

A Shady Plot

RTC

1Q. So I went home - - - - - other things.

1Q. Where was the author coming from?

A. The author was coming back after a meeting with Jenkins.

2Q. What was the author waiting for to happen?

A. The author was waiting for an idea to write a novel.

3Q. Where did the author's mind begin to wander?

A. The author's mind began to wander on material things like his wife's shopping and how he was going to cure her alarming tendency to take every new fad that came along.

2Q. "You know I - - - - - over them".

1Q. Who is the speaker?

A. Lavinia Mallock, wife of the narrator. John is the

2Q. Who is she speaking to?

A. She is speaking to her husband John Mallock.

3Q. Why was everybody wild over them?

A. Everybody was wild over them as the Orig boards are a new feel & craze.

3Q. Curious how - - - - - Jenkins.

1Q. Who was Jenkins?

A. Jenkins used to publish John's stories in his magazine.

2Q. Why did the narrator find it unhealthy to contradict Jenkins?

A. The narrator had found it unhealthy to contradict Jenkins as he provides financial assistance during tough times.

32 How did the idea for a plot come to him?

A The idea of a plot came to him because of the suitcase provided by Helen.

SAQ

40 Why could John Hallock not give his whole time to writing?

A John could not give his whole time to writing, as he was working in a ~~small~~ lumber company as a book keeper. He had to do this job because there were grocery bills & his wife Lavinia's fancied shopping.

52 Why is the narrator hesitant to be a partner to Laura Hinkle during the Ouija board party?

A The narrator was hesitant to be a partner to Laura Hinkle during the party as she was a flirt & grinned like a flirtatious crocodile. She took a lot of freedom with John & poor John was forced to become her partner much against his will.

62 How did the narrator react to the appearance of the ghost?

A The narrator could not believe that it was all real. He sat there feeling quite helpless. He did not know how to react to the presence of the ghost in his room. He was confused

72 Why was Helen the ghost going on a strike? What condition did she lay for providing help?

Ans Helen & the other ghosts were being disturbed quite often by the Ouija board players. They were called very often & were asked the most stupid questions. As a result, they had all decided to go on strike. If only the narrator could influence his friends and acquaintances to give up the use of Ouija boards, they would help him to write again.

82 Why did Lavinia decide to leave her husband & what made her change her mind later?

A Lavinia was angry as she thought her husband was flirting with another woman named Helen. But when she finds that Helen was no woman but only a ghost, she heaves a sigh of relief & changes her mind.

92 Why does the ghost appear before the narrator?

A The ghost of Helen had been sent to ask the narrator to make his wife give up using the Ouija board.

102 Hallock's ghost were live - propoiter how could he pen down ghost-special stories?

A The ghost created by Mallock in his ghost stories appeared real to his readers. Public found his ghost-stories very interesting & craved for them. He was being fed with ideas and inspiration to write, actually by a ghost.

112. What message does the ghost convey to the group that had assembled in the narrator's home? What is their reaction to the message?

A The words t-r-a-i-to-r and H-e-l-e-n were spelt out on the board where the narrator & Laura Hinkle were seated. The message appeared on two other boards as well. This conveyed that John was flirting with another woman named Helen. Through the Ouija board, it became an open secret.

122. What made Lavinia change her decision of leaving John?

A Lavinia was angry as she thought her husband was flirting with another woman named Helen. But when she finds that Helen was no woman but only a ghost, she hauls a sigh of relief & changed her decision of leaving John.

132. Who was Gladolia? What was frightening her?

A Gladolia was the house maid at John's house. She was frightened with the very idea of seeing the ghost. She

announced that she was leaving her job as she did not wish to work in a household where black magic was practiced.

148. Why was the narrator not in a position to contradict Jenkins?

A Jenkins published the narrator's short stories. He depended on Jenkins financially. That is why the narrator was not able to contradict Jenkins.

152. What was the reaction of the ladies to the message conveyed by Helen at the Ouija Board Party?

A The message conveyed by the ghost was misunderstood by all the ladies. They thought that someone named Helen was trying to contact John. The ladies began to doubt John's loyalty to his wife Lavinia. Most of the ladies are amused but Lavinia is annoyed.

LAB

162. What is the central idea of the story, 'A Shaky Plot'?

A The story is about a writer's struggle to find inspiration for his ghost stories. He needs a plot, a storyline & the inspiration. As the events unfold, the readers realize that the ghosts have been providing him with ideas & plots.

The story then moves forward to a point where the writer's wife suspects him of having an affair with a lady. The story reaches its finale when Lovinia face to face with the ghost (the lady) & maintains her composure. The plot of the story is spellbinding & has unexpected twists & turns.

Q17: As the title suggests, "A Shady Plot" is a ghost story. Justify the title.

A Yes, the story is good with the most interesting storyline and plot. The plot has been inspired from a real life experience which makes it authentic. It has suspense, it is scary with ghosts walking in and out, but the best part is the humour. The story is not the stereotype one, it is funny & hilarious. It is very interesting to know that even ghosts get fed up of haunting & they are dragged out of their beds at all hours. Thus, the title is quite apt & suggestive for a ghost story that is full of mystery & suspense.

Q18: What message is conveyed through the story?

A The story gives us the message that man has no right to invoke supernatural powers. One should face life bodily & overcome hardships using one's wit & intelligence. One should not depend on supernatural powers for that.

Relationships are dependant on trust & should be honest & transparent. Mutual trust is the key to a healthy relationship and suspicion can ruin even the strongest of the relationships.

Q19 Explain the meaning of, "my ears grew crimson purple, maroon."

A This expression suggests that the speaker is quite ashamed & embarrassed on being called a traitor in the presence of his wife & her friends. He became visibly ashamed of his name being linked with Helen's

Q20: What was written on the slip of paper?

A On the slip of paper it was written that Lavinia was going away to her grandmother's & she would be seeking divorce.