

Olivia

Mr. Dowhaniuk

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The Gullible Olivia

In the book *Twelfth Night* there is this beautiful countess named Olivia. Her brother has just unfortunately past away, and said she will mourn for seven years. However, this did not happen because Olivia is very gullible. Olivia is gullible because of how many times she changes her mind through-out the story. Examples of this are when she said she is going to mourn for seven years, but then sees Cersario and quickly changes her mind. She also believes that fate will decide if she is with Cersario or not, but when she sees Sebastian she chooses for herself to marry him. Last, she says she will be with Cersario, who she thinks she married, but at the end of the story when she finds out the she married Sebastian, she decides to stay with him. All of these points show times in the story where Olivia is being gullible.

First of all, the readers hear about Olivia, is that she is going to mourn for seven years as her brother recently died. A pretty tough decision, is it not? Well, to make such a big, like-changing decision a person should be really sure how much he or she wants to fulfill that. Things already seem to change when Feste fools her saying mourning does not make any sense when she is sure that her brother is in heaven and not in hell (Shakespeare 47). Olivia does not really complain about this statement which shows that she agrees in some way. Furthermore, over a very short period of time after she started mourning, Olivia meets Cersario for the first time.

What happens? Instead of doing what she promised and ignoring her feelings for him she immediately breaks her mourning and starts fighting for Cesario's heart, which shows how easy it is for her to change decisions that she just made. Therefore, Olivia is a gullible person.

The second reason why Olivia is gullible is that she believes that fate will decide if she is with Cesario or not. However, as soon as she sees Sebastian who she believes is Cesario, she chooses to marry him. In the first act she says a soliloquy that states that fate will decide if she will be with Cesario or not (Shakespeare 59). The second time she sees Cesario, she tries to convince him that they should be together. However, this does not work (Shakespeare 133). The third time when she sees Cesario (actually sees Sebastian but thinks it is Cesario), rather than waiting for fate to decide for them to be together, she confronts him and insists on getting married (Shakespeare 205). This shows that Olivia is very gullible, thinking that fate exists even though she chooses to marry Sebastian in the end, instead of Cesario.

Although it is already proven that even Olivia's believing in fate is not constant the reader could still think that asking Sebastian (who she thinks is Cesario) to marry her matches with Olivia's imagination of fate. This eventually changes when Olivia finds out that the actual Cesario is a woman and the man she married is a completely different man. If it would have been fate that Olivia marries Cesario then this is still comprehensible. But when Olivia decides to just marry the man who looks exactly like Cesario but is completely different, it definitely shows that Olivia just wants to be with this man and does not care about fate at all. This is another example on how gullible Olivia is as she first says something and changes her mind only a little bit after.

In conclusion, these major examples show that Olivia is gullible. She quickly changes her mind about mourning her brother. She believes that fate will decide if she is with Cesario or not

but later choose to use her free will to ask Sebastian to marry her. Even though she says she is deeply in love with Cesario, she quickly changes her mind and stays married with Sebastian. In conclusion this proves that Olivia is a very gullible person.

Work Cited

Shakespeare, William. *Twelfth Night*. Harcourt Brace & Company Canada, Toronto:

Harcourt Brace & Company Canada, Inc. 1990.