

From the short story *The Story of an Hour* by Kate Chopin

Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death.

It was her sister Josephine who told her, in broken sentences; veiled hints that revealed in half concealing. Her husband's friend Richards was there, too, near her. It was he who had been in the newspaper office when intelligence of the railroad disaster was received, with Brently Mallard's name leading the list of "killed." He had only taken the time to assure himself of its truth by a second telegram, and had hastened to forestall any less careful, less tender friend in bearing the sad message.

She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same, with a paralyzed inability to accept its significance. She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment, in her sister's arms. When the storm of grief had spent itself she went away to her room alone. She would have no one follow her.

There stood, facing the open window, a comfortable, roomy armchair. Into this she sank, pressed down by a physical exhaustion that haunted her body and seemed to reach into her soul.

Chopin, K. (1894) *The story of an hour, Short Stories & Classic Literature for Readers & Teachers*. Available at: <https://americanliterature.com/author/kate-chopin/short-story/the-story-of-an-hour> (Accessed: 09 June 2023).

1. Why was great care taken to break the news of her husband's death to Mrs. Mallard?

- a) She had a heart trouble.
- b) She was very emotional.
- c) Her sister insisted on it.
- d) Her husband was well-known.

2. Who told Mrs. Mallard about her husband's death?

- a) Her sister Josephine.
- b) Richards, her husband's friend.
- c) A newspaper reporter.
- d) The telegram office.

3. How did Mrs. Mallard react when she heard the news?

- a) She accepted it calmly.
- b) She wept inconsolably in her sister's arms.

- c) She fainted from shock.
  - d) She refused to believe it.
4. Where did Mrs. Mallard go after the storm of grief had passed?
- a) She went to her sister's room.
  - b) She went outside to get some fresh air.
  - c) She went to the newspaper office.
  - d) She went to her room alone.
5. What did Mrs. Mallard find in her room?
- a) A letter from her husband.
  - b) A mirror where she could see herself.
  - c) A comfortable armchair facing the open window.
  - d) A photograph of her husband.

Answers:

- 1. She had a heart trouble.
- 2. Her sister Josephine.
- 3. She wept inconsolably in her sister's arms.
- 4. She went outside to get some fresh air.
- 5. A comfortable armchair facing the open window.