

Appointment in Samarra

William Somerset Maugham

He was a British playwright, novelist and short story writer.

About Story

Simple language, story is presented in the form of conversation. Writer used only minimum words. The number of characters -> 3. merchant, servant, Death. The writer doesn't say much about Death but the story begins with the words of death.

Samarra is a city that stands on the east bank of river Tigris. It lies 70 miles north of Baghdad. The city was earlier called 'Schorra Man Rda', which means delight for all who see. Appointment in Samarra is a retelling of an Arabic Fairy tale.

The narrator of the story is Death. The story starts with 'Death speaks'. By these words the author tries to show the reader that death is not just a force of nature, but a human being. The story is being told to Sheppery, the protagonist of the play 'Sheppery'.

Appointment means death of servant. Death decide in advance whom she should visit. Still coil never be satisfied with any persons whom she meets. It signifies the certainty in case of death.

Fatalism is the main theme of the story. It is a belief that all events are predetermined. No one can avoid his or her own destiny. If the servant had not met death in the morning at the market place, he would have ended up in Samarra by that night some other ways and met his death at the predetermined time.

"There is no escape from death."

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A Shocking Accident

- Graham Greene -

Graham Greene

He was an English novelist, short story writer, playwright and journalist.

Characters.

Jerome → young boy → Protagonist.

Holmes → Mr. Woldsworth.

Jerome's Aunt

Jerome's Father

Jerome's lover → Sally

Theme.

Comic death of Jerome's Father and its consequences in his life.

1. How did Jerome's Father die?

While Jerome's Father was walking along a street to the Hydrographic Museum in Naples, a pig fell on him from a balcony of the 5th Floor.

2. Holmes' reaction.

The news of Jerome's Father death made him laugh. Mr. Woldsworth is shaking with this laughing.

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3. Title of the story "A shocking Accident"

His Father died by a pig falling on him. Naturally this accident is unnatural & almost unbelievable. That is why the story has been titled as A shocking Accident.

4. How does Jerome imagine his Father has died.

Imagine that his Father might have been killed in an encounter with the police. He asks the housemaster whether they shot him through the heart.

5. What was the question to Wordsworth by Jerome on hearing his Father's accident

He asked Wordsworth what had happened to the pig.

About Jerome's Father

He was a widowed author. He was an adventurer who travelled to many countries. Jerome worshipped his Father. When Jerome was 8 years old, he believed that the Father was either a gun-runner

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or the member of British secret
accident.

Reaction of Jerome's Schoolmates.

He did not cry. He just asked what
had happened to the pig. At that age
he did not realize the circumstances
of his father's death were comic.

Later he told the story to his friends
they began to call him the nickname
'Pig'

Jerome & his aunt

His aunt had no sense of humour.
When Jerome was 16, he knew that
his father was an author & not
an agent of the British Secret Service.
He loved the memory of the Father.

He felt sad when his aunt narrated
the story of his Father's death to
strangers. She could not imagine how
such an accident could happen
in a civilised country like Italy.

Black humour

Black humour is a form of humour that disregards human sufferings like pain & death.

Symbolism of the pig

Generally a pig is a symbol for two things. Death & laziness. Death may happen at any time. That happens in the case of Jerome's Father. The other symbol is laziness. The main function of pig is eating. It lives to eat only. So it fat easily. Its weight increases in a short time. The balcony can't afford the weight. It collapses & the pig falls on Jerome's Father. It hints that a lazy person grows fat easily. Besides it kills not only himself but also others.

About Father's Photo.

There was an enlarged snapshot of his Father on the piano; a large sad man in an unsuitable dark suit posed in capri with an umbrella the Faraglione rocks forming the background.

Jerome as a chartered Accountant.

Jerome became a chartered Accountant who lived far away from the literary world. Sometimes he rehearsed the method of reconstructing his Father's death in order to deduce comic element. He found 2 ways to narrate. One way to make the things leading to the accident so detailed & boring that the death could be an anti-climax. The second way was to make it as short as possible.

Sally

Jerome became engaged to Sally, a girl of 25 with a pleasant fresh face. Her Father was a doctor in prison. The relationship between them was

a satisfied one. Once thought worried him. He began to feel that within a year he might himself become a Father. This feeling increased his love for his dead Father. He feared whether Sally would laugh when she hears about his Father's death.

Sally meets Jerome's Aunt

Jerome & Sally decided to get married quietly in a registry-office. They fixed their honeymoon at Torquay. Then he took Sally to his house at one night. When Sally saw the photo she asked aunt whether it was Jerome's father. She said Jerome had his father's eyes & brow. Sally wished to know more about the death of father. But Jerome did not like to see Sally's laugh hearing the true story. But Sally did not laugh she sat with open eyes of horror. Jerome became very happy at her response.

Lamp to the slaughter

A B C

- Roald Dahl -

He is a British novelist, short story writer and poet.

Characters

Mary Maloney. → 6 month pregnant
Patrick → detective

- * 10 minutes to 5
- * Thursday → They used to go out for food
- * Mr. Sam → Grocer.
- * Jack Noonan. → Sergeant
- * doctor, 2 detective, police photographer.

1. What might be the probable reason for Patrick to leave his wife?
 - ↳ Being a detective Patrick realises that his job is highly risky. He fears that if something happens to him his wife will be helpless totally.
2. He might have been fallen in love with another woman.
3. He might have understood that she had an illicit relationship with somebody else.

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2. How did Mary react to Patrick's news?

Mary's first instinct was not to believe any of it and to reject it all if occurred to her that she herself had imagined the whole thing before he spoke.

3. How do you know that the police have not ruled Mrs. Maloney out as a probable suspect?

Policemen says to Jack Noonan that the weapon used for the murder is right there on the premises right under their very nose.

4. It could be a favour to me if you eat it up. How could it be a favour to Mary?

Mary requests the 4 policemen to eat the lamb she cooked in the oven. It is long past their supper time. And she offers the cooked lamb as a sign of decent hospitality to her husband's friends. If they eat the lamb, the weapon will be disappeared from the world.

5. What according to you is / are the "lamb" in this story? who / what is being "Slaughtered"?

The policemen who eat the leg of the lamb are the "lamb". The weapon used for the murder being slaughtered.

Mary Maloney

Mary Maloney is the wife of Patrick. Patrick is a detective. Mary loves her husband sincerely. She is waiting for her husband to come home from work. When he enters the room she welcomes him. Then she makes 2 drinks a strong one for him & a weak for her. She does everything to make him happy. She enjoys his presence. She is 6 months pregnant. But he tells that he is going to leave her. At that time she cannot control her rage. She loses her presence of mind. She back to store room.

and she takes out the first thing she had touched in the freezer. That is a frozen leg of lamb. And then she hits on the back of his head with the frozen leg. At once he falls down dead. She had no intention to kill him. As the wife of a detective she knew quite well what the penalty could be. Then Mary carried the leg to the oven on high, then she washed her hands. And she returned to bedroom & sat down before the mirror & tried to smile. After that she went into the street through backdoor. It wasn't six o'clock. Mr. Sam was the grocer. She wanted him potatoes & can of peas. She told him that Patrick was tired and didn't like to go out for supper. She continued that they usually went out on Thursday. She was very careful to behave everything in a normal way.

It used to be Green Once

- Patricia Grace.

She is a writer, novelist.

Theme

Story tells about the ordinary everyday life of the Maori community.

Characters

Father

Hadley - Pakeha teacher

Mother

Uncle Raz - car

14 children

Uncle Peta - Accident

Complaints about mother

1. She made swimming clothes for them from the old swimming clothes. They were not right size & they were not fashionable. When they complained about it, mother said that she was naked, she had no swimming clothes.

2. Men had a loud voice & she knew well how to shame them using her loud voice.

3. Dad used to buy the cases of over-ripe apples or pears from town when they got them cheap. Mum could dig out the rotten bits.
One day Rewati asked them who had shot their pears.
4. They did not have shoes. Mum said that they have no plan to buy 14 school bags.
Old car

Uncle Raz had an old car which was beyond repair. It had no break. He lived in Auckland & there he had to fine for driving such an old car. Dad used it to take milk cans from cowshed to stand. Mum drove the car on wednesday to buy things from the town. She blew the horn loudly to inform her friends and relatives that she was on her way for shopping. If they wanted something, they shout it loudly to her.

After shopping

Patricia don't know her ~~mum~~ remembers
bered all the things she had to buy.
~~She would fill every space in car.~~
She would arrange them in order to
throw out on her way back. They
were really ashamed of her driving.

Mum's car & school bus

The children were travelling on school bus, Then Mum's car & School bus approaching a one way bridge in opposite directions. Children asked the driver stop the bus & give away to mum. Children found out a way to avoid the shame. On Wednesday,

They started walking home from school on that day. Boys didn't like walking. But girls had no problem.

Mr Hadley new teacher walked with them. The girls thought of him as a gentleman. But one day mum came near & shouting. She told

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them loudly whether anyone wanted to ride Mr hadley ran after it & I climbed in to back seat

Accident

Mars never had an accident except once. The accident happened when she threw a side of matton out to uncle pete, it knocked him over and broke his leg.

coining the lottery

Dad won the lottery \rightarrow 50 thousand dollars.

Mum bought a big shiny green chevrolet. Dad got new couches with modernised and water gushing everywhere. They all got new clothes, shoes, bags, toys, took lunches to school. They began to eat sandwiches cut in triangle, bottles of squash & yellow bananas.

children acting like they were special people. They wanted money from dad & he was always ready to it. Every week they asked mum to take them in pictures.

If she was tired, they went themselves by taxi. They got piano bedspread. They gave up old car. But there was no change in the character of father & mother. They were the same as always. Mum continued her shopping. Now mum takes friends and relatives in her new car.

The colours of the new car green once. Some patches of green paint here and there could be seen on the car if one looked at it closely.

BORES

- E. V. Lucas

E. V. Lucas is best known as an essayist and journalist. He was associated with the newspaper 'The Globe', the literary journal.

'Phantom Journal' and 'Thoughts at the Ferry' are his well-known books of essays. A 'wanderer in Venice' is his notable novel. Lucas is recognisable as the editor of Charles Lamb's works and as his biographer.

Bores is a typical Lucas essay. The writer makes a witty observation about one of the universal human traits - imposing too much of ourselves on others. A bore is a person who arouses boredom. Bore thrive on our own human nature, kindness and tendency to listen to others.

1. Why are bores as a rule bores always?
2. What according to E.v.Lucas is the foundation stone of bores?
3. Why does E.v.Lucas say that everybody is a bore at some time?
4. Why, according to Lucas are bores happy?
5. Why do bores always find an audience?
6. What is the greatest assets of bores?
7. What was the compact made by Lucas "Acquaintance with the page boy to escape from bores"?
8. According to Lucas who are Seldens bores?

Answers

- 1-4. Bores as a rule are bores always, for egotism is beyond question the bores foundation stone.

2. According to E.V.Lucas, egotism is the foundation stone of bores.
3. Everybody is a bore, because everybody now and again has a fixed idea to impart, and the fixed ideas of the few are the boredom of the many.
4. According to Lucas, bores are happy largely, because they have so much to tell and come so well out of it, but chiefly because they can find people to tell it to.
5. The bores always find an audience, because of the ineradicable kindness of human nature.
6. The bore's greatest assets are that he has a simplicity that disarms.
7. Whenever his friend is attacked by a certain bore in the club, to hasten up and say he is wanted on the telephone.
8. According to Lucas, a stately, crafty men are seldom bores; very busy men are seldom bores.

9. What is the most repellent specimen of bores? Why?
10. What is so humiliating while listening a bore according to E.v. Lucas?
11. Why do we counterfeit laughter at the bidding of a bore?

Answers

9. The most repellent specimen is the one who comes closer up; the buttonholing bore. Because the man who spreads birdlime all over him.
10. Nothing is so humiliating as to have to counterfeit laughter at the bidding of a bore.
11. The incurable weakness and benignancy of human nature once again.

12. What will happen if the weekly humorous Paper ceases its publication?
13. What is the best armour-plate against the bores?
- III. 4. Types of bores as discussed in Lucas's essay 'Bores'?

Answers

12. A. There would automatically be a decrease in bore topics.
13. A. To cultivate the habit of thinking truthfully aloud.
- III. 4. A bore is a person who arouses the boredom. According to E.V. Lucas, there are 3 types of bores. One is the most repellent specimen is the one who comes close up; the buttonholing bore. A bore who keeps a reasonable way off can be dealt with; but when they lean on you, you are done.

It is worst when they fix their eyes, only
a foot away, and tell him a funny story
that isn't funny. And the last bone is
who begins a funny story, and although
he tell him that we have heard it,
doesn't stop.

2 Why does Lucas describe bones as happy men
and world's uncle trees?

A Bones are happy ~~more~~, because the whole things
in the world surrounds them like uncle
trees. Bones are happy largely because they
have so much to tell, ~~they~~ come so well
out of it and they can find people to
tell it to. Bones can always find audience
because the ineradicable kindness of
human nature One of the bones greatest
assets that he has a Simplicity ~~so~~ that
disarms. Audience would not bring grief
to that complacent candid face, because
of the incurable weakness and benignancy
of human nature.

3 Style of E.V. Lucas in "Bores".

Ans.

The style adopted by E.V. Lucas in the essay 'Bores' is anecdotal. His language is very simple and conversational. Though he has used simple words, it has intense and deep mean. There is repetition in his writing. In the list of topics of the bore talks about, he has included the word 'himself' many times. This is done to emphasize the idea. He has used a metaphor to compare the bores - World's axle trees. Humor is the main element in his writing. There is humor when he says that one of his friends having appointed a pageboy to escape from the attack of bores. The style of Lucas is highly witty and thought provoking.