

The point of honour

They looked long into one another's eyes. Then she gave him a little bow and went to her room. Don Pedro sighed. He wondered whether she still loved Pepe Alvarez and whether it was on account of this that she had never loved him. But he would not allow himself to give way to the unworthy emotion of jealousy. He looked into his heart and was sure that it harboured no feeling of hatred for the young artilleryman. On the contrary, he liked him. This was not an affair of love and hate, but of honour. On a sudden, he remembered that a few days before when he went to his club he noticed that the conversation suddenly failed, and, looking back, he seemed to remember that several of the group who were sitting there and chatting eyed him curiously. Was it possible that he had been the subject of their conversation? He shivered at the thought.

The Fair was drawing to its end, and when it was over the Agurias had arranged to go to Cordova, where Don Pedro had an estate which it was necessary for him to visit from time to time. He looked forward to the peace of a country life after the turmoil of Seville. The day after this conversation Soledad, saying she was not well, stayed in the house, and she did the same the day following. Don Pedro visited her in her room morning and evening and they talked of indifferent things. But on the third day his cousin Conchita de Santaguador was giving a ball. It was the last of the season and everyone in her exclusive set would be there. Soledad, saying she was still indisposed, announced that she would stay at home.

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W. Somerset Maugham.

QUESTIONS

1. Did Don Pedro want to be jealous. Why?
2. Why were the Agurias going to Cordova?
3. Where and when did Pedro visit Soledad?
4. What did they talk about?
5. Write down 5 or 6 lines about love, hate and honour.
6. Take out from the text a noun-clause and say what kind it is.
7. Vocabulary:
 - Estate:
 - Turmoil:
 - Ball:
 - Season: