The Passion of New Eve
By: Angela Carter

Presenters: Danielle Rice, and Khristy Gaska
Angela Carter

- Born in 1940 and raised in Great Britain
- Lived with her feminist, working class grandmother as a child due to war
- Studied English at University of Bristol
- After winning a cash prize of a piece of work, she ran away from her husband to Japan in order to live as a "woman in society"
- Published Passion of New Eve in 1977
- Died of cancer at the age of 51
Other Works by Angela Carter

- **Novels:**
  - Shadow Dance
- **Short Fiction:**
  - Fireworks: Nine Profane Pieces
- **Poetry:**
  - Five Quiet Shouters
- **Dramatic Works:**
  - Come Unto These Golden Sands: Four Radio Plays
- **Children Books:**
  - The Donkey Prince
- **Non Fiction:**
  - Nothing Sacred
- **Works as Editor:**
  - The Virago Book of Fairy Tales
- **Works as Translator:**
  - Fairy Tales of Charles Perrault
- **Film Adaptations:**
  - Magic Toyshop
REFERENCES TO LITERATURE

- Ancient Mariner
  - Albatross
  - “...what gale could have blown it so far from the ocean to a death in the navel of a desert...” (44)
  - Foreshadowing the “death” of Evelyn

- Oedipus
  - “Kill your father, and sleep with your mother.”
  - “...was the most fortunate man in the world, for he embraced his fate with pleasure” (56).
  - “To the women, Evelyn’s fate is to bear the messiah child, which would be his punishment and redemption for his horrible treatment of women.”
In this novel, Mother is the center of feminism, and is in control of her many women followers. Mother has the power to change men into women, and wants to use this transformation on Evelyn. They want Evelyn to become the new Eve by impregnating her with his sperm so she can bore the new messiah.

Biblically, Eve was created from Adam. The women want to be recognized as the creator, not the creation. “Women has been the antithesis in the dialect of creation quite long enough” (67). The messiah will be a creation of women to prove that they are essentially the creators.
A reviewer from amazon stated

“Everyone knows what the word "passion" means in ordinary usage; it's a strong feeling, often of sexual desire, and generally considered to be the opposite of reason. It means something quite different in religious terms, though. The word comes from a Latin root that means "suffering" and originally referred to the suffering of Jesus on the cross. Later, it came to mean the suffering that would lead a person to sainthood, the sensation of leaving one's body and joining with God for a time. You can see the resemblance to eroticism there. Angela Carter certainly did; the protagonist of "The Passion of New Eve" goes through both suffering and ecstasy at various junctures.”
Character Overview

- Evelyn(Eve)-
  - Englishmen who travels to New York
  - takes advantage of women, and uses them for his own pleasures.
  - He flees to the desert after leaving behind Leilah, a girl he ends up sending to the abortion clinic.
  - He gets stranded in the desert and then trapped by a women who takes him to Mother, a surgeon, who wants to transform him into a women.
  - She then flees and gets trapped again, but this time by a poet, Zero.
  - She is made a slave by Zero, and becomes one of his wives.
Zero

- Exaggerated negative male traits
  - 7 wives, Eve is his 8th
  - Treats pet pigs better than wives
  - Rapes Eve, and sleeps with each of his wives different nights of the week
- First male encounter for Eve as a woman
- an infertile man who refuses to speak in any human language and instead howls like a dog.
Character overview Cont.1

- Mother- the Goddess of the feminist group.
  - A gigantic, hideous woman with multiple breasts sown on in her own attempt to construct identity
  - She was a surgeon, and is the one who performs Evenlys transformation from a man to women
- Tristessa- the silent movie star actress,
  - Evelyn is obsessed with from childhood
  - Ends up being a man
  - She later on is revealed, by Zero cutting off her thong, that she is a man.
MYTHS IN PASSION OF NEW EVE

- Tiresias
  - Finding oneself
- Strongly influenced by opposition of Jungian archetypes
  - Anima (male) and Animus (female)
  - Anima-> consciousness
  - Animus-> unconscious
  - Leilah, Tristessa
How was it written?

- This novel was written as a modern satire on America and it portrays gender.

- “It's about an America in the not-so-distant future--an America in the midst of collapse and civil war. Militant blacks, radical feminists, Christian child-crusaders, the scattered remnants of the old authority are all fighting each other in a situation degenerating into an alchemical chaos” (Nadja, Amazon).

- A main focus is on feminism. Mother, and a group of women are in control.

- “This novel isn't about sex and violence anyway; it's mostly about sin, forgiveness, self-image, and the possibility of happiness once you've learned acceptance” (benshlomo, Amazon).

- Falls under many different genres, Magic Realism.
What form was it originally published?

- Angela Carter originally published in 1977, during the peak of feminism.
- This work was originally written as a novel, though it is shorter than most novels, Carter packed it with various themes, one including the transition of America.
What did critics say about PONE?

- It is a good read, they enjoyed Carter's "very well balance of fantasy and reality" (Happybunny, DooYoo.co)
- It's for those with adventurous reading
- It targets the feminists

It’s a lot different then Angela Carter’s other work, and does not get the credit it deserves

- Some thought it was too graphic, and only those who enjoy self mutilation will enjoy reading it.
- The writing itself is stunning, though; Carter's use of imagery and verbal texture is fantastic, and her way with detail (choosing where to include it and where to omit it, in particular) is superb. (Khai, Amazon)
Who read PONE?

- Many college students
  - To understand the style of Angela Carter and the satire on American gender
- The director of Alien Tetralogy, Ridley Scott
  - The Alien Tetralogy has some parallels with the book, such as new reproductive technologies, and an archaic mother.
- One reader explained how the only reason they read it was because the cover was so awful, they wondered what it would be about (Amazon review).
  - This reviewer ended up enjoying the book and recommended it to other readers.