

The author

Guy de Maupassant

He was a famous French writer. He was born in 1850 and he died in 1893. His first novel was published in 1875.

The main characters

Mathilde: She wants to be rich. She looks gentle but she is insatiable and mean with her husband. She is pretty and charming but she is not rich enough to buy expensive clothes and she is sad about it.

The second character is **Mr Loisel**, he is Mathilde's husband. He is gentle, he works hard, he is generous and he loves his wife, he is devoted to her. He wears glasses and like Mathilde he can afford expensive clothes. He is average.

The third character is **Mrs Forestier**. She is not very pretty but she owns very expensive clothes and jewellery. She is gentle too, generous and loving with her friend, Mathilde.

THE STORY

The Necklace

Mathilde is a pretty woman who thinks she is not rich enough. Her husband works for the ministry of education. He is happy with his life. He loves his wife and tries to make her happy. One day, he proudly comes back from work with an envelop. It is an invitation for an important party at the ministry.

Instead of being delighted by the invitation, Mathilde is sad because she thinks she has not got a proper dress and good jewellery for the ball. So her husband gives her money to buy a new dress. He suggests Mathilde to ask her good friend Jeanne to lend her jewellery. Mathilde borrows a diamond necklace.

Mathilde goes to the ball. She has a great time. She is admired and men invite her to dance. After the ball, when she is home, she realizes she has lost the diamond necklace. She panics and with her husband, they look for it everywhere. They can't find it.

Ashamed, they decide to go to a jewellery shop to buy a new diamond necklace. It is so expensive that they have to borrow money. Mathilde brings back the necklace to her friend without telling her the truth. To reimburse the loan, Mathilde and her husband have to work extremely hard.

Ten years later, Mathilde comes across her friend, Jeanne, in a park. Jeanne does not recognise Mathilde because she now looks much older than her age. Mathilde

tells Jeanne the truth about the necklace, that she had lost the necklace and bought her a new one. That she had to work hard to pay for it and that is why she now looks so old and miserable. Jeanne looks horrified and cries out: "Oh, my poor Mathilde! Mine was an imitation! "