Menu

• Preliminaries:
  – Exam
  – Web-site
• *The Addiction* (dir. Abel Ferrara)
• R. Aickman, “Pages…”
• S. McKee Charnas, “Unicorn Tapestry”
• T. Lee, “Bite-Me-Not”
The Conceptual Journey of the Vampire (thus far)

• The vampire as the other, the alien
  – Race
  – Sex
  – Class
• Rice: vampirism as a test for humanity
• In the second ½ of the 20th cen. the vampire is, often, where we find what is lacking in us; s/he makes us aware of our flaws and monstrosities
R. Aickman, “Pages from a Young Girl’s Journal” (1975), pp. 382-414

- Why does the girl keep a journal? What does this way of narration add/subtract from the story?
- What is peculiar about the girl’s vacation? About the places she stays? The people she meets? Her parents? What is the overall atmosphere communicated by her journal?
- Are there indications preparing us for the girl’s “transformation?”
- What do we learn about the girl’s encounter w/ the stranger? What are we not told?
- What are the immediate consequences of the party? How does the girl react to them? How do those around her react?
- How does the heroine trace the process of her own transformation? What is peculiar about her account?
What are the symptoms/omens of the girl’s increasing “vampirisation”? How are they reported?

How does the girl perceive the new life that awaits her? How does this new life compare with her present one?

After being introduced to us during the party, the male vampire makes a couple of episodic and not very revealing appearances, and is all but absent at the end? Why does Aickman minimize his presence?

- How does Weyland find himself in a psychiatrist’s office? Does he need psychiatric help?
- How does Floria treat him initially? What are her presumptions re- him?
- What is the state of Floria’s personal and professional affairs? Why is this important for the story?

- How does Weyland speak of humans? What terms does he use?
- What is it that attracts Floria to Weyland? What does he have that others don’t?
- What were the unicorns? How is the myth of them re-enacted in the story?
- How does the therapy process change Weyland? Floria?
Tanith Lee, “Bite-Me-Not, or Fleur de Feu” (1985) pp. 588-612

- Why is the castle “doomed”? What is not allowed in it?
- Who is Rohise? What are her dreams?
- What connects her to the Cursed Duke?
- Who is Feroluce? What associations does his name evoke? What mythical creatures is he compared to?
- How does Rohise dream come true? Why does she abandon her dream?
- Why is Feroluce rejected by his race?
- How does he initially treat Rohise? How/why does his attitude change?
- What is the end of their love story? Of the Duke’s story? Whom do we learn it from?