**The Fairytale**

Carter's specific goals are to update, twist, and demythologise the classic fairy tales from a feminist perspective. Carter uses fairy tale to treat themes relating to liberation and change, re-evaluating the female experience in patriarchal society. She intends to deconstruct masculinity and femininity and it’s explored through the contemporary feminism lens.

According to Paulina Palmer, if on the one hand, fairy-tales contribute to perpetuate the patriarchal ideology and status quo by making female subordination an inescapable fate, at the other hand they give Carter the opportunity to explore the theme of psychic transformation, liberating her protagonists from conventional gender roles. “In The Bloody Chamber, Carter succeeds in transcending the ideological limitations which fairy tales generally review.” Fairy tales generally contain somehow parameters of domination and obedience, women under male dominance and patriarchal system. In these reviews, Carter strongly emphasises the woman desire and sex liberation, playing with the reader’s expectations about the traditional roles of masculinity and femininity.

For her “writing is playing game with the reader.” Through those games she brings to light the hidden aspects of female sexuality, fantasies and repressed desires. She also exposes sexist and stereotyped traditional construction of femininity.

In order to analyse Carter’s review of the Beauty and The Beast it’s necessary to understand one of the main aspects of the classic version, the title of the tale itself brings a reflection of the acts of mirroring, while the Beauty is at one side, the Beast is on the other side. The idea is that the two sides must be opposites that what is beastly cannot be beautiful and what is beautiful cannot be beastly. There’s a binary opposition which can be associated to others, such as male and female, tame and wild, prey and predator, innocence and experience, body and soul. Those pairs are always presented as being completely dissociated. One side is always empowered in relation to the other.

***Analyse the following extract taken from the ending of ‘The Tiger’s Bride’ and consider how Carter follows or subverts the fairytale convention. Think about the ending of the fairytale ‘Beauty and the Beast.’***

He went still as stone. He was far more frightened of me than I was of him.

I squatted on the wet straw and stretched out my hand. I was now within the field of force of his golden eyes. He growled at the back of his throat, lowered his head, sank on to his forepaws, snarled, showed me his red gullet, his yellow teeth. I never moved. He snuffed the air, as if to smell my fear; he could not.

Slowly, slowly he began to drag his heavy, gleaming weight across the floor towards me.

A tremendous throbbing, as of the engine that makes the earth turn, filled the little room; he had begun to purr.

The sweet thunder of this purr shook the old walls, made the shutters batter the windows until they burst apart and let in the white light of the snowy moon. Tiles came crashing down from the roof; I heard them fall into the courtyard far below. The reverberations of his purring rocked the foundations of the house, the walls began to dance. I thought: 'It will all fall, everything will disintegrate.'

He dragged himself closer and closer to me, until I felt the harsh velvet of his head against my hand, then a tongue, abrasive as sandpaper. 'He will lick the skin off me!'

And each stroke of his tongue ripped off skin after successive skin, all the skins of a life in the world, and left behind a nascent patina of shining hairs. My earrings turned back to water and trickled down my shoulders; I shrugged the drops off my beautiful fur.