

The analysis of “She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways”

Considering the title

The title hints an atmosphere of loneliness which envelopes a female character, it makes the reader suppose the poem is about this character.

The denotative analysis

The poem starts with an introduction to the character: she lives alone, far from followed paths. She can have very few relationships with others.

The poet describes the woman with two metaphors, appealing to the image of a half hidden flower, a violet, and to the fair of Venus.

In the end the poet refers to her with the past tense, Lucy (just at the end the name is revealed) has died and the poet wonders about the difference her death makes for him, he notices the importance of that woman only after her death.

The structure analysis

The text is arranged into three quatrains. In the first the poet introduces the character, in the second the character is described by metaphors and in the last one the poet confesses the importance of that woman for him, but he does that because she has died.

The connotative analysis

The poem conveys both the feelings of solitude and ecstasy related the condition of Lucy. The ballad style contributes to create the suspense of a narrative story, the climax increases all over the poem until the turning point at the second line of the last quatrain, when the reader finds out that Lucy has died. He was in love with that woman, but she died alone and he just observed her life without interfering. The message for the reader lays in the very last sentence, where the poet implicitly warns the reader of the consequences of non-acting: time passes and opportunities fade away before you decide to catch them.