

The painting depicts a young woman with vibrant red hair, seen from the side, looking out over a turbulent sea. She is wearing a dark green dress. In the background, a large, multi-masted sailing ship is wrecked and partially submerged in the churning, greenish-blue waves. The scene is set on a rocky shore with a large, dark, cylindrical object, possibly a barrel or a piece of wreckage, in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is one of dramatic tension and tragedy.

**EVELINE BY JAMES  
JOYCE**





# *Dubliners* *Eveline*

*James Joyce*

Eveline is a short Story written by James Joyce. Eveline' focuses on a young Irish woman of nineteen years of age, who plans to leave her abusive father and poverty-stricken existence in Ireland, and seek out a new, better life.



# **MAIN THEMES & ANALYSIS**

# WOMEN AND SOCIETY

Eveline is the first female protagonist that Joyce introduces in Dubliners

Eveline sees marrying Frank as a way to gain respect, so she is aware that she is somewhat helpless without a husband.

Eveline has seen her mother sacrifice her well-being, and eventually sanity, and it is only natural that she does not question that she should do the same.

Eveline is motivated by what marrying Frank could give her – respect, more freedom, an escape – but at the final moment she comes to the realization that she does not really love Frank, and regardless of what changes would result from marriage, she will always be trapped in her role as a caretaker and rendered powerless by society.





## ESCAPISM

The protagonist of “Eveline” has a desire to escape from the drab, brown Dublin life.

Eveline has an actual plan to escape to Argentina.

Perhaps the idea of an escape was satisfying in itself, but the actual act of escaping is too scary.



# PARALYSIS AND INACTION

Joyce's use of perspective and his characteristic stream-of-consciousness style allow the reader to see Eveline's thought progression clearly as she contemplates running away to Argentina.

Nostalgia plays a large role in Eveline's decision to stay as well. She is attached to the past, and even though the people from her past are long gone, she cannot bring herself to leave the city that she associates with them.

Joyce is perhaps using "Eveline" as an opportunity to critique this type of glorification of the past, since here it prevents Eveline from escaping an abusive relationship and pursuing her own happiness. Her nostalgia causes her to sacrifice her future, and despite her logical thought process, her final decision is ultimately caused by a gut feeling.



## THE MANY FORMS OF DEATH

Eveline never expresses any strong feelings about death. She refers to her mother's death, but never really expresses any grief.

Marriage is also a metaphor for death since it signifies the end of an individual life and the beginning of a shared life.

Joyce communicates this idea of being dead while alive in the description of Eveline's everyday life. She is trapped in the monotony of caring for the family, and When Eveline makes her decision not to leave Dublin, she essentially gives up all possibility of change.