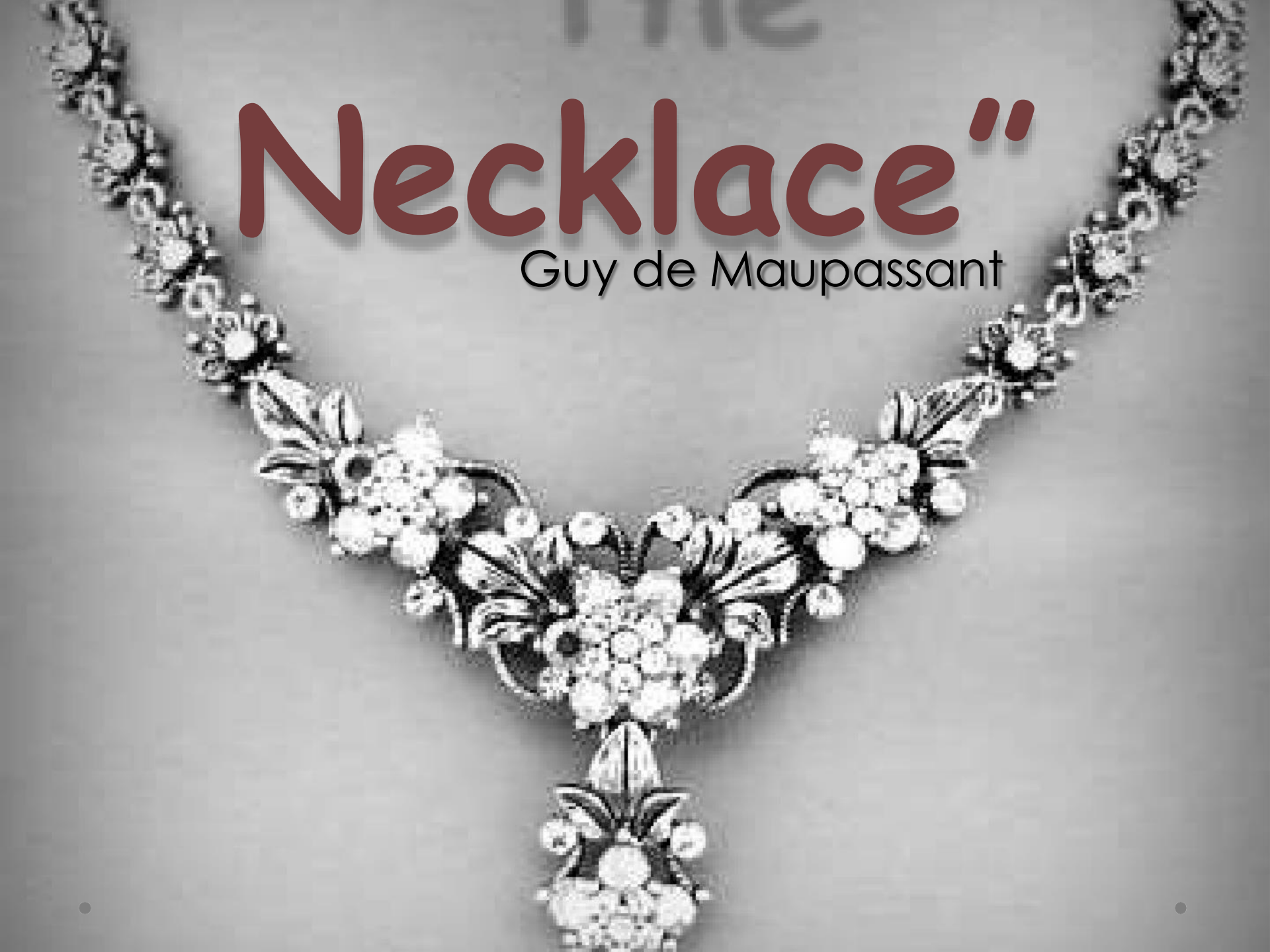


Necklace"

Guy de Maupassant



Guy De Maupassant



Henri Ren Albert Guy de Maupassant (Aug 5, 1850 - Jul 6, 1893) was a popular French author who wrote under the pen name **Guy de Maupassant**. He is considered one of the fathers of the modern short story as well as one of its finest practitioners. His most famous work for English readers is probably [The Necklace](#). If you are unfamiliar with his works, also consider [A Piece of String](#), [Mademoiselle Fifi](#), [Miss Harriet](#), [My Uncle Jules](#), [Found on a Drowned Man](#) and [The Wreck](#) as starting points. If you have the stomach for it, you might try his truly terrifying piece of [Gothic Fiction](#), [The Hand](#).

A beautiful woman who yearns for a life of luxury and wealth. When she is invited to a fancy party, she borrows a necklace from her wealthy friend Madame Forestier because she refuses to go to the party without expensive jewels and a beautiful gown. After a night of happiness and glamour, she spends the next ten years paying for her fleeting happiness as a result of losing the borrowed necklace.

Mathilde Loisel



Selfish

dissatisfied



MATHILDE
LOISEL

unhappy

jealous

Mathilde's devoted husband who is content with his humble lifestyle. He finds it completely incomprehensible that Mathilde does not accept their lifestyle; nonetheless, he appeases her desires for glamor and fun because he wishes for her to be happy.

Monsieur Loisel



Practical

Hard working

MONSIEUR
LOSIEL



loyal

clerk

Mathilde's wealthy friend. Every time Mathilde visits her, Mathilde is consumed with jealousy. Madame Forestier lends Mathilde the necklace for the party; eventually, we discover that the necklace contained fake diamonds.

Madame Forestier



wealthy

Generous

MADAME
FORESTIER

Trusting

kind





Summary

- Mme. Mathilde Loisel is in her apartment dreaming of a better life. She is unhappy and dissatisfied with her social status and mediocre surroundings.
- One day, her husband, Monsieur Loisel announced that they will be attending a ball.
- Mme Loisel felt unhappy because she would look poor. She thought that she has nothing to wear. No gown nor fine jewelries.
- She borrowed a diamond necklace to Madame Forestier.
- She enjoyed the night, dancing and meeting people, while her husband was alone sleeping in an anteroom

Summary (continue...)

- At home, she felt her neck and realized she lost the borrowed necklace.
- Monsieur Loisel went back to the streets to look for the necklace but he was unfortunate.
- The couple decided to buy the 36,000 francs diamond necklace they thought looks the same with the borrowed necklace.
- They work so hard and suffered much just to pay for their debts to buy the necklace.
- One day, Mme. Loisel saw Mme. Forestier. She told her about the lost necklace. Mme. Forestier laughed and told her that it was just a fancy jewelry which costs 500 francs.

Thinking Cap



Who are the victims in the story?

If you were Mathilde, what would you do after you have known the necklace is missing?

Give your opinion about Mathilde replacing the necklace secretly.

Conflict

Internal Conflict

Man against Himself

Climax

When Mme. Loisel lost the diamond necklace.

Resolution

The couple work hard and sacrificed for 10 years just to pay for their debts. They lived in much poverty only to find out that the lost necklace was just a fake.

Theme of Gender

Madame Loisel is a woman dissatisfied with her social class, but, as a woman, she can do nothing to change this position besides marrying someone of higher class.

"women belong to no caste, no race; their grace, their beauty, and their charm serving them in the place of birth and family."

Once married, she and her husband have very different goals that map across their gender roles; for example, at one point Mathilde's weeping convinces M. Loisel to give her money for a new dress that he had planned to spend on a gun. When M. and Mme. Loisel are both forced to work due to their financial strain, they take on gendered jobs: she does housework and washes the clothes of others, and he takes on additional bookkeeping duties.

Theme of Social Class

"The Necklace" deals with the theme of social class. Mme. Loisel's greatest concern is her own social class, especially the way she is perceived in society in virtue of her appearance and attire. It is her focus on social class that causes her to borrow a necklace to wear to a party. Ironically, this very necklace results in them becoming even lower in social class when they lose it and must work to pay for a replacement.

Theme of Happiness

One uplifting theme of this short story is the theme of happiness. It comes from being content with whatever one has. When Mme. Loisel has a middling social status but desires to be higher in society. She spends her days yearning and weeping. However, once she and her husband have been driven to toil for ten years, she seems content and sometimes nostalgic, happier than she was before.

Theme

Irony

The Necklace's Worth:

The main irony in the story is that the Loisels take on tremendous debt in order to replace a the lost necklace. But this apparently expensive necklace diamond was actually cheap and fake.

Rise and Fall of Loisel Couple:

Mathilde Loisel is dissatisfied with her place in society at the beginning of "The Necklace." In her efforts to pretend to be higher class by borrowing a beautiful necklace, she and her husband end up even lower in society.

Mathilde's Response to the Invitation:

M. Loisel expects that Mme. Loisel will be excited by an invitation to a fancy party. He was sure of her happiness as she often complains of the lack of elegant things in their life. However, Mme. Loisel becomes even more distressed by the prospect of the party. It is because she feels she does not own the clothing and jewelry necessary to attend properly.

Moral of the Story: 01

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

The author is trying to stress the **importance of telling the truth**. For example, in the story when Mme. Loisel loses her friend's necklace. If she would have been honest with her friend in the first place, instead of trying to cover it up by a new necklace it would have saved her and her lot of time, money, and effort. If we lie, the truth eventually come out and the author is saying it is to tell the truth the first time, and you will save yourself a lot of trouble.

Moral of The Story: 02

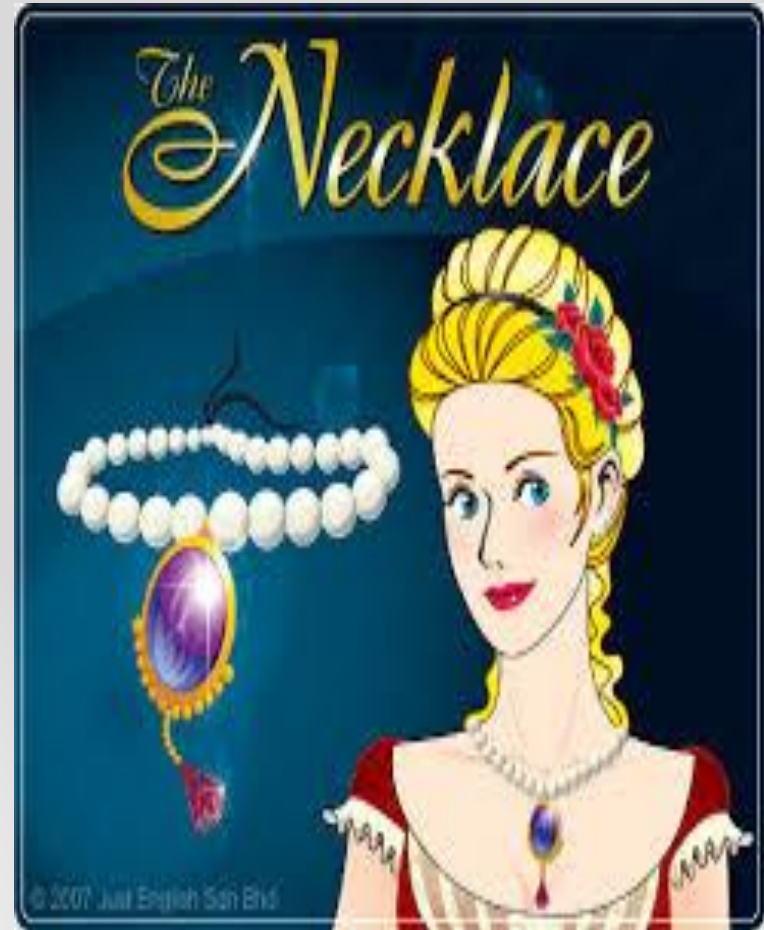
Live Within Your Means:

It is also about the **CONTENTMENT OF WHAT YOU HAVE.** People should learn to be happy and thankful of what they have. If they want more, they should work harder to achieve it.



What does the necklace symbolizes?

In the story, the necklace itself represents the surface-level nature of social class. The necklace is made of fake jewels, but Mme. Loisel perceives it as beautiful because she believes it to be real. Similarly, Mme. Loisel is perceived as beautiful at the party because of the confidence and status that dressing like an upper-class person gives her.



B.A. First : English Language

Thank You