

# **Borrower of the Night Study Guide**

## **Borrower of the Night by Elizabeth Peters**

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Contents

<a href="#">Borrower of the Night Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 1-3.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 4-5.....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 6-7.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 8-10.....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 11-12.....</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">21</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">27</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">29</a>



# Plot Summary

*Borrower of the Night* by Elizabeth Peters is a story about Vicki Bliss, an extremely beautiful woman who is also brilliant and self-reliant. Vicki and her friend Tony are reading and find clues that hint at what happened to an art piece that some believe to be a myth. Vicki and Tony head to Germany to find the piece but soon discover they are not the only ones after the relic. Things become quickly dangerous as it seems a ghost haunts the castle where Vicki and Tony are staying and conducting their research. The desire for the relic drives people to desperate measures and Vicki and Tony are nearly killed, along with others in the story, before the art piece is found and returned to its rightful owner.

Vicki Bliss is a professor at a small college with her friend Tony. Although she likes Tony and he has asked her several times, Vicki refuses to marry him explaining that it is nothing more than a way for a woman to be controlled. Tony decides he will challenge Vicki in order to prove that she is not superior to him intellectually. If Tony wins then Vicki will have to marry him. Vicki and Tony stumble upon clues referring to a piece of art made by a famous sculptor and Tony and Vicki decide that this will be their goal and the first one to find the sculpture wins. An old rival of Tony's, George Nolan, joins the chase and the three of them head off to Germany to stay at the Drachenstein castle where the sculpture is most likely hidden.

Once Vicki reaches the castle she and Tony find that there are other suspicious characters there, including the owner of the castle, Irma Drachenstein, and her seemingly cruel aunt. Vicki and Tony start snooping around the castle and are able to find small clues around the castle that refer to the mysterious sculpture. Vicki and Tony are out walking when they see what they believe is the long dead Konstanze who was burned at the stake for being a witch.

Vicki and Tony, as well as other people in the castle are attacked throughout the story. Vicki happens to find a compartment and realizes that Konstanze poisoned her husband and hid the sculpture but then was burned for being a witch before she could retrieve her prize. Vicki, Tony and another guest at the castle are moments from getting the sculpture when they are attacked and locked in an airtight room at the bottom of the castle. Vicki and the others barely get out in time to see George Nolan carrying an unconscious Irma to the top of a building to throw her off. They are able to slow George down and before he can finish killing Irma she awakens and pushes George to his death. Vicki confronts Irma's aunt who stood to gain Irma's fortune if Irma died and the aunt quietly slips away. Vicki is able to retrieve the sculpture and gives it to Irma who plans to put it in a museum. Vicki and Tony end in a stalemate and Vicki says that she does not ever intend to get married.



# Chapter 1-3

## Chapter 1-3 Summary

*Borrower of the Night* by Elizabeth Peters is a story about Vicki Bliss, an extremely beautiful woman who is also brilliant and self-reliant. Vicki and her friend Tony are reading and find clues that hint at what happened to an art piece that some believe to be a myth. Vicki and Tony head to Germany to find the piece but soon discover they are not the only ones after the relic. Things become quickly dangerous as it seems a ghost haunts the castle where Vicki and Tony are staying and conducting their research. The desire for the relic drives people to desperate measures and Vicki and Tony are nearly killed, along with others in the story, before the art piece is found and restored to its rightful owner.

In chapter one Vicki Bliss is explaining the way she is and when she realized she would never marry. She was ten years old and was already taller than the boys her age and smarter than all of them as well. Vicki knew at that point she would most likely never marry and when she got older she filled out in ways that made her look like a woman who does not bother with things like books. Vicki has to work hard to prove her intelligence but still receives a lot of resistance from men and from women, although for different reasons. Vicki is hired at a small college despite her good looks and quickly meets Tony Lawrence. There is a physical attraction between the two as well as compatibility in areas of interests and the two have a relationship. Tony wants to marry Vicki but she feels that men only want to get married so that they can have a free maid to slave away. Tony finally decides that despite Vicki's desire to be self-reliant what she needs is to be dominated intellectually. Tony states that when he is able to prove his mental superiority to Vicki they will get married. Tony and Vicki are distant to each other while Tony tries to figure out a way to challenge Vicki's intellect. Tony and Vicki are getting ready to go to a dinner party when Vicki stumbles upon some information in a book regarding a piece of art rumored to have been made by the great sculpture artist Tilman Riemenschneider. The piece had not been seen and there is no concrete description of the work other than it was to have had three priceless stones in it and a vague indication as to the figures on it. As Vicki reads on, she begins to get excited about the suggestion that the work might have been real but was either stolen from or hidden by Count Burckhardt Drachenstein. Burckhardt Drachenstein's father had commissioned the piece by Riemenschneider but after what was known as the peasants' revolutions broke out, Riemenschneider was imprisoned for helping the peasants and refused, for a time, to give the art piece to Count Burckhardt to go in the church. In the letters Vicki reads Count Burckhardt says that Riemenschneider's refusal to hand over the art piece is causing Burckhardt to sin.

Vicki is engrossed in her reading when she realizes that Tony is reading over her shoulder and is also getting excited. The two of them put the books down and head to the dinner party, arriving late. The party is held at Jacob Myer's house and it is here that Vicki meets George Nolan. George and Tony do not like each other and it is easy to see



that they are competitive although George is competitive with Jacob Myers as well and both George and Jacob go after the same expensive rare artifacts. During dinner Vicki is upset when Tony begins to tell George and Jacob about the rumored Riemenschneider artifact. Jacob says that he will buy it from whomever finds it at a fair price and will fund their trip to Germany to find it. Both Vicki and Tony intend to give the artifact to a museum or to the Drachenstein family members if they find it but do not tell Jacob this. George seems more interested in going after it himself. After the dinner Vicki and Tony decide that this will be the test to determine who is mentally superior and that if he finds the artifact then Vicki will have to marry him.

Chapter two begins with Vicki taking drastic measures in order to keep from being followed to her destination. She finds that the old Drachenstein castle has been made into a hotel and Vicki takes a very strange route to get there. When she arrives the girl behind the desk is a very small frail girl named Irma Drachenstein. Vicki decides that the girl must be a servant and distant relative of the Drachenstein family. Vicki is shown to her room and there is a painting on the wall. While most of the painting is faded, the face is very clear and looks exactly like Irma Drachenstein. Under the face is the name of the woman and the date: Konstanze Grafिन von und zu Drachenstein, 1505-1525.

In chapter three Vicki heads down to dinner and finds that Tony is at a table waiting for her. Tony explains who most of the guests at the Drachenstein castle are and introduces Vicki to Doktor Blankenhagen and tells Vicki about a man named Herr Schmidt. Although Tony has little information on him, Schmidt has tried several times to get Tony to divulge information on why he is at the Drachenstein castle. There is another chair at the table and soon George Nolan shows up. After dinner Vicki and Tony decide to compare notes on what they have found out so far so that they are starting on the same page. Vicki gives a description of the piece from what she and Tony found out before hand and then Tony explains that the three characters involved when the piece went missing were Count Drachenstein, his wife Konstanze, and the Count's trusted man, Nicolas Duvenvoorde. In the letters it was Nicolas who was supposed to be taking the piece back home to Konstanze for the Count but Konstanze wrote a letter to her husband saying neither Nicolas nor the piece ever arrived. Vicki and Tony agree that the jewels were large and valuable enough that they would have resurfaced even if the artifact itself had been destroyed.

Vicki is walking back to her room when she meets Schmidt who is very vague about who he is and what he does but insists on asking Vicki a lot of questions. He also tells Vicki that there is a Countess that walks the halls of the castle at night although he does not know which one. Vicki goes to her room and suddenly sees the ghost of Konstanze walking down the hall. Vicki comes out of her room and runs into Tony. The two of them, quickly joined by George, go after the spectral image. Tony quickly deduces that it must be Irma sleepwalking and they go after her to make sure she does not hurt herself. When the three of them come to Irma's room they find that her room is locked from the outside.



## Chapter 1-3 Analysis

In chapter three Vicki wonders about the rustling she hears in the garden while she and Tony are talking. This is not the last time she will hear the rustling of something unseen while talking to someone about the Riemenschneider artifact. It will never be fully explained that all of these are George but some of them will be stated definitely to be. George is sneaking around to listen to Vicki and Tony. There are many hints at foreshadowing in the beginning of the book although much of it will not point in a clear direction. It is clear that Schmidt has something that he is hiding although there is not much of a clue as to what it is. It will not be until the last chapter of the book that his identity is fully divulged. Vicki says in the book that Schmidt is obviously a fake name but it will be shown later on that Schmidt is in fact his name.

One big piece of foreshadowing in the book was when Vicki goes to her room and looks at the painting of Konstanze. Vicki notices right off hand that the painting is faded everywhere except for the face. This will be important later in the story. As the story continues it will become clear that there is more than one mystery to be solved at the Drachenstein castle but it will not be clear what the motives are of most of the players. The only two that seem to be easily identified are Tony and Vicki, since the story is told from Vicki's point of view.

Tony is in love with Vicki and it seems that she honestly has feelings for him as well. She has a different idea to his about the use of marriage, as she has stated. Tony appears to view this contest as a way to secure Vicki as his wife. She never fully comes out and agrees to this when he suggests it, although she does not come out and refuse it either. Regardless of her feelings on marriage it would seem that she does care for Tony and does not want to end their relationship.

There are other characters that Tony tells Vicki about when she sits down at the dinner table. For the most part these characters will not be seen and will only be mentioned once again in the book. The next time that these people are mentioned it is only to note that they have left. Irma's aunt, referred to as the Grafin, has not been seen yet in the story by Vicki. In the next chapter she will be introduced but her motives will not be completely known. There is a large plot in the story that will not be revealed until the end of the story. The Grafin's name is Elfrida although she is only called the Grafin for most of the book.



# Chapter 4-5

## Chapter 4-5 Summary

Chapter four begins with Irma's aunt stumbling upon George, Tony and Vicki and demanding to know what they are doing at her niece's door at one in the morning. The Grafyn says that she locks Irma in her room every night at eleven. The Grafyn opens the door and Irma is laying in bed asleep although she quickly rouses when the flashlight is shown on her. She is dressed in a much different outfit than the ghost had been. The Grafyn locks Irma back up in her room despite Irma's fears and begging the Grafyn to stay with her. The Grafyn tells Vicki and the others to go back to Vicki's room and look at the painting there and tells them goodnight. George and Tony get into a argument over what it could have been and Vicki tells them to leave so that she can sleep.

The next morning over breakfast Tony tells Vicki that they need to watch George Nolan because he is not against hurting people in order to get what he wants. While they are trying to decide where to search, Irma comes to the table and tells them her aunt wishes to have them for tea that afternoon. Tony and Vicki search a part of the Drachenstein grounds but find nothing and realize that the artifact must be in the castle somewhere although the castle is very large. Tony says he will find a time later to search the family crypt and Vicki will search the library in the castle and they will share any information they find. That afternoon, when they have tea with the Grafyn, Vicki sees that nothing in that room has been sold off for money as has been done in the rest of the castle. The Grafyn's friend Miss Burton is there. Miss Burton and the Grafyn are going to put on a seance that night and invite Tony, Vicki, George, and Schmidt to come and sit in with them.

As chapter five begins the tea party slowly breaks up but not before the Grafyn gives the keys to the library to Vicki and gives Tony permission to go to the family crypt. While Vicki heads to the library, Schmidt follows her and Vicki cannot think of a way to politely get rid of him and so allows him to tag along. Vicki finds some papers in the library that seemed to be some old diary. Vicki locks the papers back up, intending to come back and look at them more closely when Schmidt is not with her, and they head down to get ready for dinner.

Irma comes to Vicki's table during dinner and tells Tony, George, Vicki and Doktor Blankenhagen that the Grafyn wants them all to come to the Grafyn's chambers after dinner. When they arrive they find that Miss Burton has set everything up for a seance. Blankenhagen seems unsure about the seance but Irma looks so frightened and pale that Blankenhagen decides to stay. They begin the seance and the planchette triangle begins to move. When asked if someone is there the letters K-O-N are spelled out before the board lifts into the air and falls to the ground. Irma suddenly begins to speak in an odd voice in an old form of German that has not been used in centuries. After talking for some time Irma says the word fire in the old German before falling limp. Schmidt is in the corner looking pale and shaking. The words Irma said are translated to



be from Konstanze about her coming from Spain to a cold land to die and that Irma has enough life to share. Irma hears part of this and faints again. Blankenhagen takes Irma to her room and Tony asks for the keys before leaving the Graf in who has sat smiling coldly the whole time. Blankenhagen says he will go with Vicki and Tony to the crypt. He tells them that he knows that there is something going on in the castle although it has nothing to do with ghosts. When they get to the crypt they are surprised to find that the tomb where Konstanze would have been buried is empty.

## Chapter 4-5 Analysis

Miss Burton is an odd woman. Although the role of most of the characters in the story is unknown, it is clear that she believes in the seances and the ghosts. Miss Burton will be mentioned again in the story although she is simply a tool that is being manipulated and has little role other than that. During the seance it is seen that Schmidt does not handle things well. It seems to be that Schmidt is taken aback by the seance. The truth of the matter is that Schmidt has a hand in the happenings of the seance but truly did not realize that it might be putting Irma in danger. When Schmidt sees what it does to the girl it shakes him. Although Schmidt has secret motives in the story it is easy to see that he is a kind person without a desire to hurt anyone.

Blankenhagen has been pulled into the story in a larger role than he originally had. He is only introduced briefly in the first few chapters. He will continue to have a larger role in the story and he, Tony and Vicki will be forced to work together as the story continues. Blankenhagen and Tony have a lot in common although their personalities seem to be very different. Both of the men seemingly respond to Irma's batting eyelashes and the thought that she might be in trouble. Irma is very young and Vicki has a hard time understanding Irma, although this might be in part due to the fact that they are very different. Irma is obviously willing to flirt and wants attention from men while Vicki seems to be the type that could do without it and does not see a point in being flirtatious. Vicki points out early on in the story that she has an independence that Irma will never be able to have. It further confuses Vicki that Irma allows herself to be treated foully by the Graf in when Irma is the rightful heiress to the castle and the Graf in is related by marriage only.

In the end of the story there are a lot of things that are explained to the reader: the sighting of the ghost as well as the seance (although how the planchette is able to lift into the air is not explained; it seems that it might have been George or Schmidt who took care of that). This first seance gives the characters vague information on Konstanze and when they go to the crypt they find that her tomb is empty. In the next chapter the reason that her tomb is empty is revealed, as well as the importance of her talking about fire. Irma is talking in old German when overtaken by Konstanze although it is well known that Konstanze is from Spain. This will also be an important fact that is used as a defining point later in the story for piecing together the puzzle.





## Chapter 6-7

### Chapter 6-7 Summary

In chapter six Vicki and Tony go to the library with the keys to get the papers Vicki found earlier. There had been maps as well as the diary. When they get to the library, they find that the maps are gone. There is a piece of a rat-eaten letter. Vicki is able to make out part of the letter from Konstanze that talks about her husband's ill stomach and getting the piece of art so he may carry out God's will. Tony suggests the next morning that Vicki take Irma shopping to get her mind off of things. While they are out, Vicki tells Irma to try on a dress but Irma tells her that the price is too high. Vicki drops the subject but wonders how the price could be too high when the castle gets such high rates for their rooms. Later that afternoon, Tony catches up with Vicki and Blankenhagen and tells them that he found out that Konstanze was burned at the stake for being a witch. Tony explains the trial that happened and how Konstanze was accused of murdering her husband by cursing him and was killed just days after his death. There is the testimony of a woman who says she worked for the Count and Countess and saw Konstanze in the arms of a winged figure who had clicking hooves. Vicki remembers that Irma had talked about fire in the seance and says Irma must know about the witch trial. Blankenhagen gets upset at this and leaves and Tony leaves soon after when Vicki says that Irma might be playing more than the role of a poor damsel in distress.

At dinner Tony says he was approached by George with an offer of having George be his helper since Tony might need the muscle. This offends Tony. Schmidt is not looking well and explains to Vicki that he has a heart condition but is alright. After dinner, Vicki and Tony go to their separate rooms but Vicki waits up for Tony and hears him leave his room. She follows a short distance behind, trying not to be seen. In the darkness she sees something move and a suite of armor gets off a stand and begins to walk toward Tony.

In chapter seven Vicki watches the suite of armor attack Tony and she runs to get help rather than go to Tony. She almost immediately regrets this action but heads to Blankenhagen's door. The doctor comes to Tony and they find that he has been hit on the head and has a gash on his stomach but is fine. The suite of armor has vanished but Vicki admits she had been following Tony and saw the suit of armor. George says that most of the them are too tall to fit into the suit of armor and so they head to Schmidt's room since he is the only one small enough to fit into it. When they get there they find that Schmidt has seemingly had a heart attack. Schmidt looks at Tony, who is bleeding from the wound on his belly, and asks if Tony is dead. Schmidt says he heard someone scream. Blankenhagen makes everyone leave the room so that Schmidt can rest. Tony's wound only needs a couple of band aids and he is fine. Tony, Vicki and George sit around talking about whether or not it could have been Schmidt in the armor, who would have had time to get in it, and where they put it when they were done. They come to no answers and finally turn in for the night.



The next morning Tony goes to George's room with Vicki and agrees to let George in on his finds if George will lend his muscle. George heartily agrees and after breakfast they head back down to the family crypt. Once in the crypt Tony gives George some tools to start opening the tomb of Count Burckhardt. George momentarily stops when he realizes that he is supposed to do all the work himself as Tony explains that he was injured the night before. George then laughs and begins opening the sealed tomb. Once the tomb is opened Tony sends George to go get Blankenhagen. Inside the tomb is a skeleton that is not Count Burckhardt Drachenstein. Blachenstein determines that the remains are a male, most likely in his thirties and probably died from a knife stab and hands a dagger to Vicki and Tony. Tony explains that the remains are those of Nicolas Duvenvoorde, steward of Count Burckhardt.

Vicki helps Tony to bed as George heads to the Grafin's room to tell her about the body. Before they part, Vicki mentions the missing maps and George says he saw some maps in Blankenhagen's room. Tony and George argue and decide not to help each other any farther. Vicki goes to Blankenhagen's room and retrieves the maps. Once in Tony's room Vicki and Tony are discussing things when George arrives. The Grafin did not ask why they had been looking in the crypt or care that the tomb had been opened which strikes them as odd. Vicki and Tony agree that the Grafin knows about the artifact but does not know where it is. George leaves the room and Tony and Vicki discuss the fact that the Count is a good suspect for stealing the artifact rather than giving it to the church but he did not have a reason to kill Nicolas for it and it was the Count's property to begin with. Tony pulls a small object out of his pocket, retrieved from near Nicolas' body. Vicki recognizes it as an angle's wing.

## Chapter 6-7 Analysis

Vicki is obviously a very smart person in many respects but she is not above being jaded by her own opinions. She refuses to look at Konstanze as a suspect of anything. It appears that Vicki views Konstanze as a smart independent woman, much like herself. Vicki finds the letter from Konstanze to her husband explaining that Nicolas did not arrive with the artifact. When Tony finds the body of Nicolas in the tomb of the Count, it is obvious that Nicolas was murdered. Since these characters have long been dead there will only be deductions available to explain Nicolas death and these will come at the end of the story.

Blankenhagen is almost unfriendly towards Vicki although he never explains what it was he is thinking about her when he first meets her. As the story progresses they will develop a friendship and Blankenhagen will eventually decide he cares very much for Vicki. At this point in the story it seems that Blankenhagen and Tony both are more worried about Irma than anything else. Vicki is one of the few that thinks Irma may have something to do with the trouble rather than being a victim of it. This may be another example of Vicki pushing her own views and judgments onto other people. It is also possible that Vicki is somewhat jealous of Irma and the way that Irma and Tony interact.



They have been to the crypt several times and this will not be the last time that the crypt is visited or that Blankenhagen helps Vicki and Tony with his medical knowledge. The story of Konstanze's hearing is very descriptive. The description of the winged man that takes Konstanze into his arms and the sound of his hoofs clicking on the floor have a explanation. Despite the truth of this story, there will also be a figure that will be dressed to resemble this image.



# Chapter 8-10

## Chapter 8-10 Summary

In chapter eight Vicki is holding the piece of the angel wing in her hand. This is the only solid evidence that she and Tony have been able to find. They have been side tracked so easily by the other things that have been going on in the castle. Vicki and Tony roll out the maps to see what they can determine about the layout of the castle. There is a line between the Count and the Countess's bedroom. Tony and Vicki realize it must be a secret passage. They also notice that there seems to be a secret passage out of Irma's room meaning that she could have gotten out of her bedroom even with the door locked. Just then George knocks and announces that the services for the body will be held that afternoon. At the graveside Irma is flirting with both Tony and Blankenhagen. Vicki pulls Tony aside and tells him that Irma is most likely pleased because things are going according to plan. Tony accuses Vicki of being jealous but Vicki points out the facts and how they all seem to point toward Irma. Tony points out that there is no motive for Irma since everything belongs to her but Vicki is insistent.

Later that night Vicki and Tony show up at the cemetery because Tony knows that someone will try and dig up the grave of Nicolas. They are not paying attention when they hear a creaking and startle a figure in a dark cloak that seems to be without a head. The cloak resembles wings. Both Vicki and Tony pause for a moment before giving chase to the figure. The figure is able to outrun them through the streets but pauses at various places to let them catch up. Vicki knows it is some kind of trap but cannot catch up with Tony. When they enter into an area after a long chase Tony is hit with a large rock. It barely misses his head but knocks him down. Tony is upset at being so easily toyed with and they head back to the castle. When they get back to the castle George is waiting for them and says that Schmidt is dead. Blankenhagen goes in and determines that Schmidt is not doing well and needs to go to a hospital but is not dead.

That afternoon Vicki goes to her room and begins looking for a secret passage. After a short period of time she finds a flower that twists and a panel reveals itself but does not open from her side since Konstanze would have been expected to act like a lady and wait for her husband to come to her, not her go to him. Vicki uses a coat hanger to open the door and finds a set of stairs going down from her room. Where the stairs end, there is the missing suit of armor that attacked Tony.

In chapter nine Vicki goes past the armor and opens the panel into the great hall just where Tony had been attacked. Vicki examines the lever that opens the secret passage and goes back to her bedroom. The next morning at breakfast, Blankenhagen says that Schmidt is stable but critical and can have no visitors. Blankenhagen then casually remarks about the grave of Nicolas being desecrated along with several events the news has reported on. Vicki and Tony go for a walk and discuss who are likely suspects but cannot seem to rule anyone out. While they talk and walk, Vicki suddenly realizes that Tony is up to something. They end up at the telegraph office but Tony does not let



Vicki come in and will not tell her what he is doing there. When Tony comes out they continue the talk of who must have hid the artifact since it was not Nicolas. Vicki debates telling Tony about the secret passage and the suit of armor but decides against it.

That night Tony orders Vicki to stay put in her room. She is short on sleep and nods, telling herself that nodding does not count as accepting something verbally. When Tony is gone, she goes back into the secret chamber and enters into what would have been the Count's bedroom, Schmidt's room. Once in his room Vicki begins looking for a secret panel that will reveal the artifact to her. She quickly finds the small trigger and pushes back the panel. Inside the panel is a small box although it is no artifact. Inside the box is a small green frog looking creature and a gray powder that is covered with dead rat bodies. The green figure has an eastern look; although Vicki cannot quite get a grasp on what the figure means she knows it is familiar.

Chapter ten begins with Vicki sleeping in till nearly noon after snooping around all night. At lunch the next day the Grafine comes to sit with Tony and Vicki for a moment. She explains that when she got married she busied herself with learning the family history, painting, and other things. After the Grafine leaves Tony and Vicki debate why the woman is letting them search and know that the Grafine has not found the artifact yet or she would not allow them to continue searching. For the next thirty-six hours nothing happens at the castle. Vicki is sitting in her room late at night looking over the box and the items found in the secret compartment in the Count's room when she suddenly has an idea. She rushes out of her room and goes to get Tony and Blankenhagen. Neither one are happy at being woken up but she takes them to the crypt after explaining what she is thinking. They go down and open the tomb of Count Bruckhardt von und zu Drachenstein and Blankenhagen gets samples from what is left of the corpse. The three of them travel to a friend of Blankenhagen who has the equipment necessary to do the tests Vicki wants done. When they get back to the castle Tony and Blankenhagen stop Vicki in the garden and sit her down. They demand to know how she knew to look for arsenic poisoning in a person that had been dead as long as Bruckhardt. Vicki explains about finding the box, the grayish powder with all the dead rats and the small green figurine. The figurine was from Konstanze's homeland and was a symbol of the occult. When women were trying to curse their husbands or people they often would turn to poison and it would cause stomach trouble just as the Count had been noted for having. Vicki then explains the account of the wench that saw Konstanze being in an embrace of a cloven winged figure. It was Nicolas with his riding cape and his riding spurs must have sounded like hooves on the wooden floors. Konstanze could not have explained because of the adultery charge.

After Vicki finishes her statement Tony stands up and realizes where the artifact is located. Before they can move, there is a knife thrown at Tony. All three of them take after the cloaked figure. They quickly come to a dark stairwell in the castle where people used to be imprisoned. Tony and Blankenhagen go down to look for the figure. Vicki thinks about going to the police but before she can move she is thrown into the pit and the lid is closed tight. The wooden stairs Tony and Blankenhagen are standing on collapses when Vicki falls. Tony is alright but Blankenhagen is badly hurt and his arm is



broken. They are able to make a light and Vicki looks around and finds there has been a recent cave-in and they are stuck in the hole.

## Chapter 8-10 Analysis

Vicki seems upset in some respect that Tony is not sharing all his information with her when they go to the telegraph office. Despite her feelings about this she chooses not to tell him about her finding the suit of armor. She also refuses to tell him about the box and the figurine she finds. It is not until Vicki is able to put the pieces together that Vicki reveals her findings to the others. The reader is left to infer things often in the story. Vicki knows what happened to the Count long before it is explained to the reader. Also, at this point in the story it seems that most everyone knows who the cloaked figure is but it is never verbalized for the reader's benefit.

The cave-in that Vicki discovers is described as recent. It becomes clear that this has been deliberately done. In the next chapters the characters will slowly begin to run out of air. The time trapped together is largely responsible for Vicki and Blankenhagen becoming so much closer. How much closer is only hinted at at the end of the story. It will be at the end of the story that Blankenhagen explains his feelings for Vicki.

Tony goes to the telegraph office but his motives there are unknown. In the next chapters George will be revealed as the cloaked figure. In addition to this it will be explained that Tony went to the telegraph office to send off wires to gather information about Schmidt and George's finances. The reader does not become aware of these wires until George says he intercepted them. It is also George who will describe much of the Grafen's involvement in the situation. Despite her involvement and desire to have Irma killed, the Grafen is allowed to go free.



# Chapter 11-12

## Chapter 11-12 Summary

In chapter eleven Vicki realizes the severity of the situation and sits down to cry for a moment quietly before heading back to Tony and Blankenhagen. Once she returns she has Blankenhagen tell her what to do to help him before he passes out. Once Vicki has explained their situation, she states that their best chance is to dig through the earth and Tony agrees. They begin digging a small hole and they soon realize that the air is becoming hot and harder to take in. Vicki is in better shape than Tony and quickly takes his place in the small hole to move the dirt. Tony loses consciousness and Vicki continues to dig. After a period of time she loses consciousness but soon wakes up. When she passes out she fell forward and broke through the last bit of barrier between her and the next room. With fresh air on her face she wakes Tony up and they pull Blankenhagen through as the tunnel collapses. The three of them fall asleep.

When Vicki wakes up she is laying on Blankenhagen but the air is still fresh. Blankenhagen pulls Vicki back down on him when she sits up and asks if she is hurting him. At that moment Tony wakes up and the three of them begin to assess their situation once again. Tony and Vicki are able to make a way out through a narrow dirt opening and soon they are out in the moon light. They lay there for only a moment when a figure in a cloak crosses the court yard. In its arms is Irma.

In chapter twelve Vicki and Tony quickly go after the figure up a flight of stairs to the top of the castle where the figure stands ready to drop Irma to her death. The figure turns around and it is George; he is holding a gun pointed at Tony. Vicki tells George that he can take the artifact and go. George quickly explains that Tony has done too much asking about his finances with the wires he sent. George admits that it was Schmidt who was in the armor. Schmidt is a hypnotist but became upset when he realized the harm that was being done to Irma and wanted out. George was trying to scare Schmidt when he had his attack. George says that the Graf in has been in on it with him from the beginning. Tony says that George is being used by the Graf in and George takes a step back and gets ready to shoot but Irma wakes up at the same time that Blankenhagen makes it to the top of the steps. In the tussle George is thrown over the edge to his death. Irma sends Vicki for help while Irma stays with Tony and Blankenhagen.

Vicki wanders into a tavern and tells them to call the police. Before long the Graf in walks in and Vicki warns her that although they cannot prove anything, George is dead and it would be better for the Graf in to leave. The Graf in goes without question. Vicki goes to her bedroom after the police are done and sleeps till noon the next day.

They go the next day and find the artifact hidden where Konstanze left it. Vicki explains how the Graf in had been using Irma and had touched up the painting of Konstanze to look just like Irma. In Konstanze's room they find the artifact and Irma offers each of them, Tony, Blankenhagen and Vicki, a precious stone from the shrine. They refuse and



Irma goes off to start a dinner for her rescuers. Vicki knows that Irma is working for the attention of one of the men but Vicki is not sure which one. When Irma is gone, Tony demands that Vicki agree to marry him since Vicki was not able to find it without help. Vicki begins to argue when she asks if Tony does not want to marry Irma. Tony says that Blankenhagen can marry Irma. Blankenhagen says he also wants to marry Vicki. Vicki then explains that she went to see Schmidt in the hospital and found out that he is the top historian at the National museum. Schmidt had agreed to give Vicki a job at his museum where she can write a book about the Riemenschneider shrine and the hunt for it at the Drachenstein castle. Tony realizes that Vicki may have blackmailed Schmidt because of his involvement but Vicki does not admit or deny anything. Vicki says that she will not marry either one of them. Blankenhagen says he does not give up easily. Tony then decides he will have a talk with Schmidt and make sure there is a job for him as well. Vicki walks out on the two men arguing.

## Chapter 11-12 Analysis

Vicki is quick to admit that they were all blinded to the clues that were in front of them. When Tony points out that he proved Vicki is not his intellectual superior, she refuses to admit this. Tony still wants to marry her, although she continues to push him away because of her views on marriage. In addition to this she has another suitor, Blankenhagen, who also wants to court her. Vicki has spent a large amount of time comparing herself to Irma. Although Vicki thinks that both the men are interested in Irma, it seems that Vicki is relieved to find that Tony is not going to marry Irma. Vicki never says this definitively but she seems to be thoroughly surprised that Tony is not interested in Irma.

There is a lot of story explained at the end of the story. The reason that Blankenhagen has the maps is not explained but it seems that George or Schmidt most likely planted them with the hopes that it would point away from them. George has to be sure to let Vicki and Tony know about the maps so that they can go get them. George does in fact have the muscle and drive to pull off whatever he thought needed to be done, but it is clear that he needed someone with the brain power to point him in the right direction. The fact that he is broke is kept hidden from the reader but it is clear early on that no one really trusts George.

It seems unfair in many respects that the Grafen is not thrown in jail for her part in Irma's torture. There is no mention made as to what happens to the Grafen after she leaves the castle. There is a large portion dedicated to describing the artifact that Vicki and Tony have been searching for since the beginning of the story. Despite the fact that the story starts because of the artifact, it seems to become a secondary thought as the tale of the Drachenstein characters began to unfold. There are a lot of suggestions as to what could be done with the shrine but it is not definitely stated in the book.





# Characters

## Vicki Bliss

Vicki Bliss is the main character in the story and the story is told from her point of view. Vicki has spent her whole life fighting perceptions that she cannot be intelligent because of her beauty although she works as a teacher at a small college. It is there that she meets Tony. Tony wants to marry Vicki but she is determined that marriage is not something she wants anything to do with. She explains that marriage is the way a man can acquire a free, full time maid. She seems to enjoy Tony's company and although she professes to want nothing to do with marrying him, it is obvious that the two are romantically involved. When Vicki tries to assert that she is an independent female, Tony will stop doing things for her, like holding open doors and picking her up at her house. Vicki will explain that this is not something that should be done for a woman but as a courtesy for people but she does not say this to Tony. There are times in the book when Vicki seems to want to be treated like the female although she never voices this out loud.

Although Vicki places a high value on her intellect it becomes clear that even she is unable to avoid prejudices; Vicki has to admit that she never for a moment thought that Konstanze had anything to do with her husband's death or with the disappearance of the art relic they have been looking for. It is not until Vicki finds the arsenic poison and the little green frog that Vicki slowly begins to put the pieces together that lead to the truth of Konstanze and her husband.

At the end of the story it is hinted at that Vicki may use the situation to her advantage to get a job with Schmidt; Vicki learns how deep his involvement is in the events that take place at the Drachenstein castle. This is never proved or admitted to by any of the characters but Vicki denies the charges in such a way that make it seem it is a very good possibility. Although Vicki seems to be a person that abides by laws, it is clear that she is willing to push, even break them, in certain situations. However, most of these instances are in pursuit of the art relic and she does not hurt anyone in the process.

## Tony Lawrence

Tony is a professor that works with Vicki. When they first meet he asks her to marry him. Although this most likely was joking he never seems to waver on the subject and seems to truly care for Vicki. Much of what starts the search for the Riemenschneider relic is the fact that Tony announces he is going to prove his mental superiority to Vicki. He has told her that when he proves that he is intellectually her superior she has to marry him. At the end of the book Tony will say that he has proven that they are equals but Vicki does not waver and says that she has no intention of marrying anyone.



Tony is described as being from "the bible belt" and being a person that honestly loves his parents. Tony constantly puts his elbows on the table while talking. Vicki points out in the story that she will not take up this dirty habit but throughout the book she continually puts her elbows on the table and does not always catch herself in time to stop it. Tony will flirt with Irma but at the end of the story he explains that even though Irma is pretty she is not the kind of girl he wants to marry. Tony keeps information from Vicki which will make Vicki angry but she keeps information from him as well. Tony is an open book in many ways and Vicki will often be upset with him for giving away secrets and information when George and others are around.

## **George Nolan**

George Nolan follows Vicki and Tony all the way to Germany. He and Tony have a long rivalry going on. George halfheartedly dates Vicki, but only as a way to upset Tony. George turns out to be the villain behind many of the activities and attacks that happen at the castle. George dies while trying to throw Irma off the top of a building.

## **Irma Drachenstein**

Irma is the one who owns the Drachenstein castle although she is treated badly by her aunt, the Graf. Irma is made to think that Konstanze wants her life and it nearly drives Irma into a mental break down. Irma explains at the end of the story that her aunt has always hated her and has feed her stories of Konstanze her whole life. Irma winds up with the castle all to herself after the man that was going to kill her dies. The picture of the late Konstanze has been painted over to look just like Irma.

## **Konstanze Frafon von und zu Drachenstein**

Konstanze poisons her husband over a long period of time. She conspires to steal the Riemenschneider with her lover. It is supposedly Konstanze who speaks through Irma at the seance. Konstanze is involved in devil worshiping and is burned alive for being a witch. A painting of Konstanze is in Vicki's room and has been painted over to look exactly like Irma.

## **Jake Myers**

Jake Myers is a well known and prominent figure in the town where Vicki lives and works. She is hoping that he will fund some of her research at the college but turns down the offer to fund her trip to Germany when Myers finds out that Vicki and Tony are going looking for the lost relic. Myers and Nolan have a competition going on between them.



## **Doktor Blankenhagen**

Doktor Blankenhagen is staying at the castle when Vicki and the others are looking for the lost relic. It is Doktor Blankenhagen that takes care of Schmidt when he has a heart attack and when Tony is stabbed. He is very formal but by the end of the story has grown to like Vicki and asks her to marry him.

## **Nicolas Duvenvoorde**

Nicolas Duvenvoorde is the lover of Konstanze. The remains of his body are found in the Drachenstein family crypt. Konstanze is seen in the arms of a great thing with a black cape whose hooves click on the floor. Vicki realizes that the figure described is Nicolas in his riding outfit and since he has on spurs they click on the floor like hooves. Nicolas and Konstanze conspire against her husband.

## **Anton Zachariah Schmidt**

Schmidt is the mysterious man at the castle where Vicki and the others are staying. Schmidt turns out to be a historian at the national museum. Schmidt is working with George but loses his nerve when Tony is stabbed. Schmidt has a heart attack but is fine.

## **Burckhardt Drachenstein**

Burckhardt Drachenstein is poisoned by his wife Konstanze. There are many letters from Burckhardt that show he loved his wife, which may have caused him to not suspect her activities. Burckhardt kills his wife's lover shortly before Konstanze kills Burckhardt.

## **Tilman Riemenschneider**

Tilman Riemenschneider is an sculptor that lives 1455 to 1525 and is imprisoned, hurting both his hands badly enough that he never creates anything again. Riemenschneider's missing art piece is the thing that Vicki Bliss and the others are looking for in Schloss Drachenstein.

## **The Grafin**

The Grafin is Irma's aunt. The Grafin has been selling off everything in the castle for years and trying to steal it away from Irma. The Grafin allows everyone in the castle to look for the art relic because she is anxious to have it.

## Miss Burton

A friend of the Grafins. Miss Burton takes notes and asks the questions during the seance. It is Miss Burton that Vicki advises the Grafin to go live with.



# Objects/Places

## Schloss Drachenstein

Schloss Drachenstein is the castle where Vicki, George, Tony and many others go to look for the Riemenschneider relic. Although it is a hotel, it has been the home of the Drachenstein family for generations.

## Riemenschneider Relic

The relic that the characters in the book are looking for. It is never fully described anywhere and so all that is known about it is the fact that it has three large jewels on it that are very expensive and a vague description as to what people and figures are carved on it. It is eventually found in Konstanze's room.

## Arsenic

The poison that Konstanze uses to slowly poison her husband. It is found by Vicki in a secret compartment in her husband's room with a small green frog figurine.

## Seance

There is a seance lead by Miss Burton. It is during the seance that Irma talks about fire and other things that all point toward Konstanze. It is not until the end of the book that they realize it could not have been Konstanze since she would not have spoken in ancient German as Irma did.

## Suit of Armor

There is a suit of armor that attacks Tony while he is out snooping around. The suit of armor is found later on in a secret stairwell. Schmidt was the one in the armor.

## Crypt

It is in the Drachenstein family crypt that the body of Nicolas is found as well as the wing that came off the Riemenschneider relic. It is in the crypt that the Drachenstein family members are kept and so Vicki gets the sample of Konstanze's husband to check for arsenic from the crypt.



## **Dagger**

There is a dagger found in the body of Nicolas with the Drachenstein family emblem on it. It is this dagger that eventually leads Vicki to realize that Konstanze's husband killed Nicolas.

## **Green Frog**

Vicki finds a bag of poison and a small green frog hidden in Konstanze's husband's room. Vicki realizes it must have belonged to Konstanze because the figure is Moorish and Konstanze had been from Spain where the Moors had influence. This figure is a symbol of the occult, or nature, that Konstanze is thought to have worshiped. Vicki deduces that when Konstanze was unable to kill her husband via a curse, she began poisoning him.

## **National Museum**

Schmidt works here and offers Vicki a job with here also.

## **Marriage**

Tony wants Vicki to marry him but Vicki has a terrible impression of marriage. She is certain that marriage is only a way to more or less trap a woman into being a servant.



# Themes

## The Quest for Knowledge

Throughout the story there is a general quest for knowledge. While it begins with the desire to know what happened to Riemenschneider's last work, there quickly are other things thrown into the plot. Once at the castle, the knowledge the characters seek will greatly expand to include who is behind the attacks at the castle, why are they doing it, and how.

When they arrive at the castle it is quickly determined at least one of the guests knows about the Riemenschneider relic that Vicki and Tony are looking for. The main characters in the story will do a lot of speculating on why these people are here and what their motives are. There is also the quest for the knowledge about what happens to the Drachenstein family during the time the Riemenschneider relic goes missing. There are many things that are never answered during the course of the story since the Drachenstein family that was involved have died so long ago. Since there is so little evidence, it becomes clear that the characters in the book must look for the answers in places that they normally would not look. The question of the haunting in the house and reason for it is another quest that the characters undertake.

## Desire for Money

The desire for Money is seen almost immediately in the story in reference to the castle of Drachenstein. The family, however rich it had been at one point in time, has obviously fallen upon hard times. It is clear that everything worth taking has been sold except for the items that the Grafyn has hoarded away in her room. Irma does not seem to be as worried about the lack of money as her aunt is. However, it is clear that Irma is aware of the lack of money because she and Vicki go shopping and Irma refuses to try on a dress because it is too expensive. The Grafyn's desire for money is what ultimately leads her to join forces with George, in the hopes that she can get Irma out of the way and find the Riemenschneider relic.

What isn't seen in the story until very close to the end is George's desire for money. It is a widely held assumption that George's part in the story is based on his desire for competition and his love of art. It is not until the end of the story that it is revealed that George himself is nearly broke and that Tony has been increasingly aware of this information for sometime. While this motive is not revealed until the last few chapters of the story, it is still a drive for this character and it becomes obvious that it has been since the beginning.



## Competition

Vicki Bliss is the main character in the story and she obviously feels competitive toward most of the people in the story. While her competition is not physical, it is plainly stated that she believes herself to be superior to men in general but cannot be taken seriously because of her good looks. While there seems to be an unspoken competition between Vicki and Tony almost from the beginning of the book, it is verbally stated and put out in the open when they decide to both go looking for the Riemenschneider piece. There are other competitions in the story but Vicki and Tony's competition will differ in many ways. It is one of the competitions that is constantly referred to in the book while many others are only brought up once in a while. Vicki and Tony's competition is decidedly more friendly than the others although it is clear that Vicki and Tony take it very seriously.

Other competitions in the book stem from George Nolan. George is in competition with Jake Myers, as they are both thought to be rich powerful men. There is also a competition between George and Tony. The competition between George and Jake is only mentioned briefly in the book but it is clearly there. The competition between George and Tony will be an explanation for many of Tony's actions throughout the story. There is also a generalized competition in the book between almost everyone who is aware of the Riemenschneider piece; they all want to be the first to find it. Even Schmidt, who seems to be a very kind man, feels that the find should be his and is excited at the thought of succeeding before the others.





# Style

## Point of View

The point of view in the story is first person. The story perspective is that of Vicki Bliss. The story is told in past tense and so there are some things that are revealed partially to the reader that otherwise might not be known, such as when Vicki says that an hour from the point in time that the story is taking place she would regret her decision not to go call the police immediately. Other than these few exceptions, the point of view is limited to only the immediate knowledge that Vicki Bliss has. In addition to this there are times when the reader's information is further limited by the fact that the author does not explain what the characters are talking about. The author will simply state that because of what they are hearing they have had a revelation. The information, plan or revelation is not explained to the reader and will only be understood when the characters begin to act on their new found knowledge.

Much of the story focuses on the point of view of Vicki Bliss, so there are several paragraphs in the story that give background on Vicki. This includes her physical appearance as well as her intellect and views on marriage and the opposite sex. She says in the book that she is not the heroine and it is the heroine that gets married at the end of the book. For this reason she says that Irma should be the one that gets married. Vicki will prove to herself that she is not the heroine of the story when she runs away after Tony is attacked by the suite of armor.

## Setting

The story begins in town where Vicki works. There is a brief description of where Vicki works but it is left nameless. After it becomes clear that Vicki, George and Tony are all going to go look for the Riemenschneider piece, the setting will shift to Germany where it will stay. The author admits that the castle in Germany is fictional, although the town is a real place. There is a lot of detail given about the castle where Vicki is staying. There is mention of art and the decaying state of much of the castle. The author uses the five senses to describe Vicki's surroundings and at times he will also use a sixth sense. When Vicki and Tony go to what used to be a torture chamber, Vicki will describe the feelings that she gets from being there, although earlier in the book she professes to not believe in ghosts or the supernatural.

Since Vicki is looking for the Riemenschneider art piece, much of the setting is explored via the art and artifacts that are in the building. This proves to be useful later in the story when Vicki is able to identify the fact that the painting of Konstanze is done over in an attempt to make Irma think that they are identical in physical appearance. There are other places described in the book but they are mostly in Germany and the author describes them from a tourist's point of view.



## Language and Meaning

The story is told from Vicki's point of view so the language reflects her higher level of education. Although it is obvious that she is well educated and some of the words in the story may not be readily known, the language is still informal and easily understood. Any words or things mentioned that the reader does not immediately recognize are made clear when taken into context.

There is a lot of foreshadowing that takes place in the story. Tony will say that it is possible that George is broke for all he knows. At the point in the story when Tony says this, there seems no reason to suspect such a thing, but this turns out to be the motive that George has for hunting down the lost relic. The brief mention made by Vicki about the face of the painting not being faded when the rest of the picture has is also turns out to be foreshadowing what is going on. There is also a report given during Konstanze's trial when one woman says that Konstanze's husband is missing his dagger. It is not until the body of Nicolas is found that this piece falls into place.

There are some characters in the story that talk in broken English or have their words a little off. This is to create the effect of a German person speaking English. In addition to this, the characters will at times slip back into their natural German for a word or two. Despite this the phrases and meanings are easily understood.

## Structure

The story consists of two hundred and forty-four pages and is divided into twelve chapters. The chapters vary in length and some of the chapters are further divided into subsections numbered with Roman numerals. Many of the German words, names and titles in the book are written in italics to signify the change to the reader. This helps the reader recognize the change in language or the title.

There is a short forward at the front of the book that gives the reader some basic background on the places and people mentioned in the book. It explains here that the town in Germany, Rothenburg, is real but the castle is fake, as is the Drachenstein family. Riemenschneider is a real sculptor and much of what the author describes about him in the book is correct. except for the plot device about a last work that was supposedly lost.

When the author wants to show the passage of time, it is mentioned in the story that time has passed but there is no extra space or end of the chapter to signify all of the changes. This can make the story more difficult and the reader may find they need to go back and reread to understand what has taken place. Despite this the story is enjoyable.



## Quotes

"That didn't surprise me; any man with a grain of sense knows that marriage is the only way, these days, to acquire a full-time maid who works twenty-five hours a day, with no time off and no pay except room and board." Chapter 1, p. 5.

"Yet there were tantalizing references to another work by Riemenschneider, which had vanished during the turmoil of the revolt." Chapter 1, p. 14.

"I was caught by the sheer romance of it. Hidden treasures—lost masterpieces—castles—jewels—and those beautiful melancholy faces only Riemenschneider could carve." Chapter 1, p. 30.

"There are forces abroad in this place which are not good though they are not supernatural." Chapter 5, p. 100.

"The Countess Konstanze was definitely not in the crypt." Chapter 6, p. 104.

"I don't know why the old lady hates her so, but she's slowly driving her crazy." Chapter 6, p. 109.

"The old lady has the right to live here as long as she likes, but the place is Irma's." Chapter 6, p. 118.

"So far we have had a seance, with spirit possession, a White Lady walking by night, a perambulating suit of armor, a diabolical character in a black cloak, and even a semi-dead man with a look of staring horror. It isn't even a good horror fiction; it's straight out of *The Mysteries of Udolpho*." Chapter 9, p. 169.

"I was prejudiced against him from the start, and my prejudice kept me from seeing the truth." Chapter 10, p. 195.

"I had really seen it—a tall figure, cloaked and hooded, wearing boots that rang metallically on the stone floor—and carrying in its arms the white-robed figure of a woman." Chapter 11, p. 218.

"I'll never forget the expression on his face. The sudden change from triumph to failure, and his awareness of it, were blended with the most ghastly terror." Chapter 12, p. 226.

"Even before my uncle died, she hated me. Then, later, she started telling me stories—terrible stories about the crimes of the Drachensteins and the burning of Konstanze." Chapter 12, p. 232.

"Konstanze was young, seventeen or eighteen, when Burckhardt married her and brought her here. Yet even then she must have been deeply involved in the witch cult; they started young, usually at puberty." Chapter 12, p. 235.

"It's only in simpleminded novels that the heroine has to get married." Chapter 12, p. 243.



## Topics for Discussion

Explain the relationship between Vicki and Tony.

Does their relationship change in any way as the story progresses? Explain.

Look at the characters of Irma and Vicki. In what ways, if any, are they similar? In what ways are they different?

Was there any indication early on in the story that definitively pointed toward George as the criminal? Schmidt? Grafen? At what point in the story does it become clear that there is more than one person involved?

Why was the Grafen willing to let Vicki and Tony nose around looking for the shrine?

What is the initial response when it is learned that Konstanze was burned at the stake for being a witch?

When does it become clear that Konstanze may have been responsible for part of the happenings? Explain why Vicki is reluctant to accuse her.

Tony and Vicki refuse to share information. Explain the drive for each of them and how their reasons for withholding information served their individual purposes.

What purpose does the Grafen have for creating the ghost stories for Irma? Are the seance and other "supernatural" happenings at the castle for the benefit of Vicki and Tony as much as Irma? Explain your reasoning and explain why.