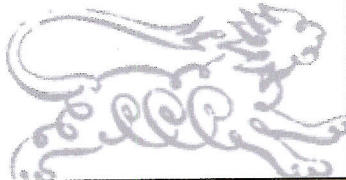


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"The Ghost Writer" by John Harwood

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Sarah R - 08:46 am PST - Aug 5, 2004

Sometimes you should stop in the middle of the pursuit of happiness and just be happy.

This tale of suspense, ghosts and secrets echoing through a family's history has been compared to works by Henry James and Wilkie Collins...and offers fertile ground for discussion.

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Sarah R - 08:47am Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#1 of 170) [Mark](#)

Sometimes you should stop in the middle of the pursuit of happiness and just be happy.

Okay, we're open for business. So, who was the beauty in the photograph? What was it in the drawer that Gerard felt he should recognize? What was the meaning of "there was no light under the door?"

And what about Naomi? (Sorry. That just slipped out.)

lynnrcrb - 08:56am Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#2 of 170) [Mark](#)

Okay, first let me tell you it took me 10 minutes to find this thread. I take my sleuthing ability with a grain of salt.

Secondly, I am going out and getting another copy of Ghost Writer today. (I gave mine to Cindy) I read it last month, but I need to refresh my memory on a lot of this and I wanted to reread it anyway.

As to the photograph, who the heck was that? I remember at first thinking it was the friend Rosalind (and was there such a person?) then I thought the photo was Anne..but why would Filly keep the photo and I don't think the description matched but I can't remember now.

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These were some of the questions I had written down after I read book...hope they still make sense, they were in my shorthand..

1. Filly had baby Gerald w/ Anne's boyfriend Hugh... a) How did t baby die? (and is that important?...I think you said pneumonia Sa and thought sounds right.) b)How exactly did Anne kill Hugh? Did relate to the scratches on the headboard? Or was it a cabinet somewhere else in the room?

2. This second Gerard, is Filly's 2nd baby, the one with the new husband, right?

3. Filly hurt Anne w/x-ray by turning light switch on...did she intentionally do this? Accidental?

4. Why did Filly keep the book(s) and picture? Had they been sen her by Anne?

Okay, and I am not sure this is going to make any sense, because mixed up in my head right now, but this is what I further wrote d my notes. Wasn't there something about one of the stories being think these notes related to that..

The Stories..

a) Seraphina... pursuing the picture. Was it Anne's picture then? ' did Filly keep it?

b) Gift of Flight...The height- Gerald falls at end and looking for s manuscripts, that would come true?

c) Revanent...Imogen's illness (x-ray) and Cordelia v. Beatrice an Harry?

And..

Filly's friend Rosalind (?) = sister?

and

How did Anne find out where Filly live? (in Australia.)

Oy.

.....

Mary Sharratt - 09:08am Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#3 of 170) [Mark](#)

The Real Minerva (Houghton Mifflin) "A heartfelt tale of female empowerment." -- Publisher's Weekly ~ www.marysharratt.com ~ Blog: www.livejournal.com/users/mary_sharratt/

I'm so glad this thread is here. I read the book back in March--it came out earlier in the UK. So I'll have to reread to figure out those que

But I think Filly did deliberately hurt Anne with the xray machines

The picture. I think it was Anne. I think Filly held on to it out of a perverse love and perhaps out of guilt for what she had done.

.....
lynncrib - 09:11am Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#4 of 170) [Mark](#)

I have to go out and do errands, and I intend to pick up the book (again). I fully expect all my questions to be answered by the time I get back. No pressure though. ;)

.....
lynncrib - 09:13am Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#5 of 170) [Mark](#)

Oh, one more thing, I saw this partial review on Amazon and it really expressed my experience (and Sarah's too I think)..

<< And then I got to the last chapter. I read it once. Then twice. I went back and read the two previous chapters. I didn't get it. Sometimes, when you have been lucky enough to find a real page turner, you may be reading a little too fast and miss important stuff. That's what I assumed happened to me. I put the book down and came back to it the next day, rereading the last quarter. I was still baffled. I reread the last quarter again. What happened? What did those last mumbled remarks by The Character In The Last Chapter mean? Do they indicate insanity? Were they revelations? If so, how were The Character In The Last Chapter's actions carried out in the past? How did The Character In The Last Chapter obtain The Important Item In The Attic? (List of more detailed, plot-revealing questions continues on page 2) So... I did some online research and discovered others had this same reaction. I felt a little better...sort of. >>

Boy, are there answers out there???

I keep thinking I didn't read carefully enough, but I am not so sure

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Sarah R - 09:23am Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#6 of 170) [Mark](#)

Sometimes you should stop in the middle of the pursuit of happiness and just be happy

Mary...As I was opening this thread up, I was wondering if perhaps the photo was of Anne - pre-cancerous growths and treatments. I think it might be it. (By George, I think we might have something.)

I have to admit, shamefacedly, that I have no memory of a Rosalind...and I just finished the book Tuesday evening!

I know I am going to have to re-read this book and generally I do that because there are just too many unread books sitting in stacks over my house.

Oh and the cabinet/cupboard where the fluoroscope was hidden.. it was in the wall right in the center of the headboard. Hence the confusion about where exactly it was, I think.

The things that Gerard finds in his mother's drawer as a boy...the story, right?...there was an envelope addressed to P. H___ (can't remember the last name) who was Phyllis, of course....but sent her the stuff?

And man, the description of the house in London was creepy...I had felt that way about a fictional house since reading Shirley Jackson

Haunting of Hill House.

.....

NancyS - 09:54am Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#7 of 170) [Mark](#)

I, also, shall be returning later today with book in hand. The more everyone's questions, the more confused I become.

.....

Mary Sharratt - 11:08am Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#8 of 170) [Mark](#)

The Real Minerva (Houghton Mifflin) "A heartfelt tale of female empowerment." -- Publisher's Weekly ~ www.marysharratt.com ~ Blog: www.livejournal.com/users/mary_sharratt/

Hm. Maybe we need to do synchronized rereading.

.....

lynnrb - 02:38pm Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#9 of 170) [Mark](#)

I cannot believe I just went out and got the book again. I almost reread books either, but here I go.

.....

Cindy - 03:11pm Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#10 of 170) [Mark](#)

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" Gandhi

lynn, I could have sent this back to you, silly!

.....

lynnrb - 03:57pm Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#11 of 170) [Mark](#)

No Cindy...now you have to read it!!! (I liked it so much I wanted hardcover anyway.)

.....

Sarah R - 04:04pm Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#12 of 170) [Mark](#)

Sometimes you should stop in the middle of the pursuit of happiness and just be happy.

Read it, Cindy, read it!

.....

Cindy - 04:43pm Aug 5, 2004 PDT(#13 of 170) [Mark](#)

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" Gandhi

Yes ma'ams.

.....

Richard L. Pangburn - 05:02am Aug 6, 2004 PDT(#14 of 170) [Mark](#)

Whose woods these are I think I know.

What a marvelous read! The last few pages were a hoot!

I kept guessing and guessing wrong, and delighted to be wrong. I pretend to have gotten all of the literary references.

Henry James, Dickens, and Wilkie Collins, yes, but also the author mentions Josephine Tey's **To Love And Be Wise**, says that his mother read it over and over. I have not yet seen that particular Tey, but the Amazon review, [linkety](#), [link](#), [link](#), it appears that this may have been a reference to the drowning man, and perhaps other nuance

There is some gorgeous writing in here. I'll be back, maybe later and post some excerpts.

.....

NancyS - 05:59am Aug 6, 2004 PDT(#15 of 170) [Mark](#)

OK, does anybody else agree that Gerard dies at the end, and that the entire story is narrated by a "ghost"? (Therefore, another "ghost writer.")

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