

There is the structural placing of the phone call to her mother right in the middle of the story→ this helps cement the central importance of her mother in relation to the plot.

"This lovely prison... both the inmate and the mistress" - An oxymoron. There is a paradoxical existence of the heroine- she is not in control

"Lights! More lights!" - A metaphor of bringing 'light' of her husband's true nature. Light is symbolic for the truth and revealing→ Trying to remove the Gothic setting of the dark- the unknown. Links/parallels with Macbeth here???

The heroine searching for the Marquis' other side- this search for the real man helps draw comparisons from Frankenstein; the search for forbidden knowledge.

"In the viscera [guts, intestines etc] of the castle" - The metaphor of 'viscera'; gives the idea of the castle being alive because we're meant to see the castle as a reflection of the Marquis- repulsive at its core. It also marks the horror she will find at the centre of the castle/centre of the Marquis. --- She couldn't hear the sound of the sea→ Gothic element of isolation. The sea was also feminine. Symbolically, we feel the loss of the female presence of the sea which multiplies her danger.

"Bygones were bygones, crying over spilt milk did nobody any good... live happily ever after". Here we see three clichés in a row- it is deliberate. → It reminds us that she is writing in a fairytale condition and to draw the reader's attention to the fictional nature of the tale.

"Absolute darkness" - A gothic tradition of the extreme and darkness. It also emphasises the heroine in danger.

"Instruments of mutilation" - This is where she deviates from the stock female heroine who would expectedly 'swoon' or faint. She does not do this as she feels she has inherited her mother's bravery and female power. This could be seen as Carter expressing the need for women to break out from predesigned roles.

"There is a striking resemblance between the act of love and the ministrations of a torturer" opined my husband's favourite poet". Again we have the combination of sex and violence. However, I don't think that you can say that the Marquis performed any act of love towards the heroine at all. The line from a poet also further reveals the Marquis' interests and what he takes from literature and art. The Marquis can be seen as trying to give murder and death an artistic quality

[AT THIS POINT IN MY BOOK, I REMEMBERED I HAVE SHEETS THAT DO WHAT I'VE JUST BEEN DOING SO REALLY I'VE BEEN WASTING MY TIME but I'll carry on. Unfortunately I only have these lovely typed up sheets of notes from Adam for this story. The rest of the stories are messily scribbled all over the place by me.]