



THE LAST LEAF AS A SENTIMENTAL STORY

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Abstract: The author of the story “The Last Leaf” O. Henry is an American writer who recognized master of the short stories William Sidney Porter was born on September 11, 1862 in Greensboro. O. Henry wrote many short stories like “The Last Leaf”, “The gift of Magi”, “Hearts and hands” and others.

Key words: story, pneumonia, cowardice, verdict

Introduction

“The Last Leaf” – is a touching story about a girl who has been suffering from protracted pneumonia for a long time and is obsessed with a painful fantasy that she has just enough time to live until all the leaves fly off the ivy branches outside the window. The girl’s neighbor, an old man with an intemperate tongue, a heavy drinker and unlucky artist, at the cost of his own life creates his only masterpiece, allowing the patient to abandon thoughts of death and finally recover.

Discussion

At the beginning of the story, two young artists Sue and Johnsy, rent an apartment on the top floor of a house in the New York quarter of Greenwich Village where creative people have long settled. In November, Johnsy falls ill with a disease which is called pneumonia. The doctor's verdict is disappointing: "She has one chance out of ten. And that's if she wants to live on her own." But Johnsy just lost interest in life. She lies in bed, looks out the window and counts how many leaves are left on the old ivy that has wrapped its shoots around the wall opposite. Johnsy is convinced that when the last leaf falls, she will die. After looking this Sue tells about her friend's dark thoughts to the old artist Berman, who lives downstairs. He has been going to create a masterpiece for a long time, but so far something is not sticking with him. Hearing about Johnsy, old man Berman was terribly upset and did not want to upset Sue who asked him to help her friend. The next morning it turns out that there is only one leaf left on the ivy. Johnsy watches how he resists the gusts of wind. It got dark, it started to rain, the wind blew even harder and Johnsy has no doubt that she will not see this leaf in the morning. But she were wrong: to her great



surprise, the brave leaf continues to fight the bad weather. This makes a strong impression on Johnsy. She becomes ashamed of her cowardice and she acquires the desire to live. The doctor who visited the next day he notes an improvement. In his opinion, the chances of survival and death are already equal. He adds that the neighbor downstairs also caught pneumonia, but the poor guy has no chance of recovery. A day later, the doctor declares that now Jonesy's life is out of danger. In the evening, Sue tells her friend the sad news: old man Berman died in the hospital. He caught a cold on that stormy night when the ivy lost its last leaf and the artist painted a new one and attached it to a branch in the pouring rain and icy wind to save Jonesy's life. In the end, our old man Berman still created his masterpiece.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we can say that this story about finding hope and faith in one's own strength. The last leaf is a symbol of life slipping away. This is an emotional short story that cannot leave any reader indifferent. This story inspires, shows that a person is famous for his actions.

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