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ENG 102

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Love Story or Psychological Roller Coaster?

The story “The Price of Eggs in China” by Don Lee, has some surprising and unusual incidents. The focus of this essay will be about one specific incident that was surprising.

One of the main characters in the story is Dean Kaneshiro. He is a furniture builder. He mostly made customized chairs that were later put on display in museums. Dean meets a woman named Caroline Yip. Caroline and Dean are dating for eight months now. Another woman known as Marcella Ahn comes along knowing wood and doing the same job as Caroline. They are both Asian poets and they both publish books at the same time. The end result for Caroline is not good. Marcella is praised for her book while Caroline is ridiculed for it. Already, this puts a tension on Marcella and Caroline’s relationship. When Dean is set to make a chair for Marcella, Caroline becomes infuriated. Caroline wants to get rid of Marcella for fear that she will steal Dean away from her. Dean ends up burning down his shed and frames Marcella for arson.

The framing of Marcella stands out to me because it is really true that love will make you do crazy things. Dean burns his shed down only because he feels that this is the only thing he could do to help Caroline feel better. Marcella is labeled as a stalker because Caroline was getting a bunch of voicemails and gifts at her doorstep for Dean from possibly Marcella. Dean

did not think that Marcella was behind it all. He later reconsidered after seeing how hurt Caroline was.

I feel that the surrounding events do not prepare us adequately for this aspect of the plot. Dean is portrayed as a laid-back person. He does not seem like someone who would frame someone while reading the beginning. He was always defending Marcella. Although I did believe that he really loved Caroline, he should have not tried his hardest to defend Marcella. He even escorted Marcella away from their house because Caroline wanted to use a chisel on Marcella to cause an injury to Marcella “He grabbed the chisel out of Caroline’s hand before she could react and ushered Marcella Ahn to the door” (Lee 246) .

This aspect of the plot is important to our understanding to the rest of the story. Although it is clear that Dean and Marcella met before him and Caroline did, it is still significant that love really changed Dean’s mindset, motives, and actions. Dean found himself stuck between two women’s problems and ended up really fighting to keep the woman that he loved. Framing Marcella was the best thing that Dean could do for Caroline because it forced Marcella to leave town and Caroline could finally sleep at night and enjoy her family in peace.

In the story “The Price of Eggs in China” by Don Lee, some of the events and incidents that went on were surprising but understandable and believable. Dean did what he had to do for Caroline with purpose. Would you ever go as far as framing someone for a crime for someone you love? Sometimes we think we would not do something like this but being infatuated and in love with someone can have total control over your actions and you may be able to control your actions to a certain extent.