Sylvia Plath's Spell on Ariel: Conjuring the Perfect Book of Poems Through Mysticism and the Tarot

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Abstract

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Sylvia Plath: Poems study guide contains a biography of poet Sylvia Plath, literature essays, quiz questions, major themes, characters, and a full summary and analysis of select poems. It details the ecstasy and personal transformation that occurs through the experience. The poem begins with complete immobility in the darkness, while the rider waits on the horse. There is then a change—the intangible blue of hills and distances come into being. The rider is "God's lioness;" she experiences the sensation of becoming one with her horse in a powerful entangling of knees and heels. The plowed field on which she rides soon splits and vanishes behind her, remaining elusive like the brown neck of her steed that she "cannot catch." Ravening through the persistent br Of blunt pencils, rose-sprigged co Postage stamps, stacked books' cla Neighborhood cockcrow—all nature' The vaunting mind. Star-lucky sleight-of-hand man watches. My jilting lady squander coin, gold leaf stock ditches, And the opulent air go studded with seed, While this beggared brain. Hatches no fortune, But from leaf, from grass, Thieves what it has.’ (1957). Share.

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Julia Gordon-Bramer was born nine months after Sylvia Plath's suicide in 1963. She is a poet and fiction writer with a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Missouri- St. Louis. A Tarot reader for three decades, she has spent the last several years reinterpreting the work of Plath and Hughes, and is seeking publication for her nearly complete manuscript, Fixed Stars Govern a Life, a biographical study of Plath and Hughes through the lens of mysticism, including a line-by-line analysis of each Ariel poem, with pictures, supplemental tables, and indexes to explain the mystical template structure in all of Plath's and Hughes' literary work. A collection of Julia Gordon-Bramer's own poetry will be published by Time Being Books in 2012. She teaches English at St. Louis Community College.