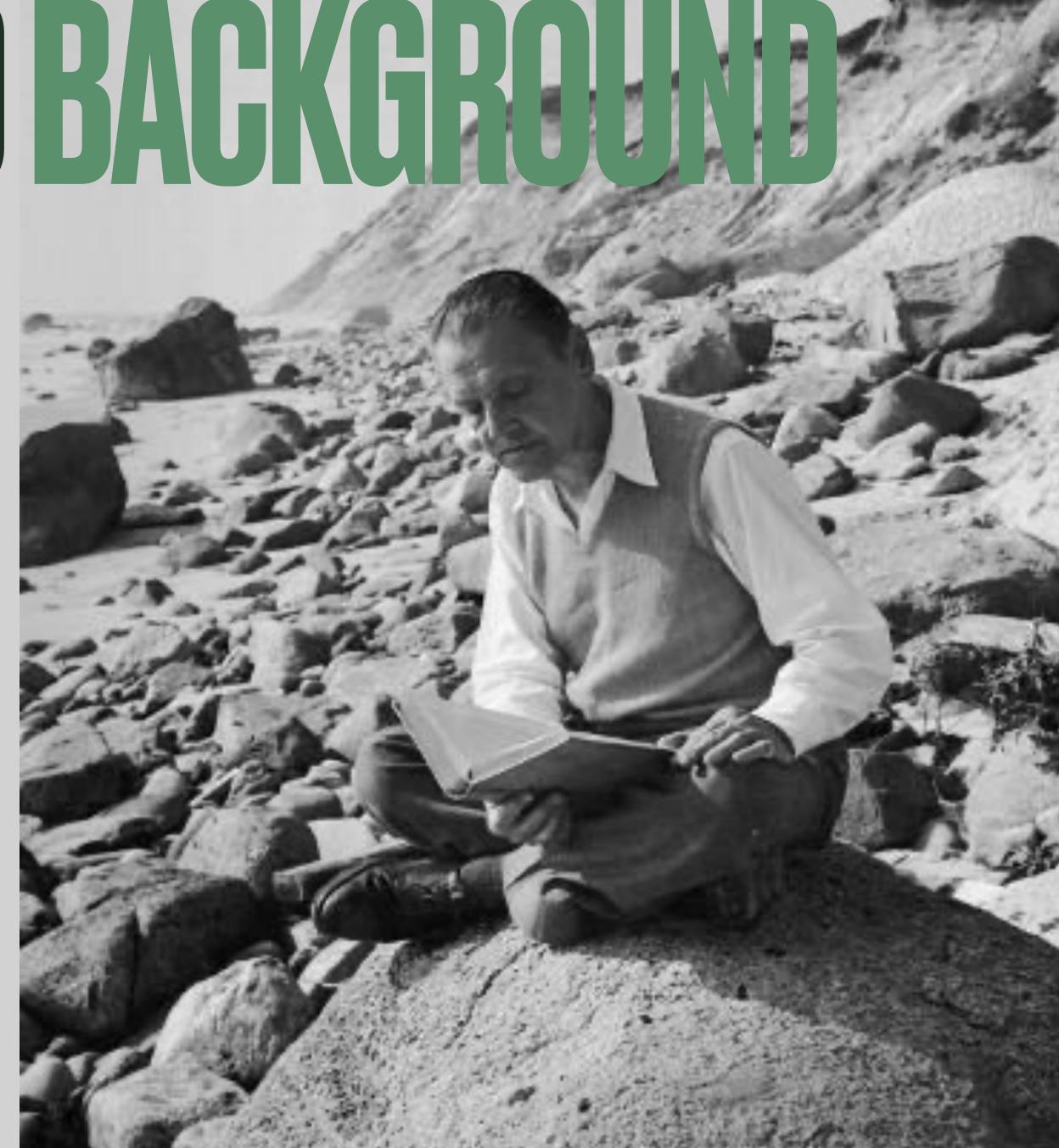




# THE WRITER AND BACKGROU

"The Pool" is a short story by W. Somerset Maugham which was published in a short story collection titled "The Thrill of the Leaf: Little Stories about the South Sea Islands" in New York in 1921. He drew inspiration and ideas for this collection from his trip in the Pacific Ocean in 1916-1917. Maugham and his secretary-companion Gerald Haxton stayed at a hotel in Apia, on the island of Upolu, where a bank manager became the character Lawson in "The Pool".





BLACK LOOKS - ЗЛОБНЫЕ ВЗГЛЯДЫ

HAIL-FELLOW-WELL-MET - ЧЕЛОВЕК, НАХОДЯЩИЙСЯ СО ВСЕМИ В ДРУЖЕСКИХ, ПРИЯТЕЛЬСКИХ ОТНОШЕНИЯХ

TORPID - ВЯЛЫЙ

LETHARGIC - ВЯЛЫЙ

HIS EYES WERE FLASHING - ЕГО ГЛАЗА БЛЕСТЕЛИ

SWANK - ЩЕГОЛЯТЬ, ХВАСТАТЬ

I'M FED UP - Я СЫТ ПО ГОРЛО

HALF-CASTE - ПОЛУКРОВКА

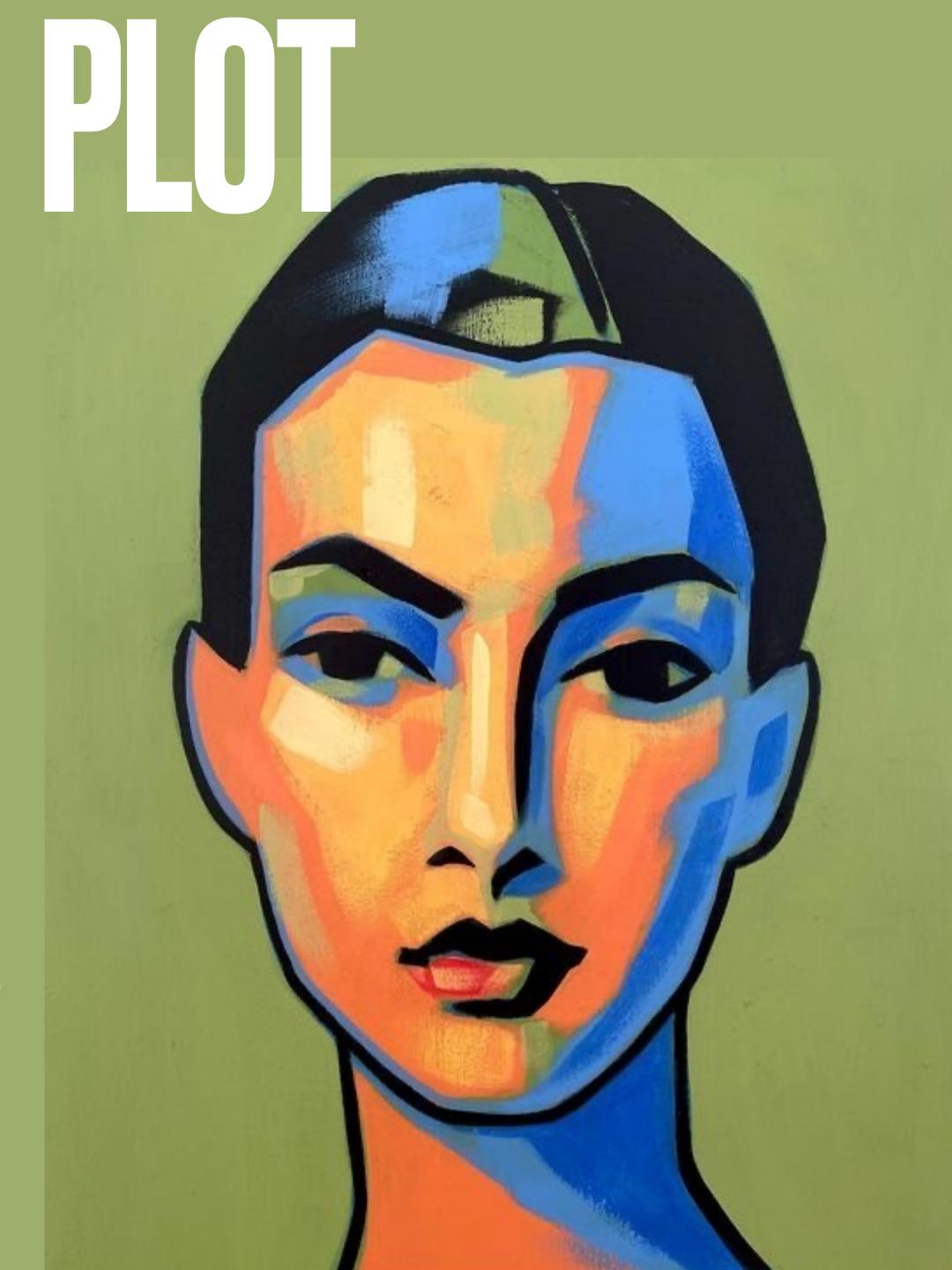
IRK - РАЗДРАЖАТЬ

SYCOPHANTIC - ЛЬСТИВЫЙ

TRUCULENCE - AГРЕССИВНОСТЬ

SCRUTINIZING - ТЩАТЕЛЬНО ИЗУЧАЮЩИЙ

THE STORY TELLS US ABOUT LAWSON, WHO CAME OUT FROM ENGLAND TO MANAGE THE LOCAL BRANCH OF AN ENGLISH BANK, AND, REACHING SAMOA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DRY SEASON, HE TOOK A ROOM AT THE HOTEL. THE SPOT THAT ENTRANCED HIM WAS A POOL A MILE OR TWO AWAY FROM APIA TO WHICH IN THE EVENINGS HE OFTEN WENT TO BATHE. IT WAS THE PLACE, WHERE HE FOUND HIS LOVE. HE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE HALF-NATIVE WOMAN ETHEL, AFTER SEEING HER SWIMMING IN THE POOL. THEIR LOVE STORY WAS IDYLLIC UNTIL THE IDEOLOGICAL GAP BETWEEN THEM STARTED BEING TOO HUGE TO BE IGNORED. THESE CONTRADICTIONS EVENTUALLY LED TO FATAL CONSEQUENCES...





"HE LOVED HER SO PASSIONATELY HE WANTED HER TO BE ONE SOUL AND ONE BODY WITH HIM; AND HE WAS CONSCIOUS THAT HERE, WITH THOSE DEEP ROOTS ATTACHING HER TO THE NATIVE LIFE, SHE WOULD ALWAYS KEEP SOMETHING FROM HIM."

"I CAN'T STAND IT. I CAN'T LIVE HERE ANY MORE. I HATE IT. I HATE IT."

"HE COULD NEVER LIVE WITHOUT HER NOW."

"LAWSON BEGAN TO DRINK MORE. EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT HE WENT TO THE ENGLISH CLUB AND GOT BLIND DRUNK."

"THEN HE BECAME AWARE THAT SOMETHING WAS BEING HIDDEN FROM HIM."

"THERE'S NO ONE IN THE WORLD I LOVE AS I LOVE YOU."

"I DID NOT IMAGINE THAT SHE WAS AT ALL INTELLIGENT, AND I SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SURPRISED IF A MAN, AFTER LIVING WITH HER FOR SOME TIME, HAD FOUND THE PASSION WHICH HAD DRAWN HIM TO HER SINK INTO BOREDOM."

"ARE YOU STILL IN LOVE WITH YOUR WIFE?"

"THEN WE SAW THAT IT WAS LAWSON, WITH A GREAT STONE TIED UP IN HIS COAT AND BOUND TO HIS FEET."



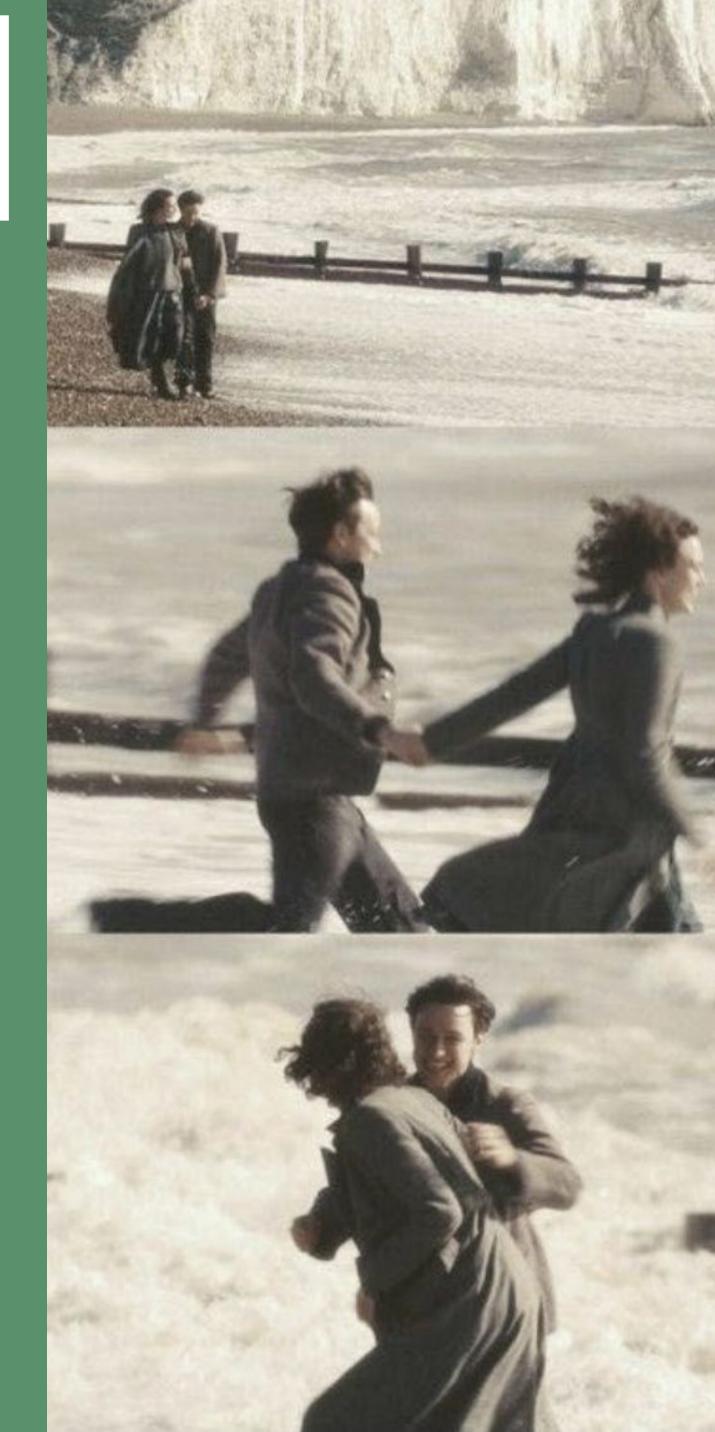
- 1. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE TITLE OF THE STORY?
- 2. WHY CAN IT BE DIFFICULT FOR A PERSON TO ASSIMILATE?
- 3. WHY DID ETHEL START CHEATING ON LAWSON?
- 4. IS IT POSSIBLE TO FORGIVE A CHEATER?
- 5. CAN A MAN HIT A WOMAN?
- 6. WHY DID LAWSON DECIDE TO COMMIT SUICIDE?
- 7. HOW COULD LAWSON CHANGE HIS LIFE?
- 8. DOES A PERSON DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE?
- 9. WHO DO YOU THINK IS TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED? LAWSON, ETHEL OR MILLER?



## BONUS QUESTION

THERE IS A COMMON TECHNIQUE, WHICH IS OFTEN USED IN FILMS, THAT CONSISTS IN REWINDING TIME AND INVENTING AN **ALTERNATIVE REALITY. IT ENABLES THE VIEWERS TO IMAGINE HOW THE STORYLINE** COULD HAVE DEVELOPED IF SOME EVENTS HAD TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY. THIS TECHNIQUE WAS SUCCESSFULLY USED IN FILMS SUCH AS "LA LA LAND" AND "ATONEMENT".

MY QUESTION IS: WAS THERE A POSSIBILITY OF A HAPPY ENDING FOR LAWSON AND ETHEL? OR WAS THEIR RELATIONSHIP INITIALLY DOOMED TO FAILURE, AS THEY WERE PREDICTED?





PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED IF PEOPLE TALK TO EACH OTHER AND JOINTLY TRY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THESE ISSUES.

BEFORE GETTING MARRIED, IT IS
IMPORTANT TO THINK ABOUT ALL
POSSIBLE PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE
AND NOT TO MAKE HASTY DECISIONS.

THE DIFFERENCE IN WORLDVIEWS CAN BECOME A SERIOUS CAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT IN RELATIONSHIPS.

### STYLE AND LANGUAGE

### **METONYMY**

"HIS GLANCE RESTED ON ME FOR A MOMENT, BUT I COULD SEE THAT HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE ME"

### PERSONIFICATION

"SHE WAS THE SPIRIT OF THE POOL."

"THE NIGHT FELL SUDDENLY".

"AT LAST THE DAWN CREPT INTO THE WINDOWS"

### **ALLUSIONS**

**ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON** 

WAGNER

THE OPERA "TRISTAN AND ISOLDE"

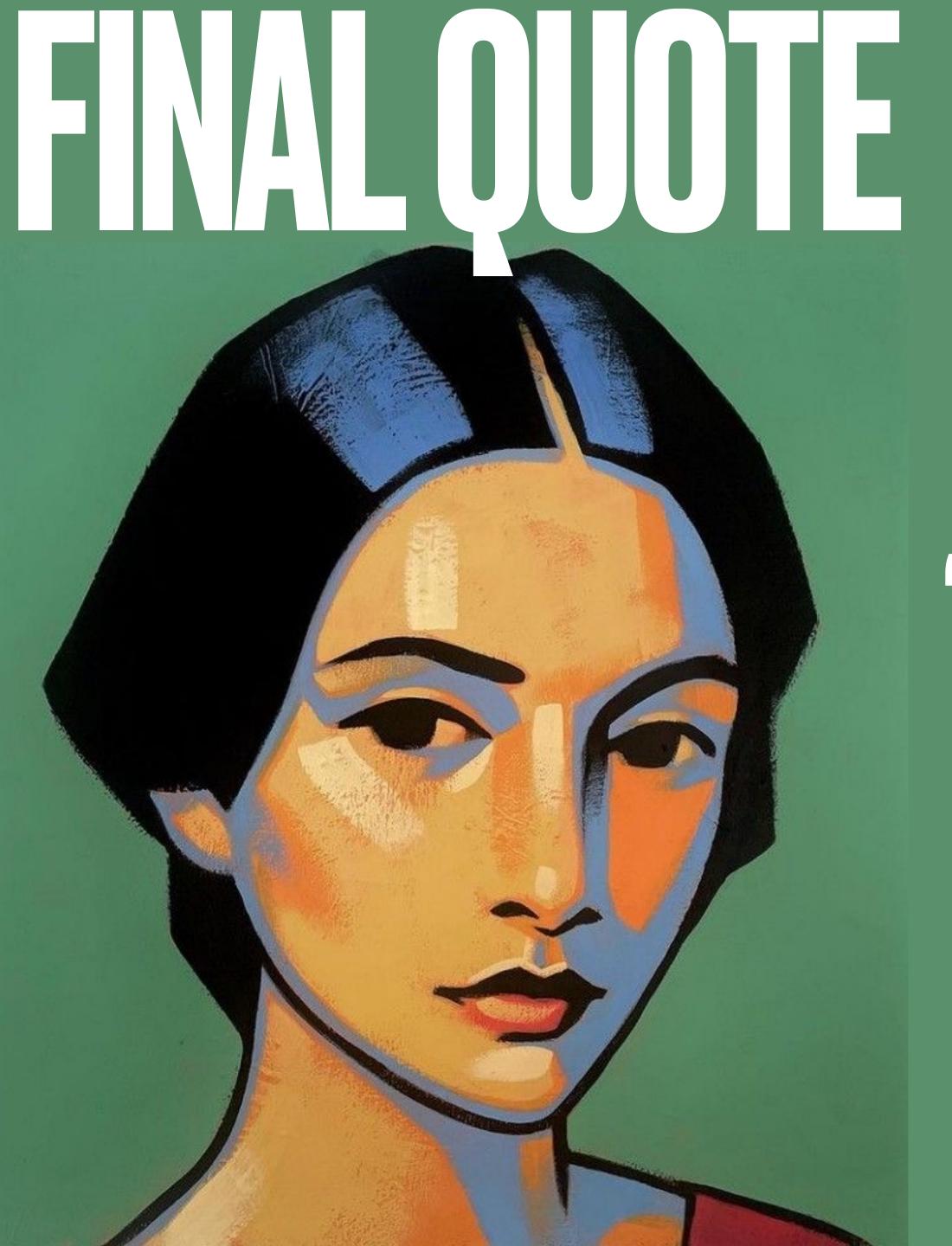
LONDON'S PICCADILLY CIRCUS





### ASSOCIATIONIMAP

I THINK THAT THIS STORY HAS SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH THE FILM "A HUNTING ACCIDENT", AS BOTH MAIN FEMALE CHARACTERS PURSUED SELFISH GOALS BY GETTING MARRIED AND EVENTUALLY RUINED THE LIFE OF THEIR BELOVED. HOWEVER, I PREFER THE END OF THE FILM MUCH MORE THAN THE END OF THE STORY BECAUSE I BELIEVE LAWSON DIDN'T DESERVE TO DIE.



# 'HE WAS SET ON MAKING A GOOD JOB OF IT'