
A Shady Plot
by - Elsie Brown

- 'A Shady Plot' is a ghost story having shades of humour.
- The word 'Shady' refers to something dubious whereas the plot refers to a secret plan.
- The story refers to the questionable existence of the ghost of Helen who appears in the story in a funny manner.
- It brings home the idea that some ghosts, if they have real existence, are good and benevolent by nature.
- It is undesirable on the part of the human beings to communicate with ghosts and spirits for their benefits.
- The supernatural beings should not be disturbed.
- We should not allow them to interfere in our daily life.
- Calling on them by dubious means may prove to be harmful.
- This has been clearly illustrated by the story 'A Shady Plot'.
- The ghost comes to disturb the peaceful married life of John, the narrator, and his wife, Lavinia but fails to do so because Lavinia comes to know the reality of the situation.
- Jenkins asked John Hallock to write another ghost story.
- Public wants 'horror' in stories and John must write what the public wants.
- John was not in a position to refuse Jenkins. His magazine was the only one to print his ghost stories.
- The narrator's wife Lavinia bought a Ouija-board and she was thrilled to have it.