

A Rose for Emily



Chronology and “A Rose for Emily”

Events as they unfold within story in non-linear fashion:

01. 1930 Emily dies (at 74, so she was born in 1856)
She is about 5 years old when the Civil War starts.
02. 1894 Colonel Sartoris remits her taxes as Mayor;
he will die later this same year (she is 38).
Homer has been dead for about a year.
03. 1923 The new politicians try to claim her taxes.
This is the last contact with anyone in the town.
04. 1893 Smell from Emily’s house causes issue with neighbors.
05. 1891 Father’s death. (Emily is approximately mid-thirties.)
06. When father was alive he kept suitor’s away.
07. 1891 Cuts her hair short after father’s death
08. 1892 Summer after father’s death Homer enters town to build
sidewalks. He courts her in public.

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09. 1893 Emily buys rat poison, over a year after father’s death, she is in her middle to late thirties.
- Prior to this scene she was still seeing Homer; marriage expected by townspeople even though Homer likes going to the Elks Club with young men.
 - Townspeople force a Baptist minister to get her to discuss marriage with Homer; letter sent to cousins, in Alabama.
 - Cousins in town; Emily purchases men’s silver toilet set, engraved; men’s clothing.
 - Homer disappears; cousins leave. Three days later, Homer is back in town; enters from kitchen door, not front door. Homer not seen again; presumably to avoid Emily’s intentions. Emily disappears from society for six months.
10. 1893-1900 Lets herself deteriorate: gray hair, fatter. Stops opening door.
11. 1930 It is revealed she was 74 at death.

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12. 1895-1900 China painting lessons given during her forties.
Next generation does not send their children for lessons;
Emily refuses to attach numbers to her door.
13. It is revealed that tax notices are sent to her every December;
it is known she closed off the upstairs rooms.
14. 1930 She dies downstairs where apparently she spends most of
her time. More details of the funeral. For approximately forty
years the upstairs bedroom has been closed to anyone,
except for herself.

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