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What You Learned from The Purity Princess

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What You Learned from The Purity Princess

Author Bio

Noelle Muni is a junior with an English major with writing concentration and an art history at Gettysburg College. In addition to writing for and working on The Mercury, she writes for The Gettysburgian, works at the Schmucker Art Gallery, and enjoys engaging with art and literature across genres and time periods. Her favorite color is pink.

What You Learned from The Purity Princess

NOELLE G. MUNI

She was very wise, the Purity Princess.¹ She knew lots of things about God. You don't remember anything she actually said or what she sounded like. You remember that after the Purity Princess finished speaking, you got to go up and meet her. You sat on a very public throne, which made you very uncomfortable. Eyes on you. She put the Miss New Jersey crown on your head, which made you even more uncomfortable. More eyes on you. You didn't like when people looked at you. Snap, flash, alright here's your bookmark. My what? The Purity Princess gave you a bookmark. It had all the steps for how to be just like her.

¹ The Purity Princess was sent by God to teach you how to be. Your mom took you to see the Purity Princess when you were in third grade, just the right time. That was the first year they taught you about your menstrual cycle in school. It seemed like a lot of the other moms had the same idea; the pews were filled to the brim with the girls and their moms. They all seemed really excited. You put on your best excited face, too, though Gramma always said it wasn't very convincing.

God's Princess is beautiful from her head to her toes. All that she wears is Special...

*Her **Gown** is of the most beautiful white², because she has been covered by the blood of Jesus and she is pure before the Lord.*

*Her **Gloves**³ are for working to bless always in talent, ministry, school, worship or play - All that she does is given back to the Lord in Praise.*

*Her **Earrings** remind her to listen daily to wisdom from her parents, leaders and from the Lord.⁴*

*Her **Necklace** helps her to keep the wisdom she has learned in her heart; her **Crown** is for the wisdom she has learned and is using that wisdom⁵ to make decisions in her life that bless the Lord.*

² You were wearing blue jeans that fit weird, a cobalt blue t-shirt, and a white sweater with knitted details that went down past your knees. You smile awkwardly for the photograph and are wracked by a sickening, spiraling internal dread.

³ The only gloves you ever liked to wear were adult-size Grinch gloves with extra long, spindly fingers. You don't remember having any talents. At school, your band director told you to never play the saxophone again because you would never be good at it. At church, you were too shy to be in the choir and too meek most of the time to play with the other kids. It didn't seem to you that the meek were inheriting much of the earth.

⁴ You got your ears pierced when you were five as a reward for not whining for an entire week. It was a reward for learning to shut the fuck up.

⁵ The wisdom you've gained is mostly about what to avoid. You avoid wearing anything too tight so no one can tell you're going through puberty. You avoid showing your lanky arms in the hope that your Gramma won't notice that you're too skinny and force you to sit at the table until the roast beef is gone again. You felt sick all night.

*Her **Shoes**⁶ lead her to follow God's path, that leads to everlasting life.*

*Her **Shaw** is a covering of prayer, for she prays always⁷ and without giving up.*

*Her **Heart** is unseen, however it is the most important part, for it is the part that blesses God the most when she uses it to love the Lord with all her heart⁸, soul, mind and strength.*

*Like all Princesses, she has a Prince Charming, but He is one that will never fail or leave her. He is **Jesus** her Savior, and if she lives her life as the Princess he has called her to be, someday, she will live **Happily Ever After** with Him in Heaven.⁹*

⁶ You wore cowboy boots to school every day. They were always just a little too big, but they were the only shoes you ever felt comfortable in. That was until your gym teacher assumed you could teach the class the "Cotton Eye Joe" and all of your classmates turned to look at you. Eyes on you.

⁷ Your mom would let you wear her shawl (even The Purity Princess makes spelling mistakes) on special occasions. It was a black pashmina shawl, so it matched basically everything and was the softest thing you'd ever worn. You felt safe in it, closer to your mom, hidden in the shadows. You suppose that could be like a form of prayer.

⁸ Your heart was always beating against its cage, trying to ooze out from between the bars. The ribs bruised your poor little heart, and every time it pulsed it ached. Your mind was perpetually racing, running, sprinting, summer-saulting over itself. It probably learned to do those things where you did (gymnastics). You summoned all your strength just getting outside. There wasn't much left over to forfeit to God.

⁹ You're very happy for the Purity Princess that her Prince Charming will meet her in Heaven. Happily Ever After does sound pretty nice. But you don't have a bloody gown, or a "shaw," or the heart of a lion. You have shitty, ill-fitting jeans, Grinch gloves, cowboy boots, and you're so so so so so so so afraid of everything and everyone all of the time. If Jesus was calling somebody to be the next Purity Princess, he was going to have to choose one of the other girls.