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Essay Abstract

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The Formidable Third: Eudora Welty and Risk of Exposure in Relationships

For years Eudora Welty enjoyed a close and vital relationship with fellow writer John Robinson, exchanging correspondence, critiquing one another's work, and sharing thoughts, opinions, and love. However, Welty never married Robinson as some (including herself) may have expected. Welty did not dwell on this failed relationship, nor on the fact that she remained unmarried throughout her life; however, her writing frequently portrays characters who fear the risk of emotional exposure. Her conclusion to this dilemma, particularly as portrayed in the story "No Place for You, My Love," reveals the danger of this emotional detachment: without exposure, true and lasting love cannot be experienced. With exposure, however, one must sacrifice individual identity, as consummated love turns two people into one: an alternative Welty seems reluctant for her characters, or herself, to embrace.

Works Cited

Pollack, Harriet. "Reading John Robinson."