“He must get back to where he had been before”: Death as Dreamlike Phenomenon in Eudora Welty’s “Death of a Traveling Salesman”

Eudora Welty (1909-2001)

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- *The Optimist's Daughter*

“He must get back to where he had been before”: Death as Dreamlike Phenomenon in Eudora Welty’s “Death of a Traveling Salesman”

“Death of a Traveling Salesman”

- *Manuscript*
- *A Curtain of Green*
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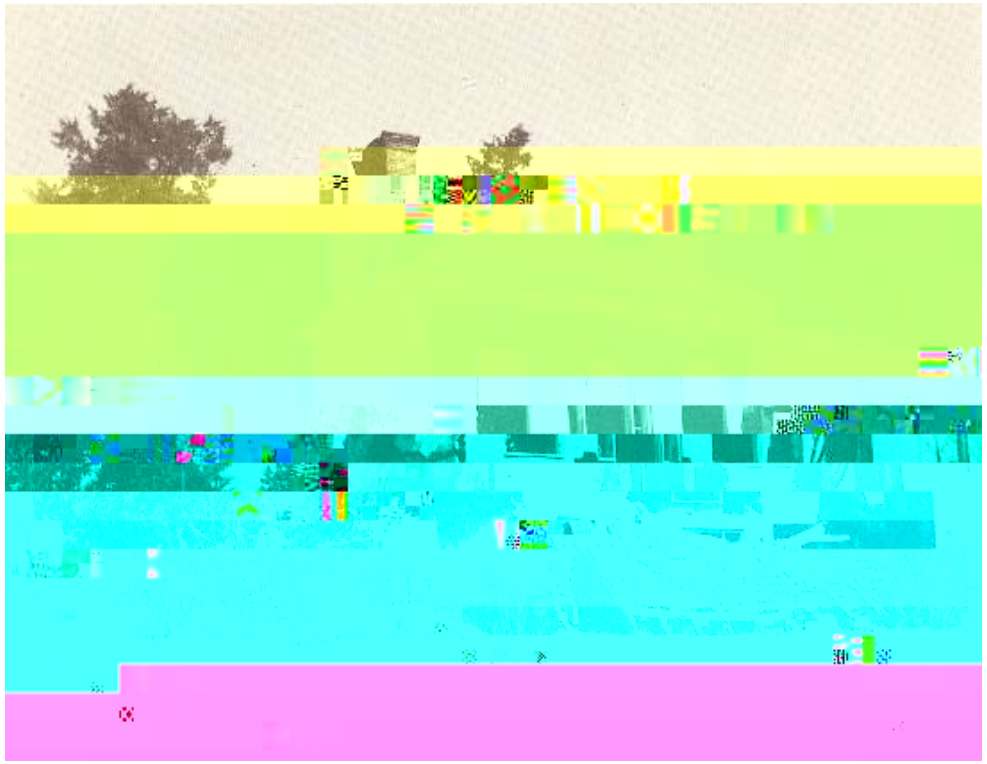
Welty’s remarks on the story’s origins

In her autobiographical lecture collection, *One Writer’s Beginnings*, Welty explains:

> My first good story began spontaneously, in a remark repeated to me by a traveling man—our neighbor—to whom it had been spoken while he was on a trip into Northern Mississippi. “He’s gone to borry some fire.” The words, which carried such lyrical and mythological and dramatic overtones, were real and actual as their hearer repeated them to me. (87)

Welty as Photographer



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Plot and Characters

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Dream and Images

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Dream-Like Language Examples

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Mythology in the Story

- Persephone
- Prometheus
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