

The Escape and Other Stories by W. Somerset Maugham

THE ESCAPE

1 She looked at him with her big, dark eyes and he fell in love with her. 2 (a) Because her eyes were sad. And because she had been married twice and both her husbands had died. (b) Another husband. 3 He thought that Roger did not love Ruth any more. 4 If he broke his promise to marry Ruth, she would take him to court. He would have to pay her a lot of money. 5 That they would get married when they found the right house to live in. 6 Roger found something wrong with it. 7 (a) He made her look at many houses. And he found something wrong with each one. In the end, she got tired of waiting for the right house. She decided to marry someone else. (b) Ruth had changed her mind. Roger had not broken his promise. So he did not have to pay her any money.

LOUISE

1 She often said unkind things about him to his friends. His friends told him what she had said. 2 That she had a weak heart. 3 No. 4 They did not think she was not strong enough. 5 He was handsome. He was big and strong. 6 Louise had a heart attack, so Tom did not go out. 7 When she was at an amusing party, she was able to stay until late at night. But when she was at a dull party, she felt unwell. Then Tom had to take her home. 8 One day, he was on the river with Louise. He got very wet after he gave Louise his overcoat. He caught a bad cold and died. 9 (a) He was an officer in the army. (b) Yes. (c) The weather in England was too cold for Louise. They had to live in the South of France. 10 He was killed in a battle, three months after the war broke out. 11 (a) No. (b) That her heart was very weak. And that she did not have long to live. (c) No. 12 Iris, her daughter. 13 Louise had a heart attack. So Iris did not go out. 14 (a) Iris was in love with a young man. He wanted to marry Iris, but she said she had to stay with her mother. The young man was Maugham's friend. So Maugham went to see Louise to talk about Iris and the young man. (b) 'You are always able to do what you want. You are ill when you want to be ill. You are cruel and selfish.' (c) 'My friend, one day you will be sorry you said those cruel words.' 15 Louise had a heart attack and she died. 16 'I knew I would die on your wedding-day. But I forgive you.' 17 Student's own answer.

THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER

1 That you must work hard in life. 2 It made him think that ants were cruel to grasshoppers. 3 His brother Tom had made him angry. 4 (a) He left his wife and his office. He went to Europe to enjoy himself. (b) He borrowed them from his friends. (c) He borrowed them from his brother, George. 5 He wanted Tom to become respectable. 6 To change and make a new start. He said he would go back into business and work hard. 7 Tom never did what he promised. He did not make a new start. 8 (a) He told George that he had tricked a man called Cronshaw. He said he had cheated Cronshaw out of a large sum of money. He said that Cronshaw was going to take him to court if he did not get his money back. (b) Five hundred pounds. (c) They went to Monte Carlo together. 9 (a) She was old enough to be Tom's mother. (b) She died. (c) The old woman left Tom half a million pounds and two houses. He became very rich. 10 (a) George thought that he had been like the ant and Tom had been like the grasshopper. George thought that Tom must spend the rest of his life in poverty and misery. (b) He did not like the story. And now the grasshopper had done better than the ant. That was a better story.

THE FALL OF EDWARD BARNARD

1 At a tea-party when they were at college. 2 He was in love with her. He wanted to marry her himself. 3 Edward's father lost all his money, then he shot himself. Edward had to get a job. An old friend of his family gave him a job in Tahiti. The friend was called Braunschmidt. 4 Two years. 5 Yes. 6 He was the brother of Isabel's mother. He had been in prison. Now he lived in Tahiti. 7 (a) He was dismissed from his job in Tahiti. (b) He decided to visit his company's office in the South Pacific. On his way back, he was going to stop in Tahiti. He was going to meet Edward and find out what had happened. 8 Jackson had been in prison, but he had not changed his name. And he knew that Jackson did not have a nephew. 9 He thought that it was shameful to be fired. But Edward did not feel any shame at all. 10 He could not understand why Edward was so happy. 11 Bateman became very uncomfortable. He could not think of anything to say. He did not want to accept Jackson's invitation to have a meal at his house. 12 That Jackson had taught him how to live a happy life. 13 It was far too expensive. 14 (a) She was Jackson's daughter. (b) She was beautiful. She had red lips and brown skin. She had long black hair which hung down over her shoulders. 15 Jackson spoke about being in prison. He spoke about prison as if it was a hotel. He did not feel any shame about being in prison. 16 He thought that Edward must see his family and friends. He thought he had to make money. 17 (a) To be happy. (b) Isabel's. 18 Bateman. 19 (a) She asked if Arnold Jackson's daughter looked like her. And she asked if the girl was pretty. (b) The engagement ring that Edward had given her. (c) She wanted to help him. 20 She was saying that she loved him. 21 (a) It was a dream about his company growing bigger and bigger. It was a dream about growing richer and richer. And it was a dream about living a wonderful life with Isabel. (b) She said, 'Poor Edward.'