

If I Were You.....

Douglas James

Introduction

If I Were You is a play by Douglas James. The play is the story of an intruder. He breaks into a lonely house. A man named Gerrard lives there. He is a playwright. The intruder is a criminal. He has killed a policeman and is now on the run. This man has some physical resemblance to Gerrard. His plan is to kill Gerrard and live there under his name. But Gerrard is smarter than the criminal. He tells the intruder that he has also killed someone and the police are after him. He offers to take the intruder in his car to safety. He opens a door and tells the intruder that it goes to the garage. As soon as the intruder enters, Gerrard locks the door. In fact it is not the way to a garage but the door of a cupboard. Then he phones the police to come and arrest the intruder.

Summary of the chapter

The play starts with the playwright, Gerrard, preparing to leave his home to attend a rehearsal. After talking on the phone, he starts to pack his travel bag when he notices an intruder enter from his right side.

Gerrard notices that he has a stark resemblance to Gerrard and is holding a revolver in his hands. Thus, he learns that he is a criminal who directs him to put his hands in the air. However, Gerrard is surprisingly cool even at a gunpoint and chats pleasantly with him. Finally, the intruders make Gerrard sit on a chair.

After hearing their conversation, we learn that Gerrard is a man who lives alone and owns a car. It is clear that he is kind of mysterious in some ways because he is constantly in and out.

We see that Gerrard stays at his home and for some days isn't there.

Moreover, he only talks on the phone without really meeting his tradesmen. After learning all this, we come to know about the intruder too. He is a criminal who is mainly a jewelry robber. After killing a policeman, he is fleeing from the police and due to this resemblance to Gerrard, he plans to kill him and assume his identity to get rid of the police.

Gerrard makes out that the intruder is not so smart but only over-confident. Thus, he plans something witty and lies to the intruder. He makes up a story that Gerrard is also a criminal and murderer himself. Much similar to the intruder, the police are also after him and if he ends up killing Gerrard, the intruder will be killed either way.

So, the intruder believes his story and Gerrard convinces him to go into the garage from where they both can flee in his car. After opening the garage door, we learn that it was actually a cupboard in which Gerrard locks up the intruder and informs the police of his whereabouts. Thus, we see how a little alertness and cleverness saved Gerrard's life.

Summary in Hindi

नाटक की शुरुआत नाटककार जेरार्ड के साथ होती है, जो रिहर्सल में भाग लेने के लिए अपना घर छोड़ने की तैयारी करता है। फोन पर बात करने के बाद, वह अपने यात्रा बैग को पैक करना शुरू कर देता है, जब वह देखता है कि एक घुसपैठिया उसकी दाहिनी ओर से प्रवेश कर रहा है।

जेरार्ड ने नोटिस किया कि वह जेरार्ड से काफी मिलता-जुलता है और अपने हाथों में एक रिवॉल्वर पकड़े हुए है। इस प्रकार, उसे पता चलता है कि वह एक अपराधी है जो उसे हवा में हाथ डालने का निर्देश देता है। हालांकि, जेरार्ड बंदूक की नोक पर भी आश्चर्यजनक रूप से शांत है और उसके साथ सुखद बातचीत करता है। अंत में, घुसपैठिया ने जेरार्ड को एक कुर्सी पर बैठा दिया।

उनकी बातचीत सुनने के बाद, हमें पता चलता है कि जेरार्ड एक ऐसा व्यक्ति है जो अकेला रहता है और एक कार का मालिक है। यह स्पष्ट है कि वह कुछ मायनों में रहस्यमय है क्योंकि वह लगातार अंदर और बाहर है। हम देखते हैं कि जेरार्ड अपने घर पर रहता है और कुछ दिनों तक वहां नहीं रहता है।

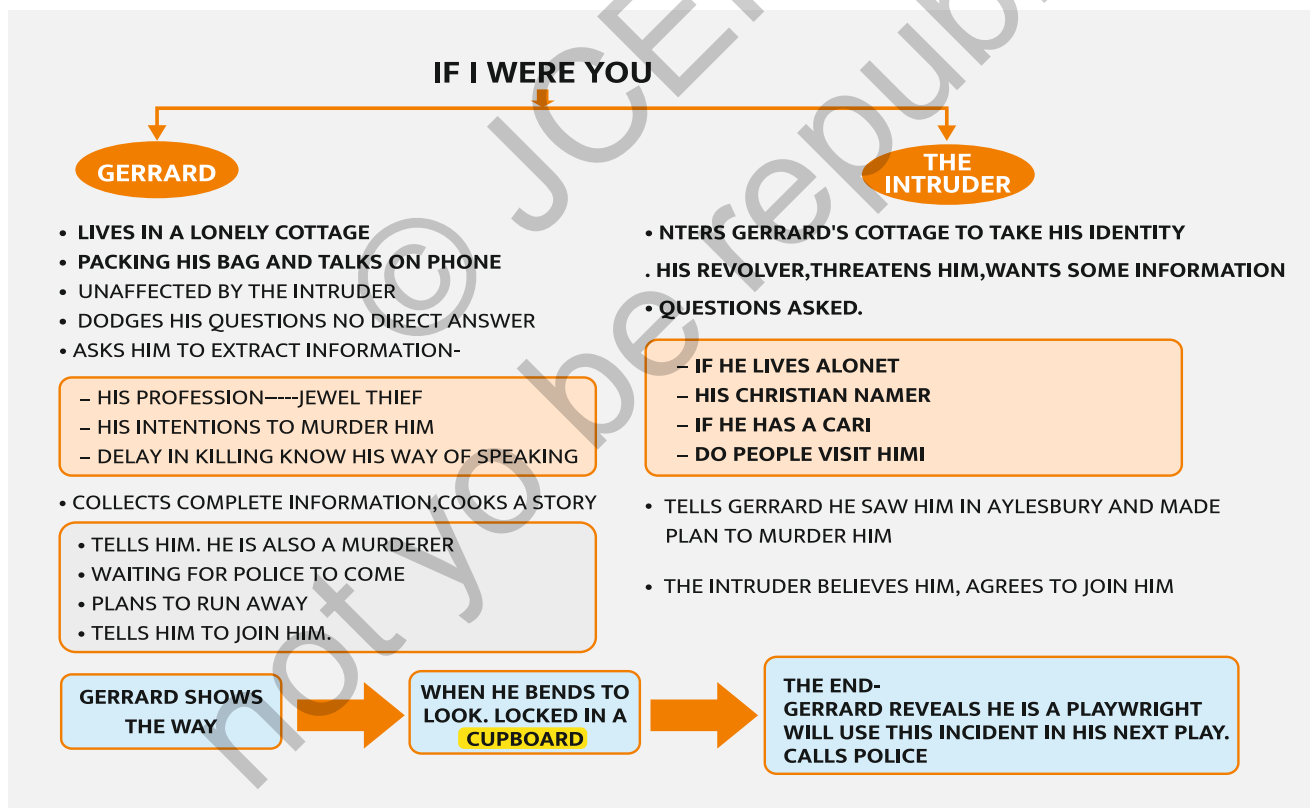
इसके अलावा, वह केवल अपने व्यापारियों से मिले बिना ही फोन पर बात करता है। यह सब जानने के बाद हमें घुसपैठिए के बारे में भी पता चलता है। वह एक अपराधी है जो मुख्य रूप से आभूषण लुटेरा है। एक पुलिसकर्मी को

मारने के बाद, वह पुलिस थाना से भाग रहा है और जेरार्ड के समान होने के कारण, वह उसे मारने और पुलिस से छुटकारा पाने के लिए अपनी पहचान ग्रहण करने की योजना बना रहा है।

जेरार्ड बताते हैं कि घुसपैठिया इतना चालाक नहीं है, लेकिन केवल अति-आत्मविश्वासी है। इस प्रकार, वह कुछ मजाकिया योजना बनाता है और घुसपैठिए से झूठ बोलता है। वह एक कहानी बनाता है कि जेरार्ड भी एक अपराधी और हत्यारा है। घुसपैठिए के समान ही, पुलिस भी उसके पीछे है और अगर वह

जेरार्ड को मार डालता है, तो घुसपैठिए को किसी भी तरह से मार दिया जाएगा।

इसलिए, घुसपैठिया उसकी कहानी पर विश्वास करता है और जेरार्ड उसे गैरेज में जाने के लिए मना लेता है जहां से वे दोनों उसकी कार में भाग सकते हैं। गैरेज का दरवाजा खोलने के बाद, हमें पता चलता है कि यह वास्तव में एक अलमारी थी जिसमें जेरार्ड घुसपैठिए को बंद कर देता है और पुलिस को उसके ठिकाने की सूचना देता है। इस प्रकार, हम देखते हैं कि कैसे थोड़ी सी सतर्कता और चतुराई ने जेरार्ड के जीवन को बचाया।



Important word notes

S. NO	WORDS	MEANINGS
1.	Lonely	solitary, अकेला
2.	Intruder	one who enters forcibly, घुसपैठिया
3.	Resemblance	similarity, समानता
4.	Upstage	on the the side of the stage, स्टेज का ऊपरी भाग
5.	Rimmed	frame, फ्रेम वाला
6.	Count on	depend on, निर्भर होना
7.	Flashily	in a gaudy manner, तड़क-भड़क से
8.	Put those paws up	raise your hands, हाथ ऊपर करो
9.	Melodramatic	sensational, सनसनीखेज
10.	Nonchalant	careless, लापरवाह
11.	Crawl	creep, रेंगना
12.	Gypsies	nomads, खानाबदोश
13.	Unfamiliar	Not familiar, अपरिचित
14.	Charming	attractive, आकर्षक
15.	Considerable	great, बहुत अधिक
16.	Modest	humble, विनम्र
17.	Precisely	exactly, ठीक
18.	Break into	intrude, घुसपैठ करना
19.	Embrace	adopt, अपनाना
20.	Dandy	excellent, शानदार
21.	Sarcasm	bitter satire, व्यंग्य
22.	Frustrated	disappointed, निराशा ।
23.	Posh	belonging to the upper class, उच्च वर्ग का
24.	Elude	escape, dodge, बचना
25.	Propose	intend, इरादा होना

Multiple Choice Questions With Answers

1. What was the intruder's plan?
- (a) to kill Gerrard and disguise himself as Gerrard
 - (b) to rob Gerard
 - (c) to stay with Gerrard
 - (d) all of these

Ans : (a) to kill Gerrard and disguise himself as Gerrard

2. Which of the following are among the people who visit Gerrard?
- (a) Milkman
 - (b) Postman
 - (c) Delivery man
 - (d) Newspaper boy

Ans : (a) Milkman

3. According to Gerrard who comes to visit him?
- (a) the banker
 - (b) the greengrocer
 - (c) the milkman
 - (d) all of these

Ans : (d) all of these

4. Who did Gerrard live with?
- (a) his wife
 - (b) his son
 - (c) his friend
 - (d) alone

Ans : (d) alone

5. According to Gerrard who was luckier than most melodramatic villains?
- (a) Gerrard
 - (b) the intruder
 - (c) both (a) and (b)
 - (d) none of these

Ans : (b) the intruder

6. What was the intruder already wanted for?
- (a) theft
 - (b) robbery
 - (c) murder
 - (d) kidnapping

Ans : (c) murder

7. What according to the intruder was a dandy bus?
- (a) Gerrard's truck
 - (b) His car
 - (c) His van
 - (d) His jeep

Ans : (b) His car

8. When did the intruder enter Gerrard's house?
- a) When he was sleeping
 - b) Early morning
 - c) When he was about to leave his house to deliver props for a rehearsal
 - d) Midnight

Ans : c) When he was about to leave his house to deliver props for a rehearsal

Subjective Questions With Answers

1. "At last a sympathetic audience."

- (i) Who says this?
- (ii) Why does he say it?
- (iii) Is he sarcastic or serious?

Ans : (i) Gerrard says this.

(ii) He says this because the intruder becomes sympathetic towards him.

(iii) He is sarcastic.

2. Why does the intruder choose Gerrard as the man whose identity he wants to take on?

Ans : The Intruder believed that he was similar in build to Gerrard. He knew how to talk like Gerrard and by putting on Gerrard's clothes and specs, he would look like him. All this will help him to be Vincent Charles Gerrard. Then he will be free to move around without being caught by the police.

3. "I said it with bullets."

- (i) Who says this?
- (ii) What does it mean?
- (iii) Is it the truth? What is the speaker's reason for saying this?

Ans :

- (i) Gerrard says this.
- (ii) It means that when things went wrong Gerrard used his gun to shoot someone and escaped from there.
- (iii) No it is not the truth. The speaker wants to save himself from getting shot by the intruder.

4. "You'll soon stop being smart."

- (i) Who says this?
- (ii) Why does the speaker say it?
- (iii) What according to the speaker will stop Gerrard from being smart?

Ans :

- (i) The intruder says the line.
- (ii) he speaker says it to frighten Gerrard.
- (iii) According to the intruder, Gerrard would stop being smart once he knew what was going to happen to him. The intruder's plan was to kill Gerard and take over his identity. He felt that when Gerrard would know this, he would stop being smart and start getting scared.

5. "They can't hang me twice."

- (i) Who says this?
- (ii) Why does the speaker say it?

Ans :

- (i) The intruder says the line.
- (ii) The intruder had been telling Gerrard that he had murdered one man, and that he would not shy away from murdering him too. This is because the police could not hang him twice for two murders.

6. "This is your big surprise."

- (i) Where has this been said in the play?
- (ii) What is the surprise?

Ans :

- (i) This has been said twice in the play. On the first occasion, it is spoken by the intruder while revealing his plan to kill Gerrard. Secondly, it is spoken by Gerrard before he reveals his fictitious identity to the intruder.
- (ii) The intruder's surprise is his plan to kill Gerrard and take on his identity to lead a secure and hassle-free life. Whereas, Gerrard's surprise is his fictitious identity, his way of refraining the intruder from killing him.