

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF THE TURN OF THE SCREW

The story starts with friends sharing ghost stories around the fire on Christmas Eve. One of the guests tells about a governess at a country house plagued by supernatural visitors. Only the young governess can see the ghosts; only she suspects that the previous governess and her lover are controlling the two orphaned children (a girl and a boy) for some evil purpose. The household staff does not know what she is talking about, the children are pretending when questioned, and the master of the house (the children's uncle) is absent. When everything goes in to horror for the governess, the orphaned boy wanted to show how bad he could be. The governess concludes that the orphaned child frequently meets the ghost. The governess writes a letter for the household staff to her employer, but the letter is not sent to the household employer because she could not find the letter, then after having dinner with the orphaned boy, the governess asks if he takes the letter, and then he confesses, and the governess sees the ghost out side the window and point it out to the boy, asks if it is “it” and looks out the window in vain. He cries out, and then falls into the governess’s arms, dead.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Henry James (1843-1916) wrote 20 novels, 112 stories, 12 plays and a number of works of literary criticism.

Henry James was born on April 15, 1843 in New York City into a wealthy family. His father, Henry James Sr. was one of the best-known intellectuals in mid-nineteenth-century America. James studied with tutors in Geneva, London, Paris, Bologna and Bonn. At the age of 19 he briefly attended Harvard Law School. James published his first short story, A Tragedy of Errors two years later, and devoted himself to literature.

His first novel, Watch and Ward (1871), was written while he was traveling through Venice and Paris. After living in Paris, where he was contributor to the New York Tribune, James moved to England. In 1905, James visited America for the first time in twenty-five years, and wrote Jolly Corner. The Bostonians (1886) was set in the era of the rising feminist movement. What Maisie Knew (1897) depicts a preadolescent young girl, In The Wings of the Dove (1902) tells about a heritage that destroys the love of a young couple. James considered The Ambassadors (1903) his most 'perfect' work of art. James' most famous short story must be The Turn of the Screw, a ghost story in which the question of childhood corruption obsesses a governess.

His autobiography, A Small Boy And Others, appeared in 1913 and was continued in Notes Of A Son And Brother (1914). The third volume, The Middle Years, appeared

posthumously in 1917. The outbreak of World War I was a shock for James and in 1915, he became a British citizen as a declaration of loyalty to his adopted country and in protest against the US refusal to enter the war. James suffered a stroke on December 2, 1915. He died three months later in Rye on February 28, 1916.

Source: Henry James 1843-1916