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### Persuasive Essay: Mrs. Ballard Is Justified

One of the most interesting parts of the “The Story of an Hour” (1894) by Kate Chopin is based on Mrs. Mallard’s reaction to the death of her husband. When Mrs. Mallard is informed of the death of her husband in a train crash, she is sad at first but immediately starts contemplating her new found life and freedom. The mourners are careful in breaking the news to her, but although she takes the news with sadness, she retreats to her room and contemplates her freedom. This is short-lived as she dies of a heart attack when she finds out that her husband was not involved in the accident, and he is still alive. Although Mrs. Ballard may have behaved beyond the expectations of a mourning person at the time, her reaction is justified.

First, this is justified because she felt free for the first time in her life. One of the reasons why Mrs. Mallard felt free is because she was finally in a position to decide for herself. Although there was no evidence that her husband was abusive, she might have been tired of living under the control of her husband, and she finally realized that she was free. Not that she did not love him, but because she felt obligated to live under his control. Mrs. Mallard felt like a bird freed from a cage and flapping the wings when the cage door opened. What Mrs. Ballard experienced is what most people in an oppressive situation would have experienced even at that time once there was a window out of a stressful situation.

Second, Mrs. Ballard's reaction is justified because she could not continue crying forever after losing her husband. At some point, she had to normalize her life again, and the best way to do that was to accept the situation as it was as early as possible. She did not have to spend days mourning. Mrs. Ballard is just like any other person who cannot spend all the time crying and weeping for death. She had to be strong for others, and the best way was to accept the death of her husband and move on. Although the culture of that time period might have ascribed otherwise for a bereaved, people are always different, and while some would spend weeks mourning, others could spend only hours or minutes like Mrs. Ballard.

Third, her actions are justified because the demise of her husband meant she was in the world alone and had to be strong. There are different ways in which the freedom in her life can be interpreted, and one way is to accept the death and think of the good days ahead. This is what Mrs. Ballard did. She was alone in the world and had to think of the better days ahead of her rather than grieving of the dull days she had spent with her husband who she might have loved to an extent. Mr. Ballard did not celebrate the death of her husband because there was nowhere she stated that her husband deserved to die. On the contrary, she was sad when she received the news of the death of her husband. However, she understood the repercussions of that and immediately started planning her life alone in the world.

In conclusion, Mrs. Ballard's reaction is justified because she was free from marriage she might have not liked a lot, she could not continue mourning forever, and because she was on her own and had to be strong. She was not celebrating the death of her husband but was deciding on how she would soldier on with life alone.

Work Cited

Chopin, Kate. *The Story of an Hour*. New York: Vogue, 1894. Print.