### \*\*1.- What happens in the story? (100 words max)\*\*

Marie, a linguist giving birth far from home in a Prague hospital, experiences a hallucinatory and emotionally charged night in the maternity ward. She hears crying she cannot place, observes mysterious mothers, and feels deeply entwined with a stranger nearby. Amid confusion—possibly bureaucratic or supernatural—she awakens to a child she believes is hers, though possibly not. Naming the baby Autolycus, she leaves the hospital in a daze. In time, she raises the child as her own, reflecting on maternal identity, fate, shared longing, and the thin veil between self and other, certainty and mystery, connection and transformation.

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### \*\*2.- What is the theme? (100 words max)\*\*

The story explores \*\*the liminal nature of motherhood\*\*, \*\*identity formation\*\*, and \*\*the metaphysical fluidity of human connection\*\*. Central is the idea that certain roles—like mother, child, or even self—can be shaped as much by longing, ambiguity, and emotional truth as by biology or bureaucracy. Through surrealist detail and poetic prose, the story meditates on \*\*how maternal love can arise out of uncertainty\*\*, and \*\*how shared experience collapses boundaries\*\*. Birth is not only physical, but existential—each cry, each unseen connection, reshapes Marie’s soul. Time, sound, and space blur, forming a mythic portrait of human entanglement.

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### \*\*3.- Does it propose other interpretations, in addition to the literal one?\*\*

\*\*5 – Totally agree\*\*

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### \*\*4.- If the above question was affirmative, Which interpretation is it? (100 words max)\*\*

Yes. The story functions as an \*\*existential parable\*\* on \*\*identity, uncertainty, and the ineffability of transformation\*\*. The maternity ward becomes a metaphorical womb—a suspended space where identity, time, and memory dissolve. Marie may be dreaming, breaking down, or experiencing a supernatural transference. Her naming of the child "Autolycus" (a shapeshifter and trickster in mythology) signals her awareness that she’s navigating a morally gray metamorphosis. Her maternal claim reflects a deeper human truth: that \*\*connection often begins not through certainty, but through persistence, empathy, and presence\*\*. The story blurs the line between mysticism and misidentification to probe what makes a life “yours.”