The necklace: Guy de Maupassant

Born: 5 August 1850 (1850-08-05)
Died: 6 July 1893 (aged 42)
Occupation: Novelist, short story writer, poet
Nationality: French
Genres: Naturalism, Realism
character

Madame Frostier

Madame Mathilde

Loisel
The Necklace tells the story of Madame Mathilde Loisel and her husband. Mathilde always imagined herself in a high social position with wonderful jewels. However she has nothing and marries a low paid clerk who tries his best to make her happy.

Through lots of begging at work, he is able to get two invitations to the Ministry of the Public Instruction party. Mathilde then refuses to go, for she has nothing to wear. Her husband is upset to see her displeasure and, using money that he was saving to buy a rifle, he lets Mathilde buy a dress that suits her. But Mathilde is still not happy, she wants jewels to wear with it. Since they have no money left, her husband suggests that she borrow something from her friend, Madame Jeanne Forestier. Mathilde picks out the fanciest jewel necklace that she can find. After attending the Ministry of Public Instruction party, Mathilde discovers that she has lost the necklace.

Mathilde and her husband look everywhere but the necklace is not to be found. They take out loans from generous friends and loan sharks to buy a necklace that looks just like the one that was lost. It takes them ten years of hard labor to come up with the 36,000 francs necessary to pay them back. After losing everything, having to work, and forcing her husband to work two jobs, Mathilde sees Madame Forestier walking down the street and tells her that the necklace she returned to her was actually a replacement. Madame Forestier is surprised and tells Mathilde that the original necklace was actually a fake, worth only 500 francs.
False values

People should evaluate themselves and others on who they are intrinsically (that is, on their character and moral fiber), not on what they possess or where they stand in society. Mathilde Loisel learns this lesson the hard way. Related to this theme are the following motifs:

Appearances are deceiving. Mathilde Loisel believed the necklace genuine the moment she saw it. Likewise, she believed that all the people at the party were real, genuine human beings because of their social standing and their possessions. The necklace, of course, was a fake. And, Maupassant implies, so were the people at the party who judge Mathilde on her outward appearance.

Honesty, humility, and hard work are what shape character, not the clothes or jewels that a person wears or the high station into which he or she is born.
First conflict

Mathilde wants a perfect dress for the ball.
Loisel want a gun
They only have 400 france
Mathilde does not have any jewellery to wear.

Rising action
Loisel gave mathilde 400 france to buy a dress
And sacrifices his own desire to buy a gun.
Loisel advice Mathilde to ask Madame Frostier to lend her jewellery.
2nd conflict
Mathilde lost the necklace during the ball. Mathilde and Lionel can't find the necklace. Should she tell her friend that she lost the necklace?

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Lost her pride, honour and trust or Cover the lost and replace a new necklace without telling Madame Frostier.
Rising action

Mathilde does not her pride to be tarnish and so she covers the necklace lost by replacing it with a new one that cost her 36000france. In order to replace the necklace mathilde and lionel were in debt and cause them for 10 years to pay for it. From middle class in society they become poor and belong to the lower class than before.
Climax
Mathilde loisel by accident bumped into Madame Frostier. And find out a shocking truth.
Resolution
The necklace that Mathilde replace is a fake and only cost 500 france.
Mathilde addresses herself in a high class status, although she is an ordinary housewife. Mathilde and Loisel are invited to The ministry ball. Yet Mathilde have no jewelery to wear so Mathilde ask her friend Madame Jeanne Frostier to lend her any jewellery. To wear at the ball Suddenly she discovered, a black satin case, a superb diamond necklace;
Mathilde attend the bowl conduct by the ministry. With the dress and necklace. She is the most gorgeous lady of the night.

She look into mirror to recall the glory. But suddenly she uttered a cry. The necklace was no longer round her neck!

Mathilde and loisel cannot find the necklace. And mathilde does not want to be ashamed. She replace the necklace cost mathilde 36000 france!!

To pay the cost mathilde and loisel lived in poverty and belong to Lower class in the society.
Mathilde bump into Madame Frostier and put blame on Madame Frostier for what happened to her as it took Mathilde 10 years to pay the debt. And due to all work Mathilde had to endure, she lost her beauty and lived in poverty.

"Oh, my poor Mathilde! But mine was imitation. It was worth at the very most five hundred francs! . . ."

The end
The moral

The moral lesson to be learned from "The Necklace" is that a person will pay dearly for coveting false values and a person's preoccupation with appearance and materialism is fruitless and vain. Important to live within one's means. The story teaches us not to borrow things or money unnecessarily. It is also not wise to live a pretentious life. If we borrow money unnecessarily, Mathilde borrows a diamond necklace. She lost it and cause her husband. And herself living in poverty. We must realize that it is important to live within one's means.
It is important to be contented in life and not to be greedy
The story teaches us to be contented in life and not to be greedy to want everything. Loisel is very contented in life even if he leads a simple life with the income he earns. But on the other hand, Mathilde is obsessed to want all the delicacies and luxuries in life. This causes her to be in her own world and daydreams that she is wealthy and famous. Her greed causes them to suffer for a period of ten years. If she is contented with what she has and is realistic of the fact that she is the wife of an ordinary clerk, she would not have to borrow the necklace in the first place.

It is important to be practical
The story teaches us to be practical and learn to solve problems carefully. Loisel is a down-to-earth person. He knows that "all that glitters is not gold" and live life according to his means and capacity. He is able to find solutions to the problems because he is practical. It is important in life to be practical and realistic. Mathilde, on the other hand, is not practical. She is a day-dreamer, who is in her own world. Later in the story, Mathilde becomes practical as she faces the realities of life. It is important to be practical and not be carried away.
What event did Mathilde to borrow the necklace for?
Who is the victims in the novel?
If you were Mathilde what would you do after you know the necklace is missing?
State two moral values in the novel and give your opinion about Mathilde replacing the necklace secretly.
Thank you,
Presentation by Siti Zamzuraini bt Abd Hamid
( A133475)