

The Ballad of the Sad Café by Carson McCullers

published 1951

Themes

- crowd
 - 3 good people (20)
 - groupthink 19, 49, 66, 77
- self-worth
 - café 66
- love
 - theory 32-34
 - love is confidences 46
 - changes Marvin to religion 37
 - narrator addresses reader underlining love story 32, 42
- Southern culture
 - nature
 - Sodom & Gomorra 3 good people 20
 - biblical
 - unholy holiday 30 3 days and nights
 - whiskey & insights 15

Narration

- Point of view
 - Omniscient narrator
- Structure & Nature
 - Prologue winters raw; summers fiery Hell?
 - 10 Cousin arrives: Spring, April, crops
 - 21 Lynch mob: dark, gloomy day
 - 52 Marvin's letter: hot day, respite
 - 59 Marvin's back: early winter
 - 62 Marvin here: unseasonable weather
 - 75 Fight: neutral weather
 - 83 ending: nature in ruins, like Amelia
 - Epilogue: music follows the sun
 - Builds poetic narration through Nature.

Genre?

- story of unrequited love?
- ballad/poem/song?
- suspense?

Characters

- Marvin loves Amelia (litigator 9, 43 her room: bare, 8 cross-eyed, handywoman, muscular anti-people, healer, mean 14) rejected
- Amelia loves Cousin Lymon (quarreler, consumptive, instict for people) rejected
- Cousin Lymon loves Marvin rejected (convict, evil 34-35)
- Characters constructed as lovers/beloved? (cf philosophy 32-34)
- Snowfall and characters' reactions 68