Pursuit

Dans le fond des forêts votre image me suit.

RACINE

There is a panther that stalks me down.

One day I'll have my death of him.

His green has set the woods aflame.

He prowls more lordly than the sun.

Most soft, most suavely glides that step,

Advancing always at my back.

From gaunt hemlock, rooks croak havoc.

The hunt is on, and sprung the trap.

From gaunt hemlock, rooks croak havoc.

Along red network of his veins

Flayed by thorns I trek the rocks.

The black marauder,

Kindled bright.

He is a bad guy.

Women lie taking on a passive role, they have desire for a man as they are burnt and hungry.

He is a marauder which is a bi-product of love, a burden or nuisance of love.

Bad guyappeal! Possibly suggests confusion and irrationality of this infatuation.

Even under the cover of night, he can still follow her. Tone: Malevolent, stalking. Enforces animalistic drive of relationship.

Darkness referred to as bushes, shrubs which block vision enforcing primitive/animalistic nature of the pursuit.

The vulnerability we face when dreaming because our subconscious wants are then apparent. Reinforces cover of night.

Double meaning: tightly drawn, strained or tense or in good order or condition. Monosyllabic and piercing i disrupts fluency of line

Neutralization of emotional appeal. Neutralizes animalistic nature.

Possible reference to infamous bad guy in Phèdre. (Subject - Greek mythology) Translated by Ted Hughes just before he died. Whole poem revolves around this line.

Black coloured cat i possible image of a tuxedo. Ted Hughes had earlier published a poem, The Jaguar which related human behaviour to animals in a zoo. Similarly, Plath describes courtship in its primitive, biologically-based form.

Comment [C1]: The effort to secure or attain. Hard consonant r be and br suggest the unsettled nature of the poem. Metaphorical description of courtship between Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes. Personia: Sylvia Plath herself: Structure: Each stanza is 12 lines long (except last stanza), all end-stopped, with one enjambment, each line has approximately 7-8 syllables. Mostly in present tense which removes uncertainties/unreliability of past or future.

Comment [C2]: In the depths of forest your image follows me. From tragedy theatrical play, Phèdre. (Subject - Greek mythology) Translated by Ted Hughes just before he died. Whole poem revolves around this line.

Comment [C3]: Common use of colons and semi-colons i create long sentences with linked ideas, lists which show intensity of emotions felt it never stops; always continuous. Relatively short, choppy statements keeps poem in motion but strangely lacks romanticism which opposes stereotypical views of relationships. Crude honesty!

Comment [C4]: One line in future tense. Possibly saying the cause of her death will be him. (not romantic), but could suggest she will one day give in and stop playing hard to get as he is a predator. Ironically, he played a role in her suicide.

Comment [C5]: The one line in future tense. Possibly saying the cause of her death will be him. (not romantic), but could suggest she will one day give in and stop playing hard to get as he is a predator. Ironically, he played a role in her suicide.

Comment [C6]: Motif of fire and heat suggests passion, but also tone of destruction considering she has represented Ted Hughes as a carnivorous predator. Reflects the unstable nature of the relationship.

Comment [C7]: How successful he is in dominating over things i subtle. Aura of magnificence. He was already a better established writer than she was. Possible admiration.

Comment [C8]: Slick, charismatic person i yet he still has to approach her where she's vulnerable; fat my back which corresponds to the panther/hunter image. May refer to the fact that she was drunk when she met him at party.

Comment [C9]: Hemlock i a type of poison, Croak of havoc may be warning signs. She was warned of Ted Hughes' reputation as the biggest seducer.

Comment [C10]: Showing the one side where she is victimized by his pursuit of her.

Comment [C11]: Craving i no logical basis for this want, mostly instinct based i possibly demonstrating the crude animal drive to reproduce.

Comment [C12]: Motif of insatiable, greed; linked to instinct of killing to eat. Actually may be an exclusive human trait.

Comment [C13]: Destructive verbs used possibly showing slightly sadistic nature of humans.

Comment [C14]: Relates animal behaviour to humans. Motif of food and hunger; this hunger is a description of a passionate, spontaneous infatuation.

Comment [C15]: Possibly suggesting this infatuation is under the influence of alcohol and other factors - Kisses described as parch, parched because of dehydration (from the alcohol). Or this parched mouth of his has been deprived of this thirst of women showing the intensity of this hunt.

Comment [C16]: Usually a word associated with marriage. Although ironically used here to say there is element of danger and inevitable misfortune which feeds this want for one another.

Comment [C17]: Similar line to Romeo and Juliet! O! She doth teach the torches to burn bright, O! Beyond all this hungry, primitive imagery, there is a real romantic notion, more than infatuation, but real love. Kindleddii relatively soft consonants sounds, however fluidity of... [1]

Comment [C18]: rWomen lie taking on a passive role, they have desire for a man as they are burnt and hungry.

Comment [C19]: He is a marauder which is a bi-product of love, a burden or nuisance of love. rBad guyappeal! Possibly suggests confusion and irrationality of this infatuation.

Comment [C20]: Even under the cover of night, he can still follow her. Tone: Malevolent, stalking. Enforces animalistic drive of relationship.

Comment [C21]: Darkness referred to as bushes, shrubs which block vision enforcing primitive/animalistic nature of the pursuit.

Comment [C22]: The vulnerability we face when dreaming because our subconscious wants are then apparent. Reinforces cover of night.

Comment [C23]: Double meaning: tightly drawn, strained or tense or in good order or condition. Monosyllabic and piercing i disrupts fluency of line

Comment [C24]: Eventual submission

Comment [C25]: Pronouns: rbad the/his/isheshow that there is a distance between these two individuals. There is no togetherness suggesting superficiality of relationship so far.

Comment [C26]: Possible reference to infamous rbeek bitëo

Comment [C27]: The cover of the forest and night is now gone because of the light from the fiery passion view/explores her. She has now been rtaught

Comment [C28]: This relationship has caused a loss of innocence, or taken away or some aspect of value to Plath as an individual.

Comment [C29]: Change from forest to man-made rtairs решаing to connection to reality.
Similar line to Romeo and Juliet "O! She doth teach the torches to burn bright." Beyond all this hungry, primitive imagery, there is a real romantic notion, more than infatuation, but real love. "Kindled" relatively soft consonants sounds, however fluidity of sentence is disrupted by "torches" which is harsher sounding.