

Exercises

summary

"A Retrieved Reformation" opens with Jimmy Valentine working in the prison shoe shop when he receives a pardon letter from the governor. Jimmy meets the news of release with indifference. He has served ten months of a four-year sentence for opening safes, but he had expected to be freed sooner, due to his network of friends outside the prison. The warden lectures Jimmy about how this is an opportunity to become a better man, if only Jimmy can stop opening safes. Jimmy feigns innocence, acting as though he isn't a notorious safecracker.

In poorly fitting prison-issued clothes and shoes, Jimmy walks from the prison to a restaurant to enjoy a satisfying meal. He gives some money to a blind beggar then takes a train to a town where his friend Mike Dolan runs a café. Mike apologizes for not having managed to get Jimmy freed sooner. Jimmy goes to his room above the café and withdraws a dust-covered suitcase full of customized safecracking tools that he himself designed. He returns to Mike Dolan's having changed into a decent outfit and cleaned up his case. Mike asks what Jimmy's plans are; Jimmy acts oblivious as to what Mike might mean, and claims he has a job as a cracker salesman. The response amuses Mike, who pours Jimmy a seltzer and milk since Jimmy never drinks hard alcohol.

Jimmy arrives in a small town called Elmore, Arkansas. He catches the eye of Annabel Adams, the banker's daughter, and falls in love at first sight, immediately foregoing his old life as a safecracker. He settles in Elmore under the name Ralph D. Spencer, opening a shoe shop that soon turns into a profitable business. Over the course of a year, he makes friends and ingratiates himself with Annabel and her family. Two weeks before his wedding to Annabel, Jimmy writes a letter to an old friend named Billy, arranging to give the friend his safecracking tools. He tells the friend he has given up his old ways because of his love for Annabel. Soon after Jimmy sends the letter, Ben Price comes to Elmore.

On the morning when Jimmy plans to travel to Little Rock for the day to give the tools to Billy, Jimmy accompanies Annabel and a few of her family members to the Elmore bank. Mr. Adams shows off the new safe, whose door operates on a clock-release mechanism that can't be opened at any other time. While Annabel's nieces, May and Agatha, are running and playing in the safe, Ben Price enters the bank.

May accidentally shuts Agatha inside the safe. Panic ensues when Mr. Adams says he didn't set the clock and has no way of opening the safe. Annabel implores Jimmy to do something. Knowing that he is about to expose his true identity and lose her love, Jimmy asks Annabel for the rose she is wearing. He then takes off his jacket, shedding his new identity as Ralph D. Spencer and restarting his old identity as Jimmy Valentine. He opens the safe in ten minutes.

Once Agatha is free, Jimmy walks out of the bank, barely registering when Annabel and her family call the name "Ralph." He greets Ben Price at the door and says he is ready to go to prison because his freedom doesn't matter anymore. Strangely, Ben purports not to know what Jimmy is talking about and acts as if Jimmy is actually Ralph Spencer. Ben then turns around and strolls down the street, leaving Jimmy free to live his new life.

Answer these questions with reference to the context

1 With that act Ralph spenser passed away and Jimmy Valentine took his place.

A what does that act refer to?

Ans That act refers to the opening of safe vault.

B what led to that act?

Ans . That act lead Jimmy Valentine towards his old profession of burglary.

C in what sense did Ralph dispenser pass away?

Ans. In order to open the safe Ralph had to apply the skills of a burglar as Jimmy.

2 I don't know that it makes much difference now ?

A who said this and to whom?

Ans. Jimmy said this to his friend Ben price.

B what does it refer to ?

Ans. To open the safe like a burglar and what people think about this act.

C why did he say this?

Ans because he was sure to be rejected by the society as Ralph.

B answer these questions

1 How did Ben price guess that the burglaries were done by Jimmy Valentine?

Ans. After the release of Jimmy some difficult burglary took place which left no clues which only Jimmy could do skillfully

2 how did Jimmy get information about Annabelle and the town?

Ans. Jimmy Porter boy who was looking on the shops of Elmor bank he got the information about the town and Annabel Adams in return of few coins.

3 what happened to Agatha at the bank ?

Ans. At the bank Agatha was locked in the vault while playing with another girl.

4 Ben price never handled petty criminals how do you know this ?

Ans. When some difficult burglaries took place in the City E with skill perfect Ness and neatness that no clues were left Behind when this was brought to Ben price

5 why did Spencer show a courteous but not too intelligent interest in the safe?

Ans. Jimmy had now become reputed businessman and soon was going to marry a girl of well known family so he did not want others to get a doubt about him by taking interest in safe.

6 why do you think when price pretended not to recognise him?

Ans. Ben price pretended not to recognise Jimmy so that he may start a new life as a man of repute.

Discuss and write

1 Sorry we couldn't make it sooner who is the we the speaker and beak referring to?

Ans. We here refers to Mike who could not arrange for early release of Jimmy.

2 The safe had to be broken to save a life was it an easy decision for Jimmy Valentine to make why ?

Ans. Although breaking a safe was not a difficult work for Jimmy but now when he had changed his life to a civilized business man, breaking safe would present Jimmy as a burglar before everyone.

3 Do you think Ben price did the right thing by saying I don't believe I know you what does this show about Ben's sense of Justice?

Ans. This shows that Ben did not want to disclose the previous life of Jimmy , he was ready to help Jimmy to take the life of a civilized person.

Grammar

A can you match each sentence to the type

1 oh my god -- exclamatory sentence

2 what shall we do -- interrogative sentence

3 get away from the door – imperative sentence

4 she could die of suffocation in their -- declarative sentence

B read the sentences and identify the sentence types and their functions

1 can't you do something Ralph try won't you? --- compound

2 he looked at her with square soft smile on his lips and in his keen eyes. --- complex.

3 Annabel he said give me that Rose you are wearing. --- simple

4 she unpinned the bud and place it in his hand. --- compound.

5 Jimmy stuffed it into his vest pocket threw off his coat and pulled up his shirt sleeves. --- complex.

6 Ralph dispenser passed away and Jimmy Valentine took his place. --- compound.

