Università di Firenze Dipartimento di Formazione, Lingue, Intercultura, Letterature e Psicologia

John Gilbert Corso in Traduzione letteraria in Lingua inglese

“La bimba di neve” (”The Snow Child/(Girl?)”) by Angela Carter

(***not*** bride)

The middle of winter - indomitable, immaculate. The Count and his wife are

The depths/dead? of winter - invincible, (consort?(1)/spouse?)

Midwinter - (untam(e)able?/tameless?),

(going) horseback riding: he on a grey mare, (and) she on a black one. The woman is wrapped in

out riding/riding horseback:

shining black fox fur(s), on her feet high, flaming boots with scarlet heels and spurs. (The) **F**resh

the shining fur of black foxes(,) (with) high, blazing boots on her feet with

snow **f**ell on snow already **f**allen. (alliteration)

snow had covered that which had (already) fallen. And **w**hen it stopped, the whole **w**orld was **w**hite.

"I wish I had a (young) girl as white as (the) snow," says the Count. They continue/keep (on) riding.

They ride on.

Their ride continues/goes on.

And they come to a hole(2) in the midst of the snow, a hole full of/filled with blood. He says:/,

arrive at/reach (*not* riverbed) in the snow,

come upon

"I wish I had a girl as red as blood." And they continue/go on again together. They come to a crow,

encounter/meet

sitting that bird’s plumage.”

perched on a (now?/by now?) bare branch! "I wish I had a girl as black as the feathers of that bird."

He had hardly/barely/scarcely finished his (the?/her?) description when there she was/stood,

Hardly had he completed appeared,

on

at/on the side of/edge of/beside the road/the roadside, white skin, vermilion/rose-red/crimson

mouth, (raven-/dark) black hair/raven-haired and stark naked/completely nude/bare. She was the

child (daughter?) of his desire and the Countess hated her. The Count lifted her up, sitting/seating

and sat her

her in front of him on the/his saddle, but the Countess had only one thought: how shall/will/can I

how to get rid of her?

be/get rid of her? how do I get rid of her?

The Countess dropped a glove in the snow and ordered the girl to get down/dismount and/to

let a glove fall/drop into/in/onto/on

look/search for it. She wanted/intended to spur her horse into a gallop, leaving her behind, but the

and gallop/ride off/away,

Count said:/, "I'll buy you (some) new gloves." At these words, the fox furs quickly/swiftly left the

and wrapped around/enwrapped

Countess’(s) shoulders to entwine/clothe/cover the bare/naked girl. Then, the Countess threw her

diamond-studded/-encrusted brooch/barrette/hair-clip/pin through/(into) the ice of a frozen lake:

“Dive/Jump in and get/fetch it for me," she said. The girl would drown she thought. But the

Count said:/, "Is she a fish perhaps, that she can swim with/in this/such cold (weather)?” And the

Countess'(s) boots (suddenly) slipped off (her) (all at once/all of a sudden) and went onto the girl's

feet. Now the Countess was stark naked/completely nude/bare and the girl covered with/by furs

and boots. The Count felt sorry/compassion for his wife. They came to a rose bush, all covered in/in bush of roses/bed of roses, in full bloom.

bloom with flowers. ”Pick me one/one for me,” the Countess said to the girl. "This I cannot deny you,” “I can’t deny you that,”

replied/answered the Count.

So the girl picks a rose; she pricks her/a finger with/on a thorn; she bleeds; she screams

, pricks ..., bleeds, cries out and then falls down.

and then (she) falls (down).

dismounted from (original: breeches) pants

Crying/Weeping, the Count got off/down from his horse, unfastened/undid/unbuttoned his trousers

and his virile member penetrated the now dead girl. The Countess with a pull/jerk on the/her reins

reined in her pawing mare

stopped her stamping mare and observed/watched him closely/carefully/attentively: he was (quite)

soon finished/done.

remained

Then the girl began/started to melt. Before long/Shortly/Soon/In a short time there was nothing

left but the/a feather perhaps belonging to a bird; a pool of blood like the trace of a fox killed on the

which/that had perhaps belonged to a bird;

snow; and the freshly/just picked rose. Now the Countess had her clothes on once again/more.

the rose which/that had just been picked. was wearing her clothes again.

With her/a slender/thin hand she stroked/caressed her fur(s). The Count picked up the rose, bowed

made a bow

and held it out/gave it/handed it to his wife. She had barely/hardly touched it when she (already?)

Hardly had she touched it

dropped it/let it go/fall/let go of it, saying:/, “Oh/(Ouch?), how it stings."

1. consort: the husband or wife of nobility.

2) alveo: (letterario) cavità.