

The Creative Impulse and Other Stories by W. Somerset Maugham**THE CREATIVE IMPULSE**

- 1 She was fifty-seven years old.
- 2 That the public bought the book in large quantities.
- 3 What experience in her life – what creative impulse – made Mrs Albert Forrester write *The Achilles Statue*.
- 4 (a) Mrs Albert Forrester. (b) It was Mr Albert Forrester's. (c) Mr Forrester.
- 5 (a) Yes. (b) No. (c) Probably not.
- 6 (a) All kinds of people – politicians, owners of newspapers, foreign ambassadors, and writers. (b) He was too busy at work in his office in the City. (c) Something very important. (d) At Mrs Forrester's Saturday lunch-parties.
- 7 (a) A new cook arrived, because Mrs Bulfinch had left. Mrs Forrester did not know that the cook had left. Then the maid brought a letter from Mr Forrester. It said that he had eloped with Mrs Bulfinch. (b) She burst out into loud laughter.
- 8 (a) Because if he lived with Mrs Bulfinch, Albert would not give Mrs Forrester as much money as before. She needed the money for her parties. And because everyone would laugh at Mrs Forrester when they knew her husband had run away with the cook. That would be the end of her literary reputation. (b) They thought that if people laughed at Mrs Forrester, they would laugh at the people who went to her parties too.
(c) She agreed to go and see her husband and beg him to come back.
- 9 'Anything you have to say is Mrs Bulfinch's business as well as mine. I think it is better that she is here with us.'
- 10 'We get on well together, don't we old girl?'
- 11 (a) Albert had sold his share of the business. Albert was planning to retire and live with Mrs Bulfinch in a seaside town. She owned a small house there.
(b) Three hundred pounds a year. (c) She could not live on three hundred pounds a year.
- 12 (a) Mrs Bulfinch said that Mrs Forrester should write a good, thrilling detective story. She would earn far more money from that than she earned from the books she usually wrote. (b) Albert thought it was a good idea.
- 13 He said, 'I like stories which begin with a very respectable-looking, middle-aged, well-dressed gentleman, wearing a gold watch on a chain, lying dead in Hyde Park.'
- 14 She said he was a solicitor who knew some terrible family secret.
- 15 (a) He was wearing a silk hat, a black coat and black trousers. And he was wearing a gold watch on a chain.
(b) Because he was exactly like the man Albert had described. And he was carrying a briefcase. (c) She wondered where he was going and why. She wondered what business a well-dressed man would have in such a poor street.
- 16 (a) At the Achilles Statue. (b) We are not told at once what her idea was. Perhaps she decided to write a detective story that began at the Achilles Statue.
- 17 (a) She said that she had decided to write a detective story which would be a great work of literature. She said that she would call it *The Achilles Statue*. (b) He thought that the idea was wonderful. And he thought

that everyone would want to buy the book. (c) No.
18 *Student's own answer.* Perhaps Somerset Maugham is saying that sometimes writers get their most successful ideas from other people.

THE ROUND DOZEN

- 1 (a) He had been ill with influenza. London was not a good place to be after an illness because it was cold and wet in winter. (b) It was full of holiday-makers.
(c) It was much quieter.
- 2 The Dolphin.
- 3 (a) Because she was dressed in the fashion of many years before. (b) Because she was very beautiful.
(c) The beautiful lady was not young – she was quite old.
- 4 (a) Mr and Mrs Edwin St Clair. (b) She was their niece.
- 5 (a) He wore a thin black coat, black gloves and a bowler hat. His clothes were shabby. (b) A match.
(c) Probably not.
- 6 Because his clothes were shabby and his boots were in need of repair.
- 7 (a) 'Nine months, that one lasted.' (b) *Student's own answer.* (c) 'It is melancholy. Because it's melancholy, people find a little ray of sunshine very welcome.'
- 8 Mr St Clair had asked a porter to ask Maugham for a book. Maugham did not have the book. He was able to start a conversation with Mr St Clair by saying that he was sorry he did not have the book.
- 9 (a) They thought people's behaviour had got worse.
(b) They wrote improper books. (c) Their clothes were old-fashioned, like their beliefs and attitudes.
- 10 (a) *Student's own answer.* (b) He began to wonder whether Miss Porchester believed the same things as Mr and Mrs St Clair.
- 11 (a) She blushed. (b) The shabby little man Maugham had given a cigarette to on the seafront.
- 12 The man offered Maugham one of his cigarettes, but when he took out the packet it was empty.
- 13 (a) He wondered whether he was following Miss Porchester. (b) Because the man was very polite. Maugham was sure he would not try to annoy Miss Porchester.
- 14 He had seen his photograph in the newspapers.
- 15 (a) No. (b) He was a bigamist. He had been married to eleven women at the same time.
- 16 (a) He said that he knew Maugham would ask him that. He said that it was his one regret in life. He would have liked to make it twelve. (b) Twelve is a Round Dozen, which is the title of the story.
- 17 They were his hunting-grounds.
- 18 That Mortimer Ellis had been an excellent husband.
- 19 He said that the women had agreed to marry him because he gave them what all women want: attention. He said the women did not try to find out about him because middle-aged women will do anything to get married.
- 20 Romance.
- 21 (a) 'Because it's melancholy, people find a little ray of sunshine very welcome.' (b) It was sad and dull. There was nothing for them. Ellis said that they might as well be dead.
- 22 Two pounds.

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- 23 (a) 'All those women gave you their savings. How did you persuade them to do that?' (b) He said, 'I promised them more, sir.' He had told them he would double their money.
- 24 (a) The young man was having an affair with the daughter of his laundress. (b) She had sent back the engagement ring and the young man's letters and photograph. (c) That she still loved the young man she had been engaged to.
- 25 He had eloped with Miss Porchester. Maugham was sure that he had married her.

JANE

- 1 (a) She thought people would say what a young face she had. (b) Forty.
- 2 'Jane Fowler is my sister-in-law. She was my husband's sister.'
- 3 (a) She did not dress fashionably. (b) Twenty years older than Mrs Tower. (c) That she and Mrs Tower were at school together.
- 4 Because Jane was so kind. Mrs Tower said she had a heart of gold.
- 5 (a) Because he could see that Mrs Fowler was at least fifty-five. He knew that Mrs Tower must be the same age. (b) Jane wears large gold-rimmed spectacles. (c) Because although they were expensive, they were very old-fashioned. (d) Her teeth were beautiful and she had a sweet smile.
- 6 (a) Jane Fowler was going to be married. (b) She wanted him to meet Jane's fiancé.
- 7 (a) Gilbert. (b) She said that when Jane spoke about Gilbert, her voice went very soft. That is what made her want to laugh. (c) She thought he would be a very large, fat man with a bald head, a red face and a loud voice.
- 8 (a) As her young man. (b) She probably thought that he would not really be young. (c) Anyone too old.
- 9 (a) He was certainly not more than twenty-four years old. (b) He thought that he was Mrs Fowler's fiancé's son.
- 10 Her astonishment and dismay showed in her face only for a moment. Then she controlled herself, and smiled at the young man.
- 11 He was amused at Mrs Tower, who could not decide what her friend was doing, but had to be polite.
- 12 (a) That neither of them would ever be fifty again. (b) Perhaps that she only told the truth when she was angry. (c) Twenty-seven years.
- 13 (a) 'I told you I shouldn't want to marry a man with one foot in the grave.' (b) Everything that Jane said. (c) No.
- 14 (a) He had never been able to afford it. (b) 'Ah!' (c) That she thought Gilbert only wanted to marry Jane because he was poor and she was rich.
- 15 (a) 'Because he has asked me five times and he won't take no for an answer. I grew tired of refusing him.' (b) She said that Gilbert was after her Jane's money.
- 16 (a) No. (b) She had been a widow for a long time. She thought she'd like a change. (c) No man of her own age had asked her to marry him.
- 17 They had agreed that if either of them wanted a divorce at any time the other would agree.
- 18 (a) 'How much money has he persuaded you to give him?' (b) 'I wanted to arrange that he should have £1000 a year for life. But he would not accept any money at all. He says he can earn enough for his own needs.'
- 19 She didn't say. She asked Maugham whether he thought it would last six months, so perhaps she herself thought it would last six months.
- 20 (a) No. He thought she was amusing. (b) 'I've never heard her make a joke in her life.'
- 21 (a) He was in the Far East. (b) At a large dinner-party in London.
- 22 (a) 'At first I saw quite a lot of them. But now I don't see them so often.' (b) Jane had become very grand and important. (c) Jane.
- 23 (a) He thought that the hostess would not have invited Jane. She was too quiet and unfashionable. (b) Because she was such a strange-looking woman. (c) Perhaps because her hair was so short. And she did not have spectacles.
- 24 (a) The host burst out laughing and so did the other guests nearby. (b) 'Your sister-in-law has made another joke, Mrs Tower.'
- 25 (a) People stared at her. But many ladies asked her if they could copy the designs of her dresses. (b) He had designed dresses that only she could wear. To wear them successfully, Jane needed to cut her hair very short.
- 26 (a) He was an Admiral-of-the-Fleet. (b) He was full of praise for it.
- 27 (a) She grew fond of him. (b) Three years.
- 28 (a) That if either of them wanted a divorce, the other would agree. (b) He thought that Gilbert had left Jane. (c) Jane had left Gilbert.
- 29 (a) She asked Mrs Tower to be kind to Gilbert while she was in Paris. (b) To marry someone of her own age. (c) He had promised to go on designing Jane's dresses.
- 30 She had never been in love with Gilbert. And now she felt the need for the friendship of a man of her own age.
- 31 She was going to live in Malta with the admiral. She planned to invite Gilbert there. She hoped he would fall in love with the admiral's pretty niece.
- 32 (a) She had said that the admiral had said he would fire the guns on his battleship at any other man who wanted to marry her. (b) No. (c) She thought it was because she spoke the truth. That was so unusual that people found it funny.
- 33 (a) She said that perhaps it was because Mrs Tower did not know the truth when she heard it. (b) He felt she would always have the last word. But she would always tell the truth in a friendly way.