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### More Perilous and Fair: Women and Gender in Mythopoeic Fantasy

August 2-5, 2024

Via Zoom and Discord

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## Orpheus and Eurydice

### Additional Keywords

Mythic Circle, Mythopoeia, Dragons, Fantasy, Fiction, Poetry

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# Orpheus and Eurydice

by Emma Wilson-Kanamori

What if in the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice, they were separated with wrath?  
 And Eurydice bargained with Hades  
 behind Persephone's back, and our  
 Orpheus seduced the Furies,  
 and in their bargains inhaled  
 that deep sombre shadow  
 of the Underworld?  
 What if they too emerged from drops of blood, changed and marked? What if they  
 became the precipice  
 between the sky and the horizon,  
 and in their lust to be united,  
 became the very monsters that  
 guard Hades' gates? And what if  
 they sailed away together,  
 leaving a massacre,  
 terrible in flesh,  
 the two sinners who overthrew the master of the underworld and his wife, scot-free  
 or  
 so they thought. Until Hades chases them  
 down, and demands Orpheus as pay  
 for the powers he gave to our  
 Eurydice, whilst behind  
 him, the Furies know that  
 she would sacrifice  
 herself to save Orpheus, and so they will get their pay for arming her lover. This is  
 simply a thought I have – that what if  
 instead of simpering tragedy,  
 they fought with bite and scratch to throw  
 the gods off their throne? There is  
 a romance to that, don't  
 you think? There is fire.