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The secret life of walter mitty short story pdf summary

1939 short story by James Thurber This article is about the original short story. For the 1947 film, see The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (1947 film). For the 2013 film, see The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013 film). The Secret Life of Walter MittyAuthorJames ThurberCountryUnited StatesLanguageEnglishGenre(s) short storyPuslet iThe New YorkerPublication typeMagazinePublisherHarcourt, Brace and CompanyMedia typePrint (Periodical, Hardback and Paperback)Publication date1939 (magazine), 1942 (book)Followed by Death in the ZooFollowed byInterview with a Lemming The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (1939) is a short story by James Thurber. The most famous of Thurber's stories,[1] it first appeared in The New Yorker on March 18, 1939, and was first collected in his book My World and Welcome to It (Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1942). [2] It has since been reprinted in James Thurber: Writings and Drawings (The Library of America, 1996, ISBN 1-883011-22-1), is available on-line on the New Yorker website,[3] and is one of the most antologized short stories in American literature. [4] History is considered one of Thurber's acclaimed masterpieces. [5] It was made into a 1947 film of the same name starring Danny Kaye, although the film is very different from the original story. It was also adapted into a 2013 film, which in turn is very different from the original. The name Walter Mitty and the derivative word Mittyesque[6] have entered the English language, indicating an ineffective person who spends more time in heroic daydreams than paying attention to the real world, or more seriously, one who deliberately tries to mislead or convince others that he is something he is not. In the UNITED Kingdom, another derivative word Walt is used to describe a military imposter or similar fantasist, always in derogatory terms. [recion needed] Warner Brothers studio director Jack L. Warner, in his autobiography My First Hundred Years in Hollywood, described actor Errol Flynn as follows: To Walter Mittys in the world, he was all the heroes of a magnificent, sexy animal package. Plot The short story deals with a gentle mannered man who drives into Waterbury, Connecticut, with his wife for their regular weekly shopping and his wife's visit to the beauty salon. During this time he has five heroic daydream episodes. The first is as a pilot of a U.S. Navy flying boat in a storm, then he is a magnificent surgeon performing a one-of-a-kind surgery, then as a deadly assassin testifies in a courtroom, and then as a Royal Air Force pilot volunteering for a daring, secret suicide mission to bomb an ammunition dump. As the story ends, Mitty imagines facing a firing squad, unfathomable to the end. Each of the fantasies is inspired by some detail in Mitty's mundane surroundings: The power flow of the Navy the opening scene is followed by Mrs. Mitty's complaint that Mitty is driving too fast. Mitty's turn as a brilliant surgeon immediately follows his start and put on his gloves as a surgeon dons surgical gloves, and drives past a hospital. Courtroom drama cliché Maybe this will refresh your memory, which begins the third fantasy, follows Mitty's attempt to remember what his wife told him to buy when he hears a newsboy shout about Waterbury Trial Mitty's fourth daydream coming while he waits for his wife and picks up an old copy of Liberty, reading Can Germany Conquer the World Through the Air? , and imagines itself fighting Germany while voluntarily piloting a plane usually controlled by two people. The final firing-squad scene comes when Mitty stands against a wall, smoking. Analysis Mitty is very much a Thurber protagonist, so much so that he has been called the archetype of the dreamy, unhappy, Thurber Man. [4] Like many of his male characters, such as the man in The Unicorn in the Garden and the physically unimposing men Thurber often paired with larger women in his cartoons, Mitty is dominated and put on by his wife. Like the man who saw the unicorn, he escapes through fantasies. A similar dynamic exists in the Thurber story The Curb in the Sky, in which a man begins to tell his own dreams as anecdotes as an attempt to stop his wife from constantly correcting him on the details. In his book The Man Who Was Walter Mitty: The Life and Work of James Thurber (ISBN 0-930751-13-2), author Thomas Fensch suggests that the character was largely based on Thurber himself. This is consistent with Thurber's self-described imaginative interpretations of forms seen with his two-fifths vision in his essay The Admiral on the Wheel. Neurologist VS Ramachandran suggests that Thurber may have had Charles Bonnet syndrome, a neurological condition that causes vivid and bizarre hallucinations in blind people. [7] Thurber's love of puns can be seen in his invented by several nonsense expressions in the story, including the pseudo-medical jargon obstreosis of the canal, the streptothricosis, and the recurrent onomatopoeia of ta-pocketa-pocketa-pocketa. The medical nonsense that coreopsis has put in uses the name of a flower that sounds vaguely like a terrible medical condition. 1947 film Main article: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (1947 film) The story was made into a 1947 film starring Danny Kaye as a young daydreaming editor of pulp magazines. The film was adapted for the screen by Ken Englund, Everett Freeman and Philip Rapp and directed by Norman Z. McLeod. It was filmed in Technicolor. Thurber was repeatedly consulted about the film's screenplay, but his suggestion was largely ignored by producer Samuel Goldwyn, who had the writers change the original story to showcase Kaye's talents. [8] In a to Life magazine, Thurber expressed his considerable dissatisfaction with the manuscript, just as Goldwyn insisted in another letter that Thurber approved of it. [9] A radio adaptation of the 1947 film, in which Danny Kaye and Virginia Mayo repeated their roles, was performed at The Screen Guild Theater. [10] [failed control] Because the show was half an hour, including commercials, Kaye's extraneous routines are minimized, making it more like the original story. Even closer to the original story is a 1944 radio adaptation from This Is My Best, with Robert Benchley as daydreaming Mitty. [10] Film Main article: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013 film) 20th Century Fox produced and Ben Stiller directed another film adaptation in 2013, which also differs greatly from the book. Stiller plays Mitty, with Kristen Wiig, Shirley MacLaine, Patton Oswalt, Adam Scott, Kathryn Hahn and Sean Penn[11] also in the film. The production budget was \$90 million in 2013 in the United States and in other countries. [12] Stage adaptations The Secret Life of Walter Mitty were adapted for the stage by Thurber as part of the 1960 Broadway theater revue A Thurber Carnival. The sketch, which closed the show with the exception of Word Dance Part II, was almost identical to the short story, except that at the end he skillfully avoids being shot. [13] The original cast of the sketch was as follows:[14] Peggy Cass as Mrs. Mitty Tom Ewell as Walter Mitty Paul Ford as Mr. Pritchard-Mitford and The Leader John McGiver as Dr. Renshaw Wynne Miller as Nurse Peter Turgeon as Narrator, Lieutenant Berg, and Dr. Remington Charles Braswell as Dr. Benbow The story was re-adapted for the scene in 1964, this time by Joe Manchester. This musical version of The Secret Life of Walter Mitty depicts Mitty at the age of 40, tempted by would-be chanteuse Willa De Wisp to leave his wife Agnes and really live The Secret Life. It contains 17 songs, with lyrics by Earl Shuman and music by Leon Carr. [15] The musical opened off-Broadway at the Players Theatre on 26 April [16] Time magazine described the musical's plot as being boldly extrapolated from the short story, calling the result a thoroughly pleasant musical evening. [17] Columbia Records recorded an original cast recording on LP, also dated 1964. [recion needed] See also Waldo Kitty References Secret Life ^ Napierkowski, Marie Rose, ed. The Secret Life of Walter Mitty: Introduction. Student novels, Vol. 1. eNotes.com. Downloaded 2008-07-14. ^ Note on the Texts, James Thurber: Writings and Drawings (The Library of America, 1996, ISBN 1-883011-22-1) ^ James Thurber (March 18, 1939). Walter Mitty's Secret Life, The New Yorker. ^ a while Thurber: Mitty and Dangerous. 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