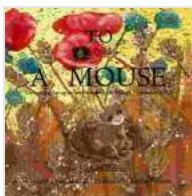
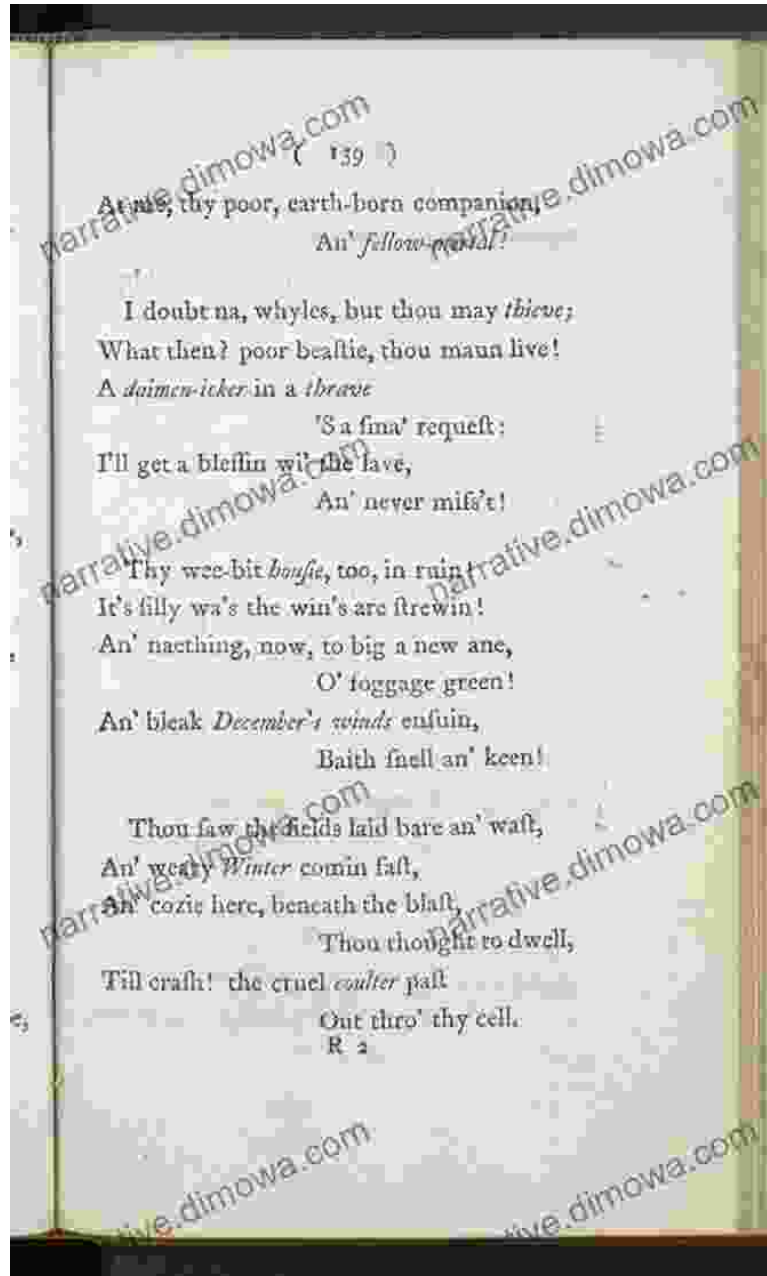


Unveiling the Enigmatic "On Turning Her Up in Her Nest with the Plough"



To A Mouse: On turning her up in her Nest with the Plough, November, 1785 by Barclay Burness

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 24609 KB
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader: Supported
Print length : 42 pages



William Blake's "On Turning Her Up in Her Nest with the Plough" is a haunting, enigmatic poem that has captivated readers for centuries. Composed in November 1785, it is a testament to Blake's profound vision and his ability to weave complex themes and symbols into a concise masterpiece.

A Journey into Innocence and Experience

The poem delves into the cyclical nature of life and the interplay between innocence and experience. It opens with a disturbing image: the violent act of a plough turning up a bird's nest and scattering her fragile eggs.

On turning her up in her Nest with the Plough, I threw her in the Water

The nest and the bird symbolize innocence and vulnerability. The plough represents the harsh realities of life that shatter this innocence. By throwing the bird into the water, the speaker unknowingly extinguishes the possibility of its revival. Yet, upon closer examination, he discovers a glimmer of hope: the bird's beak holds a seed, a symbol of potential and growth.

The Seeds of Revolution

The seed in the bird's beak takes on a profound significance. It represents the potential for renewal and revolution. In Blake's time, England was

undergoing significant social and political upheaval. The poem's imagery of the plough and the seed can be interpreted as an allegory for the French Revolution, which began in 1789, just four years after Blake wrote the poem.

The bird's clinging to the seed, even in its final moments, symbolizes the tenacity of the revolutionary spirit. The speaker's decision to climb the tree to retrieve the seed suggests a commitment to nurturing the seeds of change.

But as I went down again There caught my Eye in the Tree A Nest and five

A Cycle of Renewal

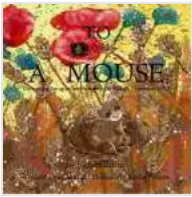
The poem ends on a note of hope and renewal. As the speaker descends from the tree, he encounters another nest with five new birds. These birds are "affirming & happy," singing of a "New & Better World." This image suggests that despite the violence and destruction of the past, there is always the possibility of rebirth and creation.

The cycle of innocence, experience, and renewal that unfolds in "On Turning Her Up in Her Nest with the Plough" is a timeless meditation on the human condition. Blake's poem invites us to confront the harsh realities of life while remaining hopeful for the seeds of change that lie within us.

Further Reading

- [On Turning Her Up in Her Nest with the Plough \(Blake Archive\)](#)
- [On Turning Her Up in Her Nest with the Plough \(Poetry Foundation\)](#)

- Symbolism in William Blake's "On Turning Her Up in Her Nest with the Plough" (JSTOR)



To A Mouse: On turning her up in her Nest with the Plough, November, 1785 by Barclay Burness

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

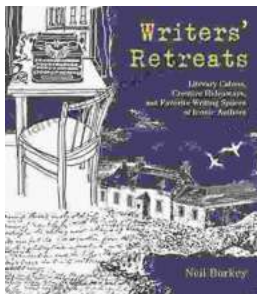
Language : English

File size : 24609 KB

Lending : Enabled

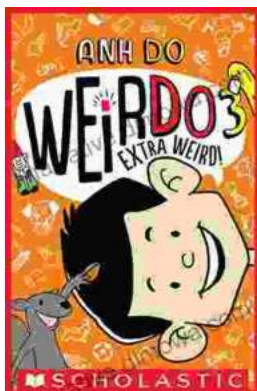
Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 42 pages



Literary Cabins: A Glimpse into the Creative Havens of Iconic Authors

Unveiling the secrets of literary creation, 'Literary Cabins: Creative Hideaways and Favorite Writing Spaces of Iconic Authors' offers a tantalizing glimpse into the private...



Embark on an Extraordinary Journey with Anh Do's "Extra Weird Weirdo"

Dive into the Hilarious, Heartfelt, and Utterly Bizarre World of the Acclaimed Comedian and Author Prepare yourself for a literary adventure like no other as Anh Do, the...

