

THIS IS NOT A LOVE STORY

by Kathryn Koromilas

THE PROMPT

To make room for love stories, philosophy must be more literary, more closely allied to stories, and more respectful of mystery and open-endedness than it frequently is.
Nussbaum. Martha

THE STORY

When WOMAN stops feeling the emotions we tend to associate with being in love, she initiates a series of dialogues with her husband, MAN.

THIS IS NOT A LOVE STORY is the story of these dialogues, but also the story of the NOVELIST writing them. It is an experimental novel hoping to do two things. First, it aims to investigate the nature of falling in love and of falling out of love and the ethical dilemmas (if any) that emerge from this. Second, it aims to explore the creative potential for a novel to do this philosophical work in a way that might truly engage a reader's heart and mind.

THE CHARACTERS

AUTHOR is the initiator of this project and has invited the following characters to help him execute the experiment.

NOVELIST is a philosopher who has become disillusioned with what abstract philosophy can say about love and so he has begun to write a novel. He is, however, facing some imaginative problems and, until these problems are solved, nothing happens.

WOMAN is a philosopher who has forgotten to philosophise about her own life until she realises that she is no longer in love with her husband, MAN. This realisation sparks a renewed spirit of philosophical enquiry, but she needs to talk through her personal disappointments first.

MAN is an academic who has found contentment in the habits of his marriage. He dialogues with WOMAN but finds he disagrees on some fundamental premises.

PUBLICAN is a retired philosopher who, also disillusioned with philosophy proper, has now opened a pub and philosophises with his regulars.

THE PLAYERS

KATHRYN KOROMILAS is the writer of this story, which is not finished because she is having problems writing this story. She loves writing this story. She is in love.

MARIO PEREZ is a disease free kindergarten teacher who fights crime on the page. He grew up on the mean streets of windy-city Chicago, where skyscrapers and corrupt politics were invented. He's in China to try to save the world, one adorable child at a time.

DEVA EVELAND is an introvert with low risk of male pattern baldness. He tries to write novels and tries to read them. Two years ago, Deva he collaborated with a partner to create a new being through sexual reproduction.

EMILIE CHERLET writes radio segments for a living, scripts for her friends and stories for herself. She loves reading great stories with beautiful sentences. For Emilie, love can be the stranger you encounter in a foreign city, or the man whose hand you still hold when you are ninety years old, and everything in between.

JAQUES QU has moved three times with ten boxes of books, two thirds of which are still new. He likes to write about travel but mostly uses it as an excuse to book yet another air ticket. Jaques likes to order chefs' menus for the surprise; the same goes for life.

SHIRLEY WHITE gave up university to become a fiction writer and you can find her in a noisy café writing quietly while sipping a cup of lemon tea to excite her brain. She believes that life is a process of tasting that which excites, and the more bitter the taste, the sweeter the candy! As far as love is concerned, Shirley believes that true love is more about giving than gaining.

THE LINKS

<http://kathrynkoromilas.com> <https://www.facebook.com/TNLSanovel>

READ AT THE BEIJING BOOKWORM, THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2014