



The Dandelion Girl

Robert F. Young

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Inspiration for the Japanese anime series RahXephon and is also referenced in CLANNAD and Portal 2.

"Day before yesterday I saw a rabbit, and yesterday a deer, and today, you."

The Dandelion Girl Details

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Author : Robert F. Young

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From Reader Review The Dandelion Girl for online ebook

Vicenta says

"Day before yesterday I saw a rabbit, and yesterday a deer, and today, you."

I really, really recommend this short fiction.

Thanks to ?????????????3 ??????????????, I was intrigued by the Dandelion Girl, mentioned for soon-to-weds. And it was also referred by GLaDOS ("It's a Beautiful Day Out. Yesterday, I Saw a Deer,") from video game PORTAL 2. The examples kinda guarantee that this short fiction must be something.

Well, it is *something*. It's heartwarming, memorable, and, personally, more romantic than any romance books or movies I have read/watched. I finished this powerful story with tears in my eyes for some reasons... Gonna reread this amazing piece of work in the future for sure.

AndreaMir says

Barely eleven pages, although full of charm. Not just a science fiction short story about romance and time travel, it's an allegory about solitude, the ageing of human beings and a timeless love.

Particullary agreed with their own concept of time:

"...everything that is going to happen has already happened".

There's nothing to be afraid of because everything is already written, but at the same time nothing's for sure. It is constantly changing, we are entirely responsabile of what we do or not do with our time no matter if it belongs to the past or if we are living it in the present or making it in the future.

"And do you come
here often?"

"Oh, yes. This is my favorite space-time coordinate. I stand here for hours sometimes and look and look and look. Day before yesterday I saw a rabbit, and yesterday a deer, and today, you."

Ressha says

This strikes me as a story that you can only feel one of two ways about. Either you'll love it as something that strikes you to the core or you'll find it inoffensive and forgettable. I understand why it would appeal so much to others but unfortunately I feel I fell right into the latter camp.

It's a nice, simple short story. The 'twist' is fine. Nothing mind-bending but it's set up well and feels satisfying as an ending. That doesn't seem to me the draw of the story. The draw is more the rare feeling of meeting someone and becoming close to them strangely fast. It's as if some people are just operating on the same frequencies as you and once you meet them, everything just seems to click.

It's a rare experience and something I guess in some sense I'm waiting for the next one to occur in my own life. The experience is captured very well in the story, in an almost mystical way. The story would still be 90% as enjoyable without any sci-fi aspect at all.

I could complain about some of the things I didn't like. The name-dropping of philosophers and poets, the repetition of a nice-sounding phrase to make sure we acknowledge that, yes, it is nice, the characterless protagonist... But I feel that mentioning things like that are beside the point. They aren't the reason I didn't love this story. I didn't love it simply because it didn't resonate with me like it did with others. That's the only reason. As for those who did love this story, good for you. I hope you one day find someone like the protagonist of this story did.

Marro Lee says

Actually, this short story was also mentioned in the anime called "Clannad". Yes, I admit that I read this 'cause I was a fan on the said anime and I was intrigued by the line "The day before yesterday, I saw a rabbit. Yesterday, a deer and today, you." I thought it was dull when I first read it, but I soon found my head and eyes so close on the 11 pages of paper. It is really a short, heart-warming story describing a couple's love life with the woman as a time traveler.

Well, I don't have anything more to say other than this opened my mind to lots of different theories. Good work, Robert F. Young :)

G. says

"The Dandelion Girl" was mentioned in "Biblia Koshodou no Jiken Techou" TV show. It said this book was meant for marriage couple. And I was really curious about the story so I gave it a try.

Mark, a middle-aged man, fall in love with the girl who time travels from the future back to 1961. But one day, she never shows up again and Mark has no clue to discover her. Then, as the story goes on, Mark finally found out the truth behind it.

Admittedly I suck at time travelling things, but I really REALLY love the story! It's so sweet, beautiful and almost brings me to tears every time I read it!

Here's the quote that stuck in my mind like a rhyme :

"Day before yesterday I saw a rabbit,
and yesterday a deer, and today, you."

Nattawut Phetmak says

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????????????????????????????????...
...

????????????????????? sci-fi ??????????????????????

Erin says

"and today, you."

You know how *The Princess Bride* begins with the line *"This is my favorite book in all the world, though I have never read it"*? In a similar (but not identical) vein, this was my favorite short story long before I had read it, because I knew the quote at the top of this review -- *"Day before yesterday I saw a rabbit, and yesterday a deer, and today, you."*. For whatever reason, I had found the quote randomly while on a blog that was simply a collection of quotes, and loved the way it sounded -- so much so that I was determined to read whatever it was from, no matter what. I found a copy online, read it straight through three times in a row, and was pleased to find that I enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed (what I found out later to be) its most famous line.

"and today, you."

There's not much I can say about this short story without giving away the entire plot (as is often the case when reviewing short stories, sadly), but I can recommend it wholeheartedly (though I'm shelving it with my 2017 books, I first read this story a few years back, and come back to it time and time again). It is easily read and consumed in a short amount of time, but (I've found) will stick to the lining of your stomach, refusing to leave and demanding to be considered -- and reconsidered, reconsidered, reconsidered. Though it seems a slightly silly thought, I really do think that, at least for me, the main takeaway is that true happiness is having someone in your life that you can turn to and recite the best things you've ever seen to them, the things that fill you with wonder and amazement and joy.

"Day before yesterday I saw a rabbit, and yesterday a deer, and today, you."

The Dandelion Girl, rated ages 14+, rated 5 out of 5 stars.

Salar Ali says

That were some captivating 17 pages.

Noninuna says

????????????3 ?????????????? (Biblia Koshodou no Jiken Techou #3)

I got to know this book from another book that I read (mention above). In it, the main characters talk about this book and they didn't mention how the story end. I was curious.

At first, it creep me out. A 40+ years old man falls in love with 20 years old girl? But upon finishing it, I know why this book is so well loved.

Kerem Flores says

Wow!, I fell in love with this story, it was so sweet and endearing. I first heard about this book while watching a Japanese Drama called "Biblia Koshodou no Jiken Techou" episode 8. I got curious when the female lead was explaining the story to the male lead - it sounded interesting. I finally looked it up and found it online. This would make a great romance movie.

Sean O'Hara says

Rather obscure old sci-fi story that is nonetheless Big In Japan, having been a major inspiration for both RahXephon and Clannad, and certainly while reading I couldn't help but picture everything in the bright KyoAni style of the Clannad opening. The story is well written with beautiful prose, but it was hardly original even when it appeared in the Saturday Evening Post 50 years ago. Cute but not great.

Peter Tillman says

Romantic time-travel classic. First published (1961) in the old Saturday Evening Post.

Working URL, for an archived copy of the SCI FICTION reprint:
<http://www.ida.liu.se/~tompe44/lsff-b...>

Brendan says

I first read The Dandelion Girl in late Summer 1969. I found a worn out copy of the Years Best Science Fiction of 1961 underneath the filthy mattress in a rented room in a broken-down old beach hotel in Far Rockaway, Queens, in New York City.

A truly wonderful collection of short stories that introduced me to many great science fiction writers but the one story that stuck with me was The Dandelion Girl. I was in a terrible state back then, broke, sick, badly wounded and pretty damned close to suicide when I found the book. It was a kind of magical moment as I greedily devoured story after story but as I said above The Dandelion Girl touched me very deeply. A timeless love story, hope and love renewed.

I lent the book to another denizen of the hotel and never got it back. And over the years the story kept coming to mind often moving me to near tears. Even though I could not remember the name of the story every time I was in one of those "what's your favorite story" conversations The Dandelion Girl storyline was mine for the telling, but often, during the telling I'd get kind of choked up.

Over the years the story name faded from my memory but I searched for a copy of the book, to no avail. These were the days before the internet and I was long in healing from my wounds and low in resources so it was always "that wonderful time travel love story" in my memory.

Then one day late in the Summer of 1994 I was in Buffalo New York and I wandered into a dark cluttered

used book store where on a whim I searched through the shelves of old science fiction paperbacks and found a copy of the Years Best Science Fiction of 1961 but to my absolute surprise it was the very same copy I had found under a mattress 500 miles away 25 years before (I had scribbled in ink in the book, actually trying to see if the pen I had still had ink in it. I recognized my scribbling). Even before leaving the bookstore I eagerly reread The Dandelion Girl, silly enough, my heart racing while I read it.

Well, since those days I have learned to use a computer and to search the internet and I have purchased numerous copies to give to friends as gifts. I quietly point out the story but try to not appear like a romantic fool. I cannot fully explain why this story has moved me so deeply but I am grateful that this book with this story came to me at such a hard and dark time in my life. I am thankful (although I must admit that I feel foolish for posting this.)

D.M. Dutcher says

Wow.

I too bought an ebook collection with this story from the reference in Clannad. It's a very simple romance about an older man on vacation who meets a much younger woman who claims to be from the future. But then there is the twist, and it is *powerful*. It surprised me, which is very rare for a story to do.

I also want to say that there is more influence in Clannad from this than just the quote. The first meeting here is echoed in the first meeting of Tomoya and Nagisa with Nagisa standing with her back to him, and if you have ever watched Kanon, how she acts is very much like Shiori, meeting at a set time, then vanishing. I can see why the Japanese would like it, it's very *mono-no-aware*, filled with the sense of the transience of things. But any more would spoil the story, read it!

Also read his other stories. There's some fantastic invention, all centered around a man's love for a woman, and the loss and regret that can come from it. A man falls in love with a gigantic mountain range shaped like a woman with forests for hair and lakes for eyes. A kamikaze pilot is intercepted by a gynophoellic bomb shaped like a beautiful woman. A man who lives inside a giant time traveling space whale doesn't know what to do with a 12 year old girl stowaway. It's amazing he is so neglected, and amazing that he did all of this while working his day job as a janitor in a school.

Quite the surprise. He deserves to be better known.

◊lilly◊ says

As sweet as ever, and truly unforgettable.
