Writing Assignment #3

Quite often humans do not understand that there are two sides to every situation. The tale of Pygmalion is a perfect example of this instance. In Duffy’s poem, Pygmalion’s Bride, Duffy shows that one person’s happiness does not mean another person’s reciprocal happiness. This is demonstrated through Pygmalion’s happiness and his bride’s complete disgust masked with happiness.

From the point of view of Pygmalion, he is compassionate and caring towards women. He creates his “perfect” woman and he is infatuated with what he has created. While Pygmalion is creating his woman he says, “Pygmalion gazes in admiration, inhaling Passion for a facsimile body” (276-277). Pygmalion is a feminine man who can strongly empathize with women. He is upset with the world that women live in and he creates the perfect woman in order to create the happiest situation for him.

In contrast to this, Pygmalion’s bride suffers because of his happiness. Pygmalion’s bride feels forced and trapped in Pygmalion’s world. She was created for him but she desires to be free just like any normal woman. She tricks him into thinking that she loves him when in reality this is the exact opposite, “and at the climax, screamed my head off- all an act”. In Pygmalion’s world he is in love with his creation and in the bride’s world she hates him and does not want anything to do with him. While one person in the situation is happy that does not mean that both people are happy. It is clear that
Pygmalion’s bride loves nothing about him and does not care for him. Pygmalion is happy but his bride is miserable because she was created by him.