**The Ballad of the Lonely Masturbator**

By [Anne Sexton](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/anne-sexton)

The end of the affair is always death.

She’s my workshop. Slippery eye,

out of the tribe of myself my breath

finds you gone. I horrify

those who stand by. I am fed.

At night, alone, I marry the bed.

……….

Please find the rest of the poem in the internet or an anthology and read the rest of the poem. Read at least three times and provide following information for the poem:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Persona: |  |
| Tone: |  |
| Mood: |  |
| Figures of Speech: |  |
| Most striking images: |  |
| Meter/ Rhyme Pattern: |  |

Notes/Questions for You

Anne Sexton is known as a confessional poet. Confessional poetry diverts itself from lyrical or autobiographical poetry by touching upon untouchable subjects. Female masturbation is one of these taboo subjects ; her depressions and her relationship with Ted Hughes are well known Yet, these should not restrict and condition our perception of her. She did not have to write only about this issues and she was well aware of it as any good poet does.

After reading her bio, what autobiographical elements can we detect in the poem?

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What elements in the poem take it above a simple autobiographical poem?

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Can we consider this poem confessional?

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