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Author

D.H Lawrence was born in England in 1885. He was one of the most influential writer in 20th century. He published many novels and poetry volumes during his life time, but he was best known for his infamous work Lady Chatterley's Lovers.

The Rocking-Horse Winner Summary

Hester, who has three children —two girls and one boy—live in a well build nice house and keeps a servant for their homely work. Though they have enough money to spend, but the members of the house always demands more money. The father always try to make some more but he fails often, and Hester also tries to earn some money but gets nothing.

The haunted house for money often whispers that “There must be more money! There must be more money!” When the children get beautiful presents on Christmas party, a rocking horse and a doll house, even though they are not satisfied. The children do not speak of the whispering to one another, but they can tell from looking into each other's eyes that they all hear it.

One day Hester's son name, Paul, asks her why they don't have a car and why they must take taxis everywhere. She told him that because they are poor and his father has “No Luck”. Paul asks her mother a question that luck and money is the same things? She replies that luck is the reason that people are rich and wealthy.

Paul is confused because he thought the expression “filthy lucker” referred to money, but Hester corrects him and says the expression is “filthy lucre.” She tells him that she would rather be lucky than rich because rich people can lose their money but lucky people never will. She further explains that she and Paul's father are not lucky, and that only God knows why certain people are lucky.

Paul claims that he is “Lucky” even he doesn't know why he decides to say this. She takes it randomly and doesn't believe him and Paul becomes determined to

prove his luck to her. Paul starts quest for his luck in inside him and become obsessed with that. Later he starts riding his rocking horse, and asks it to take him to luck as if it is a real horse. His assurance that the horse will take him to luck but when the toy is not responded back he starts whips it. His temperament terrifies his sister.

Oscar, Paul's wealthy uncle visits the house and sees Paul riding horse. He told him he is too old to ride this horse but he ignores him and does not give any response. When his race is finishes he tells his uncle that the horse has taken him where he wanted to go. Oscar asks horse name; Paul often changes the name but last week he named the horse "Sansovino". Oscar recognises that it is that horse name who recently won the horse race. Later Joan, Paul's sister informs him that he was taking about horse race to Bassett, a family gardener.

Uncle Oscar asks Paul which horse he is going to bet on in the upcoming Lincoln horse race; Paul agrees to tell on the only condition that he will not tell to anyone else. Because he has promised Bassett that the two of them will work together as partners. Paul tells the horse name "Daffodil" the unknown horse on whom he will bet. Paul tells Uncle Oscar because he was helping Paul for his first betting by giving ten shilling note.

After getting promise by Uncle Oscar, Paul tells him that he is spending three hundred pounds on Daffodil. Uncle Oscar surprises over hearing this but later Paul explain him that he and Bassett made some money by betting and Bassett will keep the money safe for Paul.

Uncle Oscar takes Paul to a horse race, and Paul's eyes look as though they are blazing when he watches the race. When Daffodil wins, his eyes were burning constantly but his body was clam. Paul wins nearly fifteen hundred pound and offers Uncle Oscar partnership with them with the same promise he won't tell this no one.

Paul tells Uncle Oscar that he bets money when he is very sure about which horse will won and always get profit. Uncle Oscar doesn't believe him and request him to show his money. When he shows him he was astonished. Paul explains him that sometimes he has idea and sometimes not so in such situation they bet very few money, so they won't loss much.

Uncle Oscar asks Paul that how he guesses that which horse will win. He tells him that he just knows. Bassett thinks that this intuition comes from heaven.

Uncle Oscar agrees to join the partnership, and Paul makes ten thousand pounds on his next bet. Paul explains that he makes money for his mother and the members of the house will stop whispering for more. He doesn't want his mother knows that he becomes lucky.

Instead of giving Hester money directly, Paul gives five thousand pounds to Uncle Oscar, who takes the money to the bank and arranges for one thousand pounds to be sent to Paul's mother each year on her birthday. Paul is excited for his mother to receive the first check because the house was whispering even more than usual, despite the fact that Paul's mother had recently started a job drawing fabrics for a friend's drapery company. When Hester gets money she wanted that all money once and he followed Uncle Oscar's advice and agrees to give all at once.

When Hester got all money the house started whispering for more even worse than before. Hester buys new furniture and hires a tutor for his son would be able attend Eton, a prestigious boys' school. Later many times Paul fails to know which horse will win and starts losing his money. His eyes become wild and his behaviour changes intensely; he becomes aggressive and furious.

Hester finally notices the madness in Paul's eyes and suggests that he should go to seaside for some rest. Paul explains that he cannot go before the Derby (a big horse race). He told her mother there is nothing to worry about it.

Paul denies leaving the house because he doesn't want to leave his rocking horse, because it is one of the secret of his success which even his partners were unaware. Hester decides to send Paul to nursery but later thought he is too old for that. She send Paul to the bedroom with the toy but even she for that toy also he is too old. Paul requests Hester he wants to keep rocking horse with him until he cannot get real horse.

As the Derby approaches, Paul becomes more and more nervous, and his eyes begin to look "uncanny." His mother becomes very worried about him. Two nights before the Derby, while at a party in town, Hester is overwhelmed with concern for Paul. The anxiety "gripped her heart till she could hardly speak," and she telephones the nurse (who takes care of the children) to make sure everything is all right. The nurse offers to go check on Paul in his room, but his mother doesn't want to wake him, so she waits to check on him until she gets home.

When Hester arrives home and goes to Paul's door, she hears a violent, rushing noise coming from his room. She cannot identify the noise, although it sounds

familiar to her. She opens the door finds Paul furiously riding his rocking horse. A flash of light illuminates Paul and his horse and he says, "It's Malabar" over and over again in a strong, deep voice. Then Paul collapses on the ground and his mother rushes toward him.

THEMES

Luck

As the story begins, luck seems to be simply be a matter of chance, and perhaps more specifically chance which has to do with material and superficial conditions. The first explicit discussion between the characters on luck comes when Paul asks his mother about money and, tellingly, conflates the word "lucre," which means money, with "luck." However, the further Paul asks his mother about luck, the more it becomes apparent that luck is something much more; and at the end of their conversation it is something which Paul must prove to his mother, since she does not believe him. When Paul rides his horse, he speaks of luck as a place which he needs to get to.

Love

One could say justifiably that this story is about love, the inability of love, or how love comes too late. The story begins with the impossibility of love, specifically of Paul's mother loving her children, due to her self-centeredness. In contrast, Paul intensely desires to get his mother's attention by proving that he is lucky, which is to say that he desires her love. His success and luck in gambling seem to only drive her further into selfish desire, but it turns out that the self-destructive aspect of his obsession begins to catch her attention. However, it is not until it this obsession has consumed Paul that his mother makes her first real move of concern and love towards him.

Inner versus Outer

From the very first paragraph of the story, outer appearances are placed in contrast to inner realities. Moreover, although it is assumed that to other people the hidden tensions between the two levels may not be apparent, Lawrence describes all the characters within Paul's family as having a sort of unspoken awareness of what is going on within each other. Although the parents do not seem to complain explicitly about not having enough money, their anxieties come across very clearly and powerfully to their children in the form of the whispering of the house. Paul's mother, in particular, is not very forthright with her feelings, preferring to keep them bottled up within herself, such as when she

does not directly speak of her dissatisfaction with the gift Paul secretly gave her but just says that it was "Quite moderately nice."

Desire

The driving force of the story is desire: desire for money, luck, love, recognition, expression. In other words, there is always something lacking which ends up producing strong, though not always recognized, emotions. Paul's mother desires more money but never speaks so explicitly about this desire; the house does it for her. Likewise Paul desires his mother's love and recognition. Every desire poses itself as an image of fulfilment, especially for Paul, who imagines a "there" which he can "get" to. However, the fulfilment of this desire - his greatest gambling win and his winning his mother's love - ends up consuming him so entirely that he dies.

Silence

The reaction of almost all the characters towards the tensions between inner and outer in the story is, for the most part, to remain silent **Uncle Oscar** . takes interest in Paul for his precocity in predicting races, but never tries to figure out how it is that Paul gains his insight; or if he does know, then he says and does nothing about it, despite the destructive path it leads Paul to take. Ironically, this silence makes problems and anxieties even more clear and compelling to everyone in the family. What the characters do not say, the house whispers or shouts to them obsessively, so that they can never escape their problems and anxieties.

Secrets

Although some inner anxieties, which are left unspoken by the characters, end up being articulated by other forces such as the whispering of the house, there are also certain emotional realities which remain unnoticed or only sensed in the dimmest of ways. For the reader and Paul's mother, it is not until the end that we "catch" Paul in the middle of one of his rides; though we may have seen him "urging" his horse on early in the story, the connection among Paul's gambling insight, his madness, and the rocking-horse is not clearly established until the final revelatory scene. Before then, Paul is anxious to keep what he is doing a secret from everyone, even his gambling partners.

Growing Up

In the beginning of the story, Paul is, along with his sisters, still under the care of their nurse. However, by the end, he is beyond everyone in his family, even his mother, who at last wants to love him. For Paul, it is not so much the school that he ends up being able to attend or the tutors whom he works with, but his desperate and obsessive riding of his horse in order to gain gambling insight which at once releases him from the bonds of childhood while at the same time

prevents him from developing in a healthy manner. He ends up a kind of exaggerated child, possessing extreme childlike passions and fascinations, without cuteness and pliability.