

'Miss' is left out of the title here - this both underlines that she has never married and gives her maiden name importance.

Themes - Anger, Revenge, Hatred, Death.

Havisham

Oxymoron

This shows that Havisham both loves and hates her potential husband at the same time. There is no exclamation mark here because her anger is controlled.

Beloved sweetheart bastard. Not a day since then

Irony

We usually pray for something good - not someone's death. This shows the depth of her hatred for him.

I haven't wished him dead. **Prayed for it**

Enjambment

Here Miss Havisham alludes to her past. We, as readers, are expected to know what 'then' refers to: her wedding day, on which she was unceremoniously dumped. The enjambment highlights the intensity of her continuous vengeful desires.

so hard I've dark green pebbles for eyes,

Metaphor

Her veins, with age and the passing of time have become more pronounced. She resents him for the passing of time and the impact that it has had on her body and want to use this to strangle him.

ropes on the back of my hands I could strangle with.

Word Choice

A name for an older woman who is not married - though doesn't have very nice connotations. She gives herself this title implying that this is what she thinks and is also what people see. It is bitter in tone.

Spinster. I stink and remember. Whole days

Metaphor

Green is considered the colour of jealousy - it implies that her jealousy has turned her to stone, and that she is no longer able to see things as they are.

Word Choice

She admits that she stinks - literally. She hasn't changed her clothes in decades. It is this stink that reminds her of the past and what has happened to her.

in bed **cawing** **Nooooo** at the wall; the dress

Imagery

Emphasises the primitive rawness of her emotions. She feels rejected by her lover who has flown the nest.

Repetition

Repetition of vowels underlines the intensity of her emotions - it's almost as if she has no word to describe her anguish.

yellowing, trembling if I open the wardrobe;

Word Choice

Havisham tells us of her yellowing wedding dress - this could be a symbol of her old age, her lost hopes, or her spinsterhood. She clings on to the memory of her ill-fated wedding and one way she does this is never taking off her dress.

she **slew** mirror, full-length, **her, myself, who did this**

Word Choice

This is a deep red to purple brown - symbolises old wounds.

to me? Puce curses that are **sounds not words.**

Word Choice

Double meaning - past tense of 'slay' suggesting she has smashed the mirror in anger - also means drunk like she is drinking her way past her

She can no longer access words to describe her emotions.

Some nights better, the **lost body over me,**

Sexual Imagery

Alludes to the erotic things she would like to do to him. But this moment doesn't last long - she wakes up harshly with a start.

my fluent tongue in its mouth in its ear

Word Choice

This implies that the couple enjoyed a good sex-life prior to his abandoning her. She doesn't like that she still desires him, though, and wakes herself up by imagining she has hurt him.

In the dream she imagines moving down his body until she emasculates him. It's almost as if he has taken her womanhood, so she wants to take his manhood.

then down till I suddenly bite awake. Love's

Metaphor

She thinks that all marriages will burst like a balloon. The red symbolises her embarrassment and anger at being jilted.

hate behind a white veil; a red balloon bursting

Imagery

She is playing on the idea of a wedding veil here implying that behind a marriage there is only lies. Or does she mean he hatred is thinly veiled? She has literally brought her hatred to life.

Command

A morbid, macabre, perverse request. Combination of enjoyment and torture.

One word sentence

Emphasises the abruptness with which she was left.

in my face. **Bang.** **I stabbed at a wedding cake.**

Imagery

The wedding cake becomes a concrete symbol for all of her failures in love. It shows her anger and her opinion of marriage.

Give me a male corpse for a long slow honeymoon.

Don't think it's only the heart that **b-b-b-breaks.**

Use of the plosive 'b' in a stuttering style suggests that she is breaking down. Her life is broken as well as her heart.

Carol Ann Duffy