

Forced Relationships

The Taming Of The Shrew and The Proposal

In both of these texts, The Taming Of The Shrew and The Proposal Parental Interference is a huge factor in the relationship and they also have many expectations on how the relationship should look like ,these expectations reflect to be very different due to the time periods.

In the movie *The Proposal* there is a woman named Margaret Tate, she is a very well known book editor. She is a woman who is known for getting everything that she needs to get done no matter who is in her way, everyone sees her as being a cold-hearted woman. She has an assistant named Andrew Paxton and he caters to everything she wants and needs even getting her complicated coffee order every single morning. Margaret is approached by an agent who tells her she is going to be deported back to Canada because of her expired visa. She makes up this story that her and her assistant Andrew are engaged and are soon to be married. She made this plan up not caring about what Andrew had to say about it she even went as far as threatening his job because she knew he had worked so hard to get where he is at and he wouldn't want to lose it. Andrew agrees but he also has some things he wants her to do for him.

In the book *The Taming Of The Shrew* there is a father named Baptista he had two daughters named Bianca and Katherine. Everyone wanted to marry Bianca because she was nice and very pretty and no one wanted to marry Katherine because she was seen as a wench and very hard to handle. The deal that the father had was that Katherine had to get married before Bianca because he knew he could get Bianca married but the real problem was getting Katherine to find someone. There was someone who wanted her to like them and his name was Petruchio, they had some interactions and were very sarcastic towards each other then one day Petruchio decided that they were going to get married that Sunday.

Katherine didn't protest against it and so they married. After they married he starved her and treated her very poorly because he thought that if he were to do all of this she would listen to him. By the end of the book he was doing everything that he would say. But it was more for the appearance of their relationship not actual love.

Petruchio: Here comes your father. Never make denial. I must and will have Katherine to my wife.

(Act 2, Scene 1, Lines: 294-295)

In this scene of the book Petruchio had just talked to Baptista and convinced him that he had wooed Katherine, he then sends in Katherine. Petruchio and Katherine start to talk to each other, but this conversation isn't a very good one, they are going back and forth calling each other names and being very sarcastic to the point where Katherine slaps him and Petruchio doesn't care how she feels about anything and says that he is going to marry her whether she likes it or not.

There is a scene in the movie *The Proposal* where Andrew's father finds out what is really going on and how this "engagement" really came about.



In this scene the agent had contacted Andrew Paxton's father and told him about what he thought was going on. The father says to Andrew "Your mother doesn't hear a word about this!"

When this happens this reminds me of Petruchio saying that her father was coming and to never make denial. This is exactly what was happening in this scene the agent was trying so hard to catch them off guard by showing up unannounced and this plan didn't work because Andrew actually got mad and lashed back by saying "I've been working for Margaret Tate for 3 years , 6 months ago we started dating , we fell in love I asked her to marry me she said yes. I'll see you at the wedding!" Then he walks out of the barn and slams the door.

Petruchio: Why, there's a wench! Come on, and kiss me, Kate.

(Act 5, Scene 2, Line: 196)

In this scene in the book Katherine had just gotten done saying a speech to

everyone in the room , this is one of the lines “ Humble your pride, then, since it’s useless, and place your hand beneath your husband’s foot. “ then right after this is when Petruchio tells her to kiss him and she does. This kiss wasn't love on Katherines end she was just doing what he said and it would look very bizzare if she didn't kiss him after he just said it out loud in front of everyone.

There is a scene in the movie The Proposal that went very well with the scene in the book.



In this scene, Andrews family had asked how he proposed to Margaret, they made up a story right there on the spot and as they were saying it the audience can tell that they are lying and both of them are trying to make their parts of the proposal look good.

This scene connects so well with the scene in The Taming Of The Shrew because then after they get done telling the story Andrews cousin is the one who says out loud “let's see a kiss from you two!” Everyone around them starts

shouting “yeah!” and clinking their glasses. Andrew then says “ Alright.” He lifts Margarets hand up and kisses it. His cousin then says “Kiss her on the mouth like you mean it. They actually kiss and the audience can tell that at first it was very awkward for them and they were just doing it because they needed to hold up the appearance that they “loved” each other but at the end of the kiss they started to feel something.

Petruchio: I've prepared a meal for you myself, and here it is. I am sure, sweet Kate, this kindness deserves thanks. What, not a word? I guess you don't want it. Ah well, all my trouble was for nothing. Here, take away the dish.

(Act 4, Scene 3, Lines: 42-45)

Petruchio had a whole plan to not let Katherina eat, sleep or having any relaxing moments for herself in order to get what he wanted. He wanted to break her from being so independent and rebellious towards him and to get her to do whatever he wanted her to do. This is what he did and it worked because there wasn't anything she could do to get out of these situations, and by the end of the book she fetching whoever and whatever he asked for.

There is a scene in The Proposal that is very different in the way things are done but are the same because what's being done is going to be a good outcome for just one person and thats the person with the control over the situation (Margaret and Petruchio).



In this scene Margaret tells Andrew that she had to make that decision or she was going to be deported and make Bob chief. She doesn't understand why it is such a big deal to him and why he doesn't just automatically agree. He then tells her that he is not going to marry her. She response by saying "Sure you are because if you don't your dreams of touching the lives with the written word is dead!" Then she goes on by saying "...like it or not your wagon is stitched to mine."

The Taming Of The Shrew and The Proposal are obviously from very different times periods but at the same time they have the about the same expectations about how the relationships should be. In The Taming Of The Shrew the father says that the youngest daughter has to get married first and in the movie The Proposal Andrews mother is the one who was very excited that her son was finally getting married and that's the reason his father didn't want her to know about it. Another thing that was very big in The Taming Of The Shrew and The Proposal is the idea of appearance and holding it up to the standards set up by others and this ties into the things that couples are "supposed" to do to show they love and care about each other (like kiss in public).

Work Cited:

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