

Radcliffe, Ann. *The Romance of the Forest*. Ed. Beatriz Stephanie Ribeiro. Florianópolis: Santa Catarina UP, 2016. 7-9. Web. ‘The night was dark and tempestuous, and, at about the distance of three leagues from Paris, [...] “Ah, Sir,” said she, “Heaven has sent you to my relief, and will surely reward you for your protection: I have no friend in the world, if I do not find one in you.”’

[*Description of your aesthetic experience:*] When I read this passage, **I was really anxious**, since this is how many horror stories start, and it was so familiar to me that I already knew the person inside the house did not have good intentions. **I got even more anxious** when La Motte decided to enter to the house. Then, **I started to feel curious** about the girl who was dragged into the room: Who is she? Why does the man want to stay away from her? And at the end of the passage **I felt sad about the girl**, because what she said was very hopeless.

[*Reflection on its probable causes:*] I think **my anxiety was produced by** the sense that something bad was going on in the story. The description of the episode followed so closely the conventions of the horror story that I started feeling anxious even before I perhaps should. Regarding my **curiosity**, I think it **is something all readers feel due to** the circumstances under which Adeline first appears. Why is a girl like her in such a place and in such company? Why is she crying? And why does the stranger command La Motte so imperatively —as if in despair— to take her away? On the other hand, the **sadness emerged from** the image that was formed in my mind when Adeline said that La Motte was her only friend in the world. I mean, how lonely and scared must she have been to say that? I think I felt empathy with her, so I felt sad as she must have felt.