

The Woman in Black by Susan Hill

- 1** 1 In a house called Monk's Piece. His wife, Esmé.
2 They are not true. 3 He is shaking with fear. 4 He decides to write down his terrible story.
- 2** 1 Twenty-three. He worked for a solicitor. 2 (a) Eel Marsh House. (b) In Yorkshire. (c) He was to go to Eel Marsh House and look at Mrs Drablow's papers. He was to take anything important back to London. 3 'Yes, it's a strange address and it's a strange place.' 4 Perhaps because he did not have time to see her. 5 (a) Because Mr Daily said that Arthur would be the only person at her funeral. (b) That she didn't have any friends. And that people became strange when they lived in strange places. 6 (a) 'No I'm not trying to frighten you. But there are other people in Crythin Gifford who will try to frighten you.' (b) He said he would take Arthur to the Gifford Arms in his car. And he gave him a card with his address on it. He told Arthur to come and see him if he needed any help. 7 Yes. He never slept so well again.
- 3** 1 It was flat. There were no hills at all. To the east of the town were the marshes. 2 He was Mrs Drablow's agent. 3 She was young, but she was dressed in old-fashioned black clothes and a bonnet. Her face was white and very thin. She looked ill. 4 Mr Jerome made a strange sound and he began to shake. He did not look at the woman. 5 Keckwick. 6 Eel Marsh House was at the end of a causeway across the marshes. When the tide was in, the sea covered the causeway.
- 4** 1 Arthur and Keckwick drove out of the town and into flat, open country. There was a beautiful, grey sky above them. After a time they reached the marshes. There were no trees, no people and no houses, There was water everywhere. The only sound was the noise made by the hooves of the pony and the wheels of the trap. They drove along the path until they reached the sandy causeway. The causeway went across the estuary. It was not much higher than the water on each side of it. The winter sun shone in Arthur's eyes, and he shut them for a moment. When he opened his eyes he saw a tall, grey house in front of him. 2 It was a tall grey house. It stood alone on a little island. 3 Two hours. 4 The woman was staring at him with a terrible hate. Her eyes were evil. Arthur thought that she wanted something from him – something she had lost. 5 It was old and large and heavy. 6 There were papers in all the desks and cupboards. He had to look at all of them.
- 5** 1 (a) He was afraid that he might walk off the causeway into the deep mud. (b) He heard the pony and trap. (c) It was the terrible cry of a child. A child in fear of death. 2 At two o'clock in the morning. 3 The woman in black was a ghost. The child was a ghost too. They had died long ago. But they did not rest in peace.
- 6** 1 Everyone in the town was afraid of seeing the woman in black. 2 He went back to the inn. Then he went for a bicycle ride to the next village.
- 7** 1 Mr Samuel Daily. 2 Daily told Arthur not to go back to Eel Marsh House. Arthur said he had to go back. He had a job to do, and he wanted to do it well. Daily tells him not go alone. He tells him to take a dog. 3 Spider was Daily's dog.
- 8** 1 (a) Two. (b) They were mother and son.
2 Something woke him up. The dog was standing at the door

listening. She was terrified. Arthur could hear strange sounds. He got up to find out where the sound was coming from.
3 The sound was coming from behind the door of this room.

9 1 (a) Jennet. (b) Mrs Alice Drablow. 2 Jennet had a child, although she was not married. The child was a boy. His father refused to marry Jennet. And her family refused to help her. 3 Perhaps her family suggested she should give the boy to strangers. She wrote: I will never give him to strangers. But she was poor and she agreed that Alice could take the child. But she was not happy about giving him away. She wrote: He is mine. He can never be yours. 4 (a) Jennet Humfrye. (b) Thomas and Alice Drablow of Eel Marsh House. 5 Bump. Bump. Bump. 6 He went to get an axe. 7 He knew that a child had drowned in the marshes. A pony and trap, and all the people in it, had sunk beneath the water. 8 (a) The door of the room was open. (b) A rocking-chair. (c) A small bed. A chest and a cupboard, both full of clothes. The clothes were for a boy of six or seven. And many toys – soldiers, a toy sailing ship and games, paints and books.

10 1 The child had died many years ago. He had cried for help for many years. But he could not rest. 2 Someone or something went past Arthur. And all the lights went out. 3 He needed a light. He had seen a candle in the child's bedroom. He had to go back for it. 4 She heard a whistle. It was a high clear sound. 5 He lay down and stretched forward little by little. He got hold of the dog's collar and pulled her out of the mud. 6 (a) The woman in black. (b) The hate in her eyes was terrible. (c) The sound of a pony and trap.

11 1 Mr Daily. 2 Perhaps he was too frightened to stay. He remembered what had happened to him in the house. He wanted to know why there was evil and sadness there. And he had to look through many papers. But he was going to take some papers away with him. If he came back to the house, he would not come alone. 3 The door was open. And everything in the room except the rocking-chair was broken and torn. It had been pushed into the centre of the room. 4 He did not want to see the house again.

12 1 At the Dailys' house. 2 Nathaniel Drablow, a six year old boy, had drowned. Rosa Judd, a nursemaid, had drowned. They both died on the same day. Jennet Humfrye, an unmarried woman, had died thirty-six years later. Her heart had failed. 3 What power did Jennet Humfrye have? Could the dead harm the living?

13 1 (a) The boy, his dog and his nursemaid were drowned. So was the driver of the trap – Keckwick's father. (b) From the bedroom window. 2 People began to see her ghost. 3 Each time she is seen, another child dies, either by illness or in an accident. 4 Stella. 5 (a) *Student's own answer. The answer should be 'died' or 'died here.'* (b) 'No, nothing has happened. A child has not died – yet.'

14 1 The last thing he had to write was the most terrible thing of all. 2 He had married Stella, and a year later their son was born. 3 To one of the parks in London. 4 (a) A pony and trap. (b) The woman in black – Jennet Humfrye. (c) The woman in black moved in front of the pony. The pony was frightened. It turned and ran under the trees. There was a terrible crash. Arthur's son was killed. Stella had terrible injuries. She died ten months later.