Master’s Diploma Thesis Assessment Report

Thesis Title:  Daddy’s Girl Growing Up: The Portrayal of Female Adolescence in Selected Fairy-Tale Figures by Angela Carter
Field of Study:  English Language and Literature
Author:  Nikola Wiedermanová
Supervisor:  prof. Mgr. Milada Franková, CSc., M.A.
Reviewer:  Bonita Rhoads, PhD

Reviewer’s recommendation for overall mark:

A – Excellent

The overall mark is based in part on the following assessments:

1. Evaluation of central idea, thesis, focus and purpose:
   A – Excellent

2. Evaluation of organization, logic and arrangement:
   A – Excellent

3. Evaluation of topic development, support and evidence:
   A – Excellent

4. Evaluation of language, style, standard usage, citation and bibliographic standards:
   A – Excellent

Comments and/or topics and questions for the thesis defence:

Nikola Wiedermanová’s thesis offers a mature discussion of the feminist revision of fairytales in the fiction of Angela Carter. The result is an incisive account of Carter’s radical reworking of this conventionally patriarchal genre and a thorough examination of the specific motifs—virginity, father-daughter incest, the mother myth, et al.—that Carter transforms and endows with feminist potential. The manuscript is well-written, elegantly structured and displays a substantial amount of research. At the outset, the author points out the critical controversy over whether such revisions merely serve to endorse the patriarchal imperatives associated with the fairy tale genre or whether they succeed in disrupting sexist conventions by endowing these plot elements with newly feminist significances. Wiedermanová’s thesis (full of close and careful readings) certainly goes a long way to prove the latter conviction. Yet I would challenge the candidate to consider the
question more deeply in a future edit of the manuscript. Does Carter never fail to reform the patriarchal wisdom of the narratives she adapts?

Brno, 8.6.2012

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Signature