

# A kiss before dying intermediate macmillan readers

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Delving into "A Kiss Before Dying": A Suspense-Filled Tale of Murder and Deception\*\*

Ira Levin's gripping novel, "A Kiss Before Dying," is a psychological thriller that delves into the dark depths of greed, ambition, and the lengths to which one man will go to eliminate obstacles in his pursuit of wealth.

### **Synopsis: The Chilling Events of "A Kiss Before Dying"**

The story follows Bud Corliss, a charming and seemingly unassuming young man who has his sights set on marrying wealthy heiress Ellen Wagstaff. However, his plans are thwarted when Ellen's pregnant sister, Marion, learns of his true nature and threatens to expose him. Driven by desperation, Bud murders Marion and embarks on a sinister campaign to silence anyone who stands in his way.

### **Thematic Exploration: The Kiss of Deception and Consequence**

"A Kiss Before Dying" explores the destructive power of deception and the corrosive consequences of greed. Bud's initial act of murder sets off a chain reaction that forces him to commit increasingly heinous crimes in order to cover up his tracks. The novel serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of sacrificing morality for material gain.

### **Movie Adaptation: Bringing the Suspense to the Silver Screen**

In 1956, the novel was adapted into a critically acclaimed film starring Robert Wagner and Virginia Leith. The movie follows the same basic storyline as the book,

but takes some creative liberties in its portrayal of Bud and the supporting characters.

### **Narrative Perspective: A Glimpse into the Mind of a Killer**

The novel is narrated from Bud's perspective, allowing the reader to experience the chilling events through his eyes. Levin effectively portrays Bud's descent into madness as his guilt and paranoia consume him.

### **The Significance of "Kiss of Death": A Metaphor for Betrayal**

The title of the novel, "A Kiss Before Dying," serves as a metaphor for the betrayal and deception that drives the plot. Bud's kiss to Marion, intended to conceal his ultimate betrayal, becomes a symbol of the fatal consequences of his actions.

### **"7 First Kisses": A Series of Unforgettable Romances**

"7 First Kisses" is a collection of seven short stories by acclaimed authors such as Emily Giffin, Morgan Matson, and Jodi Picoult. Each story explores a different first kiss, capturing the excitement, trepidation, and transformative nature of young love.

### **Filming Locations of "A Kiss Before Dying": A Nostalgic Journey**

The 1956 film adaptation of "A Kiss Before Dying" was primarily shot in the scenic towns of Lake Arrowhead and Crestline in Southern California. These locations added an atmospheric and picturesque backdrop to the gripping storyline.

### **"Kiss of Death": Medical Term for Cyanide Poisoning**

The term "kiss of death" refers to cyanide poisoning, a fatal condition that can result from ingesting or inhaling cyanide. The name is derived from the rapid onset of symptoms and the appearance of cherry-red lips and skin that accompanies this type of poisoning.

### **Plot Overview: "The Kiss" by Anton Chekhov**

Anton Chekhov's short story "The Kiss" centers on a young woman named Ryabovitch who becomes entangled in a passionate love affair with a married man. The story explores the themes of unrequited love, social conventions, and the

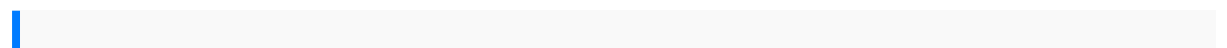
consequences of forbidden relationships.

## **"A Lesson Before Dying": A Journey of Redemption and Understanding**

Ernest J. Gaines' "A Lesson Before Dying" is a poignant and powerful novel that follows the story of Jefferson, a young black man wrongly convicted of murder. The novel explores themes of racism, injustice, and the transformative power of compassion and dignity.

## **Conclusion**

"A Kiss Before Dying" remains a captivating and unforgettable work of suspense that delves into the darkest corners of human behavior. Its chilling plot, complex characters, and exploration of moral dilemmas make it a must-read for fans of psychological thrillers and classic crime fiction.



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