

## A Shady Plot

### Central theme of the story

This story is all about an overconfident man named John Hallock who is a part-time author of horror stories. The story begins when this apparently great author tries to write a story. But as time passes by, he realizes that he seemed to have run out of ideas and his mind keeps wandering away. Suddenly a ghost named Helen appears out of nowhere and explains that it were these ghosts who put ideas into the heads of these authors and that they were going to go on strike. The author who sat dumbfounded at this revelation of the ghost finally manages to inquire the reason for the strike to which the ghost replies that it was the use of Ouija boards which was the reason for this mishap. Just as he finished talking to the ghost, his wife Lavinia comes and declares that she has purchased an Ouija board for a reasonable rate which sends a chill down the author's spine. Although he tries to persuade her to return it back, she refuses and to make things worse the author gets to know that there would be an Ouija board party at his house. Before he knows it, he is forced to play the game since there was a lack of one person in their group which turns out to be disastrous for him. All the Ouija boards call him traitor unitedly and he gets embarrassed in front of the whole group. He ends up running away from the parlor to his bedroom.

The next day he sees a note on the table which was written by his wife saying that she was returning to her grandmother and that her lawyer would communicate with him later. At this moment the dreadful ghost again reappears saying that she was sent to ask as to when his wife would get rid of her Ouija board. During their elaborated conversation the cook comes in and says that she was not going to work there any longer as she was scared of spirits. As the conversation continues Lavinia comes in abruptly and tells that she was leaving. Feeling suspicious of his queer behavior she soon finds the ghost who the author was trying to hide. When she finds out the truth, she instantly forgives him. The story concludes with the author finally getting a great plot for his story.