

Conclusion

In conclusion, the anagnorisis plot twists in the two short stories act as enablers for the female characters to show their needs and feelings. Although the stories' anagnorisis plot twists give the women's real voices brief chances to be heard, the chances do not last long in their situations. In "The Story of an Hour," Louise Mallard's brief happiness at the idea of freedom ends with her sudden death, which further strengthens how she was oppressed. In "Lamb to the Slaughter," Mary Maloney gains brief control because of her sudden action of murder. However, she possibly carries the burden of guilt, exposing her internal conflict.

The brief moments of self-expression emphasize the women's struggles against their husbands' restraints, which reflect the dominant patriarchal culture of the society. The stories suggest that although women may find ways to assert their identities and express their thoughts, they often remain trapped by the powerful forces of the patriarchal standards that restrict and take control of them. It emphasizes the continuous struggle women endure in patriarchal environments, where even moments of empowerment are often short-lived and eventually subsumed by the dominant social standards. The stories function as a reminder that societal expectations can be restrictive and challenging to overcome, even in the face of transformative moments.

The social restrictions that limit Mrs. Mallard and Mary Maloney reflect the societal norms that have historically restricted women's choice and independence. Because of these patriarchal values, women have always been excluded and have had less freedom of choice and control over their lives. The main characters' attempts to claim their independence are ultimately met with opposition in both stories. The narratives of the two short stories serve as criticism on the patriarchal society and its power to silence the voices and aspirations of women.

This study's highlights how crucial anagnorisis plot twists are in providing a room for female characters to express their true selves. By analyzing these stories, the study provides an important perspective on the restrictions created by patriarchal standards and the brief duration of empowerment in these kinds of situations.