

shirley jackson biography of a story

****Unveiling Shirley Jackson: Biography of a Storytelling Mastermind****

shirley jackson biography of a story begins not just with the details of her life but with the eerie, suspenseful atmosphere she so masterfully created through her writing. Known for her psychological horror and exploration of the darker sides of human nature, Shirley Jackson's life and work continue to captivate readers and scholars alike. Diving into her biography reveals how her personal experiences, unique worldview, and literary genius shaped stories that resonate decades after their publication.

The Early Life of Shirley Jackson: Foundations of a Unique Voice

Born in 1916 in San Francisco, California, Shirley Hardie Jackson was introduced early to the complexities of human relationships and societal expectations. Her childhood was marked by a mix of conventional middle-class values and a curiosity about the unsettling aspects of life. These early impressions would later mold the themes she explored in her work.

After attending Syracuse University, where she studied English literature, Jackson's writing career began quietly but with a distinct voice. She married Stanley Edgar Hyman, a literary critic, which placed her at the heart of a vibrant intellectual community. This environment encouraged her to delve deeper into the psychological and supernatural elements that would become hallmarks of her stories.

Personal Struggles and Inspirations

Jackson's biography is also marked by her battles with anxiety and depression. These personal struggles deeply influenced her storytelling, lending authenticity to the emotional depth and unease in her characters. Her experience as a mother and a woman navigating societal expectations also provided rich material for her narratives, often highlighting the conflicts between individual desires and social conformity.

Shirley Jackson Biography of a Story: Crafting the Unforgettable

Exploring the shirley jackson biography of a story means looking closely at how her distinctive style developed. Jackson's work often blends ordinary

settings with extraordinary psychological tension, creating stories that feel both familiar and unsettling.

The Art of Psychological Horror

Unlike traditional horror that relies on gore or overt supernatural elements, Jackson's stories often tap into the fears lurking beneath everyday life. Her characters experience paranoia, isolation, and societal pressure, which manifest in subtle but powerful ways. This approach revolutionized the horror genre by focusing on mood and atmosphere rather than shock value.

One of her most famous works, "The Lottery," perfectly exemplifies this technique. Published in 1948, the story presents a quaint village with a dark secret, shocking readers with its exploration of blind tradition and collective violence. The impact of "The Lottery" was so profound that it sparked nationwide debate and remains a staple in discussions about American literature and cultural critique.

Signature Themes and Literary Techniques

Jackson's stories frequently explore themes such as:

- The tension between individual identity and societal expectations
- The fragility of mental health and the unseen battles within
- The sinister potential hidden in mundane environments
- The dynamics of power and control within communities and families

Her use of first-person narratives and unreliable narrators often pulls readers into the protagonist's disturbed mindset, enhancing the psychological impact. Additionally, her crisp, economical prose makes every sentence count, building suspense with subtlety rather than overt dramatization.

The Broader Impact: Shirley Jackson's Place in Literary History

Understanding Shirley Jackson's biography of a story also involves recognizing her influence on contemporary writers and popular culture. Despite facing criticism and misunderstanding during her lifetime—especially as a woman writing about complex psychological issues—Jackson's work has gained significant acclaim posthumously.

Influence on Modern Writers and Genres

Many authors of psychological thrillers and horror cite Jackson as a major inspiration. Writers like Stephen King and Neil Gaiman have acknowledged her impact on their storytelling techniques, particularly her skill in evoking dread through atmosphere and character psychology.

Her stories have been adapted into films, theater productions, and television episodes, further cementing her legacy. The ongoing fascination with her work highlights the timelessness of her themes and the universal nature of her insights into human behavior.

Rediscovery and Academic Interest

In recent decades, academic interest in Shirley Jackson has surged, with scholars analyzing her work through lenses such as feminist theory, psychoanalysis, and American cultural studies. This scholarly attention has helped reframe her stories as critical examinations of mid-20th-century American life, especially the role of women and the pressures of conformity.

Tips for Readers Exploring Shirley Jackson's Stories

For those new to Jackson's writing or looking to deepen their appreciation, here are some helpful approaches:

- **Read Slowly and Reflectively:** Jackson's subtle style rewards careful reading. Pay attention to mood, foreshadowing, and character interactions.
- **Notice the Ordinary:** Many of her stories start in everyday settings. Observe how she twists these familiar environments into something unsettling.
- **Consider the Social Context:** Understanding the cultural and historical background of post-war America can enrich your interpretation of her themes.
- **Explore Biographical Connections:** Recognizing parallels between Jackson's life and her fiction can enhance your insight into her narrative choices.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Shirley Jackson's Storytelling

The exploration of Shirley Jackson's biography and her work reveals a writer who transformed personal challenges and societal observations into haunting, thought-provoking literature. Her stories continue to challenge readers to question the nature of normalcy, morality, and fear, making her an indispensable figure in American letters. Whether through her chilling short stories or her novels, Shirley Jackson's voice remains as compelling today as it was during her lifetime, inviting us all to look a little closer at the shadows lurking just beneath the surface of everyday life.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Shirley Jackson?

Shirley Jackson was an American writer known for her works of horror and mystery, including the famous short story "The Lottery."

What is the significance of Shirley Jackson's story "The Lottery"?

"The Lottery" is one of Shirley Jackson's most famous works, known for its shocking and thought-provoking commentary on societal rituals and conformity.

When was Shirley Jackson born and when did she die?

Shirley Jackson was born in 1916 and died in 1965.

What themes are commonly explored in Shirley Jackson's stories?

Shirley Jackson's stories often explore themes of psychological horror, the supernatural, social criticism, and the dark side of human nature.

How did Shirley Jackson's personal life influence her writing?

Shirley Jackson's experiences with anxiety and her observations of suburban life influenced the eerie and unsettling atmosphere in her stories.

What is the biography of Shirley Jackson's writing

career?

Shirley Jackson began publishing in the 1940s, gaining fame with "The Lottery" in 1948, and continued to write novels, short stories, and essays until her death in 1965.

What are some other notable works by Shirley Jackson besides "The Lottery"?

Other notable works by Shirley Jackson include the novels "The Haunting of Hill House" and "We Have Always Lived in the Castle."

How has Shirley Jackson's work influenced modern horror literature?

Shirley Jackson's work has had a lasting impact on modern horror literature, inspiring writers with her psychological depth and ability to evoke fear through ordinary settings.

Where can one find comprehensive biographies or studies about Shirley Jackson's life and work?

Comprehensive biographies and studies about Shirley Jackson can be found in books such as "Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life" by Ruth Franklin, as well as academic journals and literary websites.

Additional Resources

****Shirley Jackson Biography of a Story: An In-Depth Exploration****

shirley jackson biography of a story offers a fascinating lens through which to examine the life and literary contributions of one of America's most enigmatic and influential writers. Known primarily for her masterful command of psychological horror and her uncanny ability to reveal the dark undercurrents of ordinary life, Jackson's biography is inseparable from the stories she told and the cultural anxieties she captured. This article delves into the intricate relationship between Shirley Jackson's personal experiences and the narratives she crafted, providing an analytical perspective on how her biography informs a story.

The Life Behind the Literature: Shirley Jackson's Biography

Born in 1916 in San Francisco, California, Shirley Jackson's early life was marked by a mixture of intellectual curiosity and social awkwardness. Her

upbringing was relatively stable, yet she experienced a pronounced sense of alienation which would later permeate her fiction. Her father, a prominent figure in the mining industry, and her mother, a socially conventional woman, provided a conventional backdrop against which Jackson's darker worldview would emerge.

Jackson attended Syracuse University, where she honed her writing skills, graduating in 1940. Her subsequent marriage to Stanley Edgar Hyman, a literary critic, was pivotal; their relationship fostered an environment rich in literary discourse but also marked by personal struggles, including Jackson's battles with anxiety and agoraphobia.

The biography of Shirley Jackson is crucial for understanding the psychological layers in her stories. The domestic sphere, often portrayed as a place of safety in mid-20th-century America, is frequently depicted in her work as claustrophobic and menacing – a reflection of her own complex feelings towards family life and societal expectations.

Shirley Jackson's Signature Style and Thematic Preoccupations

Jackson's stories occupy a unique space at the intersection of horror, psychological suspense, and social critique. Her writing style is deceptively simple, characterized by clear, unadorned prose that belies the profound unease beneath the surface. This stylistic choice enhances the unsettling atmosphere that permeates her narratives.

Exploring Psychological Horror

Unlike traditional horror that relies heavily on supernatural elements, Jackson's work often focuses on the internal terrors of the mind. Her stories explore themes such as paranoia, identity, and alienation. For instance, in "The Lottery," arguably her most famous short story, Jackson critiques blind conformity and the capacity for violence within communal rituals.

Domesticity and Female Experience

An analysis of Shirley Jackson biography of a story reveals a persistent interest in the role of women and the pressures of domestic life. Many of her works portray female protagonists grappling with societal expectations, mental health issues, and the dissonance between appearance and reality. Stories like "The Haunting of Hill House" not only embody gothic horror but also serve as metaphors for emotional and psychological imprisonment.

Social Criticism and Subversion

Jackson's writing is imbued with a subtle yet potent critique of mid-century American society. She exposes the veneer of civility and the dangers lurking beneath social norms. This critical eye is evident in her portrayal of small-town life, bureaucratic indifference, and gender dynamics.

Key Works That Define Shirley Jackson's Literary Legacy

A study of Shirley Jackson biography of a story is incomplete without reference to the seminal works that established her reputation and continue to influence writers today.

- **The Lottery (1948):** This short story shocked readers with its depiction of a seemingly idyllic town that engages in a brutal annual ritual. It remains a powerful commentary on tradition, violence, and conformity.
- **The Haunting of Hill House (1959):** Jackson's only novel to fully embrace supernatural horror, it also functions as a deep psychological exploration of fear, trauma, and isolation.
- **We Have Always Lived in the Castle (1962):** A novel that blends gothic elements with an incisive look at family dynamics, paranoia, and societal rejection.

These works illustrate how Jackson's biography—her personal battles, her intellectual environment, and her cultural context—shaped her storytelling approach. Her ability to fuse the personal with the universal remains a hallmark of her enduring appeal.

The Impact of Personal Struggles on Jackson's Storytelling

Jackson's biography is marked by mental health challenges, including chronic anxiety and depression. These struggles did not merely inform the themes of her work but also influenced her narrative technique and character development. Her protagonists often wrestle with internal conflicts that mirror Jackson's own experiences.

Moreover, Jackson's role as a mother and wife during an era that idealized domestic bliss added layers of complexity to her portrayal of family life.

The tension between societal expectations and personal identity emerges repeatedly in her stories, underscoring the nuanced interplay between life and art.

Comparative Analysis: Shirley Jackson and Her Contemporaries

In examining Shirley Jackson biography of a story, it is instructive to compare her work to contemporaries such as Edgar Allan Poe, Flannery O'Connor, and Ray Bradbury. Like Poe, Jackson employs psychological horror but with a distinctly modern and feminist perspective. Compared to O'Connor's Southern Gothic style, Jackson's stories are often subtler but no less haunting. Meanwhile, Bradbury's speculative fiction shares Jackson's interest in the uncanny, though Jackson grounds her narratives more firmly in everyday realities.

These comparisons highlight Jackson's unique contribution to American literature—merging the ordinary with the eerie, and the personal with the societal.

Legacy and Continued Relevance

The biography of Shirley Jackson continues to captivate scholars, readers, and filmmakers alike. Her exploration of human psychology and societal norms remains relevant, particularly as contemporary audiences revisit her work through the lens of gender studies, mental health awareness, and cultural critique.

Adaptations of her stories, including recent film and television versions of "The Haunting of Hill House," testify to the lasting power of her narrative vision. Jackson's ability to depict the uncanny within the familiar ensures that her stories resonate with new generations.

Her biography of a story is not just a chronicle of a writer's life; it is a testament to the enduring ability of literature to reflect and challenge the human condition. Through her work, Shirley Jackson invites readers to confront the hidden fears that dwell within ordinary existence.

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shirley jackson biography of a story: The Letters of Shirley Jackson Shirley Jackson, 2021-07-13 A bewitchingly brilliant collection of never-before-published letters from the renowned author of "The Lottery" and The Haunting of Hill House NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY KIRKUS REVIEWS • "This biography-through-letters gives an intimate and warm voice to the imagination behind the treasury of uncanny tales that is Shirley Jackson's legacy."—Joyce Carol Oates Shirley Jackson is one of the most important American authors of the last hundred years and among our greatest chroniclers of the female experience. This extraordinary compilation of personal correspondence has all the hallmarks of Jackson's beloved fiction: flashes of the uncanny in the domestic, sparks of horror in the quotidian, and the veins of humor that run through good times and bad. i am having a fine time doing a novel with my left hand and a long story—with as many levels as grand central station—with my right hand, stirring chocolate pudding with a spoon held in my teeth, and tuning the television with both feet. Written over the course of nearly three decades, from Jackson's college years to six days before her early death at the age of forty-eight, these letters become the autobiography Shirley Jackson never wrote. As well as being a bestselling author, Jackson spent much of her adult life as a mother of four in Vermont, and the landscape here is often the everyday: raucous holidays and trips to the dentist, overdue taxes and frayed lines of Christmas lights, new dogs and new babies. But in recounting these events to family, friends, and colleagues, she turns them into remarkable stories: entertaining, revealing, and wise. At the same time, many of these letters provide fresh insight into the genesis and progress of Jackson's writing over nearly three decades. The novel is getting sadder. It's always such a strange feeling—I know something's going to happen, and those poor people in the book don't; they just go blithely on their ways. Compiled and edited by her elder son, Laurence Jackson Hyman, in consultation with Jackson scholar Bernice M. Murphy and featuring Jackson's own witty line drawings, this intimate collection holds the beguiling prism of Shirley Jackson—writer and reader, mother and daughter, neighbor and wife—up to the light.

shirley jackson biography of a story: Shirley Jackson Bernice M. Murphy, 2005-10-19 Shirley Jackson was one of America's most prominent female writers of the 1950s. Between 1948 and 1965 she published six novels, one best-selling story collection, two popular volumes of her family chronicles and many stories, which ranged from fairly conventional tales for the women's magazine market to the ambiguous, allusive, delicately sinister and more obviously literary stories that were closest to Jackson's heart and destined to end up in the more highbrow end of the market. Most critical discussions of Jackson tend to focus on The Lottery and The Haunting of Hill House. An author of such accomplishment--and one so fully engaged with the pressures and preoccupations of postwar America--merits fuller discussion. To that end, this collection of essays widens the scope of Jackson scholarship with new writing on such works as The Road through the Wall and We Have Always Lived in the Castle, and topics ranging from Jackson's domestic fiction to ethics, cosmology, and eschatology. The book also makes newly available some of the most significant Jackson scholarship published in the last two decades.

shirley jackson biography of a story: The Magic of Shirley Jackson Shirley Jackson, 1966-01-01 Experience The Magic of Shirley Jackson with this generous selection of the author's greatest work. This collection consists of three complete books: The Bird's Nest Life Among the Savages Raising Demons and eleven short stories--including the world-famous The Lottery.

shirley jackson biography of a story: Shirley Jackson Harold Bloom, 2009 Presents a brief biography of Shirley Jackson, thematic and structural analysis of her works, critical views, and an index of themes and ideas.

shirley jackson biography of a story: Shirley Jackson Collected Short Stories Shirley Jackson, 2001 Presents three short stories by noted author, Shirley Jackson.

shirley jackson biography of a story: Let Me Tell You Shirley Jackson, 2016-06-07 NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR • From the renowned author of "The Lottery" and The Haunting of Hill House, a spectacular volume of previously unpublished and uncollected

stories, essays, and other writings. Features "Family Treasures," nominated for the Edgar Award for Best Short Story Shirley Jackson is one of the most important American writers of the last hundred years. Since her death in 1965, her place in the landscape of twentieth-century fiction has grown only more exalted. As we approach the centenary of her birth comes this astonishing compilation of fifty-six pieces—more than forty of which have never been published before. Two of Jackson's children co-edited this volume, culling through the vast archives of their mother's papers at the Library of Congress, selecting only the very best for inclusion. Let Me Tell You brings together the deliciously eerie short stories Jackson is best known for, along with frank, inspiring lectures on writing; comic essays about her large, boisterous family; and whimsical drawings. Jackson's landscape here is most frequently domestic: dinner parties and bridge, household budgets and homeward-bound commutes, children's games and neighborly gossip. But this familiar setting is also her most subversive: She wields humor, terror, and the uncanny to explore the real challenges of marriage, parenting, and community—the pressure of social norms, the veins of distrust in love, the constant lack of time and space. For the first time, this collection showcases Shirley Jackson's radically different modes of writing side by side. Together they show her to be a magnificent storyteller, a sharp, sly humorist, and a powerful feminist. This volume includes a Foreword by the celebrated literary critic and Jackson biographer Ruth Franklin. Praise for Let Me Tell You "Stunning."—O: The Oprah Magazine "Let us now—at last—celebrate dangerous women writers: how cheering to see justice done with [this collection of] Shirley Jackson's heretofore unpublished works—uniquely unsettling stories and ruthlessly barbed essays on domestic life."—Vanity Fair "Feels like an uncanny dollhouse: Everything perfectly rendered, but something deliciously not quite right."—NPR "There are . . . times in reading [Jackson's] accounts of desperate women in their thirties slowly going crazy that she seems an American Jean Rhys, other times when she rivals even Flannery O'Connor in her cool depictions of inhumanity and insidious cruelty, and still others when she matches Philip K. Dick at his most hallucinatory. At her best, though, she's just incomparable."—The Washington Post "Offers insights into the vagaries of [Jackson's] mind, which was ruminant and generous, accommodating such diverse figures as Dr. Seuss and Samuel Richardson."—The New York Times Book Review "The best pieces clutch your throat, gently at first, and then with growing strength. . . . The whole collection has a timelessness."—The Boston Globe "[Jackson's] writing, both fiction and nonfiction, has such enduring power—she brings out the darkness in life, the poltergeists shut into everyone's basement, and offers them up, bringing wit and even joy to the examination."—USA Today "The closest we can get to sitting down and having a conversation with . . . one of the most original voices of her generation."—The Huffington Post

shirley jackson biography of a story: Life Among the Savages Shirley Jackson, 1995 Shirley Jackson, author of the classic short story *The Lottery*, was known for her terse, haunting prose. But the writer possessed another side, one which is delightfully exposed in this hilariously charming memoir of her family's life in rural Vermont. Fans of *Please Don't Eat the Daisies*, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, and anything Erma Bombeck ever wrote will find much to recognize in Shirley Jackson's home and neighborhood: children who won't behave, cars that won't start, furnaces that break down, a pugnacious corner bully, household help that never stays, and a patient, capable husband who remains lovingly oblivious to the many thousands of things mothers and wives accomplish every single day. Our house, writes Jackson, is old, noisy, and full. When we moved into it we had two children and about five thousand books; I expect that when we finally overflow and move out again we will have perhaps twenty children and easily half a million books. Jackson's literary talents are in evidence everywhere, as is her trenchant, unsentimental wit. Yet there is no mistaking the happiness and love in these pages, which are crowded with the raucous voices of an extraordinary family living a wonderfully ordinary life. Continuously in print since 1948, Jackson's *Haunting of Hill House* has been bought by Dreamworks.

shirley jackson biography of a story: Private Demons Judy Oppenheimer, 1988 She wrote one of the most memorable American short stories of the century, *The Lottery*, a chilling tale that shocked the world when it was first published in 1948. To many, this haunting allegory epitomizes

the short story form. A deceptively simple, but ultimately tragic tale, the life of its author, Shirley Jackson, echoes in every phrase. A brilliant writer, she was a woman of extreme contradictions. Her extraordinarily complex life is revealed in this compelling biography of a creative genius who left her indelible mark on the literature of our time. -- From publisher's description.

shirley jackson biography of a story: *The Masterpieces of Shirley Jackson* Shirley Jackson, 1996-01-01 This is a collection of three horror stories by Shirley Jackson: *The Haunting of Hill House*, *The Turn of the Screw* and *The Lottery*.

shirley jackson biography of a story: *Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life* Ruth Franklin, 2016-09-27 Winner • National Book Critics Circle Award (Biography) Winner • Edgar Award (Critical/Biographical) Winner • Bram Stoker Award (Nonfiction) A New York Times Notable Book A Washington Post Notable Nonfiction Pick of the Year Named one of the Best Books of the Year by Entertainment Weekly, NPR, TIME, Boston Globe, NYLON, San Francisco Chronicle, Seattle Times, Kirkus Reviews, and Booklist In this "thoughtful and persuasive" biography, award-winning biographer Ruth Franklin establishes Shirley Jackson as a "serious and accomplished literary artist" (Charles McGrath, New York Times Book Review). Instantly heralded for its "masterful" and "thrilling" portrayal (Boston Globe), Shirley Jackson reveals the tumultuous life and inner darkness of the literary genius behind such classics as "The Lottery" and *The Haunting of Hill House*. In this "remarkable act of reclamation" (Neil Gaiman), Ruth Franklin envisions Jackson as "belonging to the great tradition of Hawthorne, Poe and James" (New York Times Book Review) and demonstrates how her unique contribution to the canon "so uncannily channeled women's nightmares and contradictions that it is 'nothing less than the secret history of American women of her era' " (Washington Post). Franklin investigates the "interplay between the life, the work, and the times with real skill and insight, making this fine book a real contribution not only to biography, but to mid-20th-century women's history" (Chicago Tribune). "Wisely rescu[ing] Shirley Jackson from any semblance of obscurity" (Lena Dunham), Franklin's invigorating portrait stands as the definitive biography of a generational avatar and an American literary genius.

shirley jackson biography of a story: *Shirley Jackson's Dark Tales* Joan Passey, Robert Lloyd, 2024-02-22 The first dedicated exploration of the short fiction of Shirley Jackson for three decades, this volume takes an in-depth look at the themes and legacies of her 200-plus short stories. Recognized as the mother of contemporary horror, scholars from across the globe, and from a range of different disciplinary backgrounds, dig into the lasting impact of her work in light of its increasing relevance to contemporary critical preoccupations and the re-release of Jackson's work in 2016. Offering new methodologies to study her work, this volume calls upon ideas of intertextuality, ecocriticism and psychoanalysis to examine a broad range of themes from national identity, race, gender and class to domesticity, the occult, selfhood and mental illness. With consideration of her blockbuster works alongside later works that received much less critical attention, Shirley Jackson's *Dark Tales* promises a rich and dynamic expansion on previous scholarship of Jackson's oeuvre, both bringing her writing into the contemporary conversation, and ensuring her place in the canon of Horror fiction.

shirley jackson biography of a story: *The Haunted States of America* James Morgart, 2022-05-15 The study highlights several writers who have not received much, if any, attention among Gothic scholars. This allows readers exposure to writers they may have never encountered before or may realize dimensions to the authors' works they have never considered. The study reconsiders scholarship's understanding of post-war American literature. This gives readers, students, and scholars a new approach to discussing post-war fiction that is not delimited to widely accepted understanding of how Cold War anxieties were manifested in fiction. The study contextualizes the fiction it examines within each work's respective region. This allows readers a new way of approaching not just post-war Gothic fiction but Gothic fiction in general.

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jungle -- Pajama party -- Louisa, please come home -- The little house -- The bus -- Three lectures, with two stories: Experience and fiction -- The night we all had grippe -- Biography of a story -- The lottery -- Notes for a young writer.

shirley jackson biography of a story: Come Along with Me Shirley Jackson, 1995-10-01 A haunting and psychologically driven collection from Shirley Jackson that includes her best-known story *The Lottery*. At last, Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery* enters Penguin Classics, sixty-five years after it shocked America audiences and elicited the most responses of any piece in *New Yorker* history. In her gothic visions of small-town America, Jackson, the author of such masterworks as *The Haunting of Hill House* and *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, turns an ordinary world into a supernatural nightmare. This eclectic collection goes beyond her horror writing, revealing the full spectrum of her literary genius. In addition to *Come Along with Me*, Jackson's unfinished novel about the quirky inner life of a lonely widow, it features sixteen short stories and three lectures she delivered during her last years. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators. From the Trade Paperback edition.

shirley jackson biography of a story: Shirley Jackson, Influences and Confluences Melanie R. Anderson, Lisa Kröger, 2016-05-20 The popularity of such widely known works as *The Lottery* and *The Haunting of Hill House* has tended to obscure the extent of Shirley Jackson's literary output, which includes six novels, a prodigious number of short stories, and two volumes of domestic sketches. Organized around the themes of influence and intertextuality, this collection places Jackson firmly within the literary cohort of the 1950s. The contributors investigate the work that informed her own fiction and discuss how Jackson inspired writers of literature and film. The collection begins with essays that tease out what Jackson's writing owes to the weird tale, detective fiction, the supernatural tradition, and folklore, among other influences. The focus then shifts to Jackson's place in American literature and the impact of her work on women's writing, campus literature, and the graphic novelist Alison Bechdel. The final two essays examine adaptations of *The Haunting of Hill House* and Jackson's influence on contemporary American horror cinema. Taken together, the essays offer convincing evidence that half a century following her death, readers and writers alike are still finding value in Jackson's words.

shirley jackson biography of a story: The Encyclopedia of the Gothic, 2 Volume Set William Hughes, David Punter, Andrew Smith, 2015-12-21 THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE GOTHIC "Well written and interesting [it is] a testament to the breadth and depth of knowledge about its central subject among the more than 130 contributing writers, and also among the three editors, each of whom is a significant figure in the field of gothic studies ... A reference work that's firmly rooted in and actively devoted to expressing the current state of academic scholarship about its area." *New York Journal of Books* "A substantial achievement." *Reference Reviews* Comprehensive and wide-ranging, *The Encyclopedia of the Gothic* brings together over 200 newly-commissioned essays by leading scholars writing on all aspects of the Gothic as it is currently taught and researched, along with challenging insights into the development of the genre and its impact on contemporary culture. The A-Z entries provide comprehensive coverage of relevant authors, national traditions, critical developments, and notable texts that continue to define, shape, and inform the genre. The volume's approach is truly interdisciplinary, with essays by specialist international contributors whose expertise extends beyond Gothic literature to film, music, drama, art, and architecture. From *Angels and American Gothic* to *Wilde and Witchcraft*, *The Encyclopedia of the Gothic* is the definitive reference guide to all aspects of this strange and wondrous genre. The Wiley-Blackwell *Encyclopedia of Literature* is a comprehensive, scholarly, authoritative, and critical overview of literature and theory comprising individual titles covering key literary genres, periods, and sub-disciplines. Available both in print and online, this groundbreaking resource provides students,

teachers, and researchers with cutting-edge scholarship in literature and literary studies.

shirley jackson biography of a story: Handbook of the American Short Story Erik Redling, Oliver Scheiding, 2022-01-19 The American short story has always been characterized by exciting aesthetic innovations and an immense range of topics. This handbook offers students and researchers a comprehensive introduction to the multifaceted genre with a special focus on recent developments due to the rise of new media. Part I provides systematic overviews of significant contexts ranging from historical-political backgrounds, short story theories developed by writers, print and digital culture, to current theoretical approaches and canon formation. Part II consists of 35 paired readings of representative short stories by eminent authors, charting major steps in the evolution of the American short story from its beginnings as an art form in the early nineteenth century up to the digital age. The handbook examines historically, methodologically, and theoretically the coming together of the enduring narrative practice of compression and concision in American literature. It offers fresh and original readings relevant to studying the American short story and shows how the genre performs American culture.

shirley jackson biography of a story: A Jury of Her Peers Elaine Showalter, 2010-01-12 An unprecedented literary landmark: the first comprehensive history of American women writers from 1650 to the present. In a narrative of immense scope and fascination, here are more than 250 female writers, including the famous—Harriet Beecher Stowe, Dorothy Parker, Flannery O'Connor, and Toni Morrison, among others—and the little known, from the early American bestselling novelist Catherine Sedgwick to the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Susan Glaspell. Showalter integrates women's contributions into our nation's literary heritage with brilliance and flair, making the case for the unfairly overlooked and putting the overrated firmly in their place.

shirley jackson biography of a story: Summary of Ruth Franklin's Shirley Jackson A Rather Haunted Life Milkyway Media, 2024-03-27 Get the Summary of Ruth Franklin's Shirley Jackson A Rather Haunted Life in 20 minutes. Please note: This is a summary & not the original book. Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life by Ruth Franklin is a comprehensive biography that delves into the life and work of the acclaimed writer Shirley Jackson. Born into a well-to-do family, Jackson's upbringing was emotionally challenging, with her mother disapproving of her creative pursuits. Her early writings reflect a fusion of religious influence and personal conflict, and her novels often mirror familial discord and societal conformity...

shirley jackson biography of a story: Raising Demons Shirley Jackson, 2015-05-05 In the uproarious sequel to *Life Among the Savages*, the author of *The Haunting of Hill House* confronts the most vexing demons yet: her children In the long out-of-print sequel to *Life Among the Savages*, Jackson's four children have grown from savages into full-fledged demons. After bursting the seams of their first house, Jackson's clan moves into a larger home. Of course, the chaos simply moves with them. A confrontation with the IRS, Little League, trumpet lessons, and enough clutter to bury her alive—Jackson spins them all into an indelible reminder that every bit as thrilling as a murderous family in a haunted house is a happy family in a new home.

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