

- Summary of If I Were You

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This story, "If I Were You" by Douglas James, revolves around an intruder who breaks into the house of a playwright named Gerrard. The intruder, a criminal fleeing from the police, mistakes Gerrard for a mysterious man living in isolation. Believing he resembles Gerrard, the intruder plans to kill him and assume his identity to live undetected.

Gerrard, preparing for a dress rehearsal, is threatened by the intruder who intends to take over his life. However, Gerrard reveals that he himself is a criminal and murderer, warning the intruder that the police will catch and hang him regardless of whose identity he assumes.

Using his wit, Gerrard tricks the intruder into stepping into a cupboard, then locks him inside and calls the police to arrest him.

### Key Elements

- **Intruder:** A criminal who breaks into Gerrard's house.
- **Gerrard:** The playwright and owner of the house, who cleverly outsmarts the intruder.
- **Plot:** The intruder's plan to kill Gerrard and live as him, and Gerrard's clever counteraction.

### Important Quotes

- "I too am a criminal and a murderer, so the police would hang me, if not as myself then as Gerrard." – Gerrard

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- Who is the intruder in the story?
- What was the intruder's plan?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- How does Gerrard trick the intruder?
- Why does the intruder think he can live as Gerrard?

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain the significance of the line: "I too am a criminal and a murderer." How does it change the situation?
- Discuss the theme of identity in the story.

## Answer Key

- **Level 1:** The intruder is a criminal who breaks into Gerrard's house. His plan was to kill Gerrard and live in his house pretending to be him.
- **Level 2:** Gerrard tricks the intruder by pretending to cooperate and then pushes him into a cupboard, locking him inside and calling the police. The intruder thought he could live as Gerrard because they looked alike and he had learned to imitate Gerrard's voice.
- **Level 3:** The line reveals that Gerrard is also a criminal, which surprises the intruder and makes him reconsider his plan. It highlights the theme of deception and identity, showing how appearances can be misleading.

## Quick Reference

- **Intruder:** Person entering without permission.
- **Playwright:** Writer of plays.
- **Props:** Stage objects used in plays.
- **Imitate:** To copy someone's behavior or voice.

## Glossary

- **Intruder:** A person who enters a place without permission, especially with harmful intent.
- **Playwright:** A person who writes plays.
- **Mystery:** Something difficult to understand or explain.
- **Props:** Objects used on stage to support the story.
- **Imitate:** To copy someone's speech or behavior.