it, believing herself to have become the personification of the woman trapped behind the yellow wallpaper. The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2017-08-08 THE YELLOW WALLPAPER is a story by the American writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman, first published in January 1892 in The New England Magazine. It is regarded as an important early work of American feminist literature, illustrating attitudes in the 19th century toward women's health, both physical and mental. Presented in the first person, the story is a collection of journal entries written by a woman whose physician husband (John) has rented an old mansion for the summer. Foregoing other rooms in the house, the couple moves into the upstairs nursery. As a form of treatment she is forbidden from working, and is encouraged to eat well and get plenty of exercise and air, so she can recuperate from what he calls a temporary nervous depression - a slight hysterical tendency, a diagnosis common to women in that period. She hides her journal

from her husband and his sister the housekeeper, fearful of being reproached for overworking herself. The room's windows are barred to prevent children from climbing through them, and there is a gate across the top of the stairs, though she and her husband have access to the rest of the house and its adjoining estate.

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: "The Yellow Wall-paper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2006 A critical edition of Gilman's turn-of-the-century feminist novel presents both manuscript and magazine versions, critically edited, and printed in parallel.

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: *The Yellow Wallpaper* Charlotte Gilman, 2018-07-27 *The Yellow Wallpaper* (original title: *The Yellow Wall-paper. A Story*) is a short story by American writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman, first published in January 1892 in *The New England Magazine*. It is regarded as an important early work of American feminist literature, illustrating attitudes in the 19th century toward women's health, both physical and mental.

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the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: *The Yellow Wall Paper* Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 1901

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: *The Yellow Wallpaper and Other Stories* Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2012-04-12 Specialty Film Release Series. Contains two stories, 'The Unwatched Door' and 'Clifford's Tower'--stories unpublished since 1894. This Gothic Collection includes all of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's gothic stories, as well as poetry. This film release book is a different cover, but the same contents as the other Complete Gothic Collection edited by Aric Cushing.

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the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: *The Yellow Wallpaper* Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2014-03-27 It is very seldom that mere ordinary people like John and myself secure ancestral halls for the summer. A colonial mansion, a hereditary estate, I would say a haunted house, and reach the height of romantic felicity-but that would be asking too much of fate! Still I will proudly declare that there is something queer about it. Else, why should it be let so cheaply? And why have stood so long untenanted? John laughs at me, of course, but one expects that in marriage.

John is practical in the extreme. He has no patience with faith, an intense horror of superstition, and he scoffs openly at any talk of things not to be felt and seen and put down in figures. John is a physician, and PERHAPS-(I would not say it to a living soul, of course, but this is dead paper and a great relief to my mind)-PERHAPS that is one reason I do not get well faster. You see he does not believe I am sick! And what can one do?

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, the Yellow Wallpaper Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 1998

the yellow wallpaper by charlotte perkins gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper and Other Writings Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 1989-10-01 Known primarily for her classic and haunting story The Yellow Wallpaper, Charlotte Perkins Gilman was an enormously influential American feminist and sociologist. Her early-twentieth-century writings continue to inspire writers and activists today. This collection includes selections from both her fiction and nonfiction work. In addition to the title story, there are seven short stories collected here that combine humor, anger, and startling vision to suggest how women's place in society should be changed to benefit all. The nonfiction selections are from Gilman's The Man-Made World: Our Androcentric Culture and her masterpiece, Women And Economics, which was translated into seven languages and established her international reputation as a theorist. Also included in a delightful excerpt from Gilman's utopian novel, Herland, an acidly funny tale about three American male explorers who stumble into an all-female society and begin their odyssey by insisting, This is a civilized country . . . there must be men. Gilman's analyses of economic and women's issues are as incisive and relevant today as they were upon their original publication. This volume is an unprecedented opportunity to rediscover a powerful American writer.

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