

## A Dream Couple in a Golden Age

When Andrea married Jack in 1926, they were ‘the dream couple of the golden age’. He was from New York. His father owned a bank there. She came from Texas. Her family owned a ranch there. She was bright and beautiful. He was rich and handsome.

They seemed ideal for each other, and in many ways they were – but not quite in the way most people imagined.

Jack had political ambitions. First he wanted to become a senator. Then – some day – he hoped to become President of the United States. Andrea was just the kind of wife a man with such ambitions needed. She knew how to flatter older men and keep younger men interested in her. With talents like these and her natural intelligence, she could help Jack make the kind of friends he needed.

Andrea didn’t really love Jack and she knew he didn’t really love her, either. So it didn’t bother her at all when, two weeks after their wedding, she saw Jack kissing a young man on his yacht. His name was Howard. That was another reason Jack needed her. What would the public think if they ever found out that a man who wanted to be President preferred men to women not only on the golf course or as tennis partners, but in bed as well.

However, Andrea had a secret, too. She had a lover. The affair had begun when she was sixteen. He was thirty years older than she was, and he was not only Andrea’s lover. His name was Victor. Andrea usually referred to him as ‘my dear uncle Victor.’ Andrea’s mother had three brothers, and he was the oldest of them.

The great Wall Street crash in November, 1929 destroyed the fortune Jack had hoped to inherit. His father jumped from the top of a skyscraper when his bank went bankrupt. Andrea’s ‘dear uncle Victor’ died in 1933. One night in 1936, Jack found Andrea in bed with Howard – the same man she had seen Jack kissing on his yacht shortly after their wedding. When the police came the next morning, Andrea and Howard were dead. Jack’s body was there, too. All three had been killed with a shotgun – the same shotgun the police found in Jack’s hands.

**Chose the question you find easiest or most interesting to answer.**

1. Why did people think Jack and Andrea were a ‘dream couple’?

2. Why do you think Jack decided to marry Andrea?
3. Why do you think Andrea decided to marry Jack?
4. What would have happened to Jack’s political ambitions if the public had found out about his ‘secret’?
5. Describe exactly what you think happened that night in 1936, when Jack came home unexpectedly?

**Begin this way:**

*Andrea woke up suddenly. Howard was asleep beside her. Someone had just come into the bedroom but she was sure it couldn’t be Jack. He was in Chicago. Then someone turned on the light. ...*

**Have you heard or read stories that are similar to this? If so, tell the main details of the story or stories.**

## Meaning and Structure

**Which sentences do you think are true?**

1. When Andrea saw Jack with a gun, she was screaming.
2. When Andrea saw Jack with a gun, she screamed.
3. When Jack shot Andrea, she was sitting up in bed.
4. When Jack shot her, she sat up in bed.
5. Andrea had just woken up when Jack shot her.
6. Andrea just woke up when Jack shot her.

**Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.**

It was a little after midnight that in night 1936 when Andrea suddenly **1 (wake)** up. Howard was asleep beside her. He **2 (snore)** peacefully. Earlier that evening, they **3 (meet)** in a small restaurant and **4 (come)** back together. Andrea **5 (begin)** an affair with him shortly after the death of her Uncle Victor. Howard **6 (remind)** her of Victor. He **7 (have)** the same strong chin and blue eyes of the man who **8 (seduce)** her all those years ago, on her father’s ranch in Texas.

Andrea could hear footsteps. Someone **9 (come)** up the stairs. Who could it be? It couldn't possibly be Jack. He **10 (take)** a train to Chicago earlier that day. Suddenly the door **11 (open)** and someone **12 (turn)** the lights on. Jack **13 (stand)** there. He **14 (hold)** a shotgun in his hands. She **15 (scream)**.

**Read the sentences below. When is it not necessary to use the words *who, which* or *that*? Explain why it is not necessary to use these words in some sentences.**

1. The man who seduced Andrea when she was sixteen was her Uncle Victor.
2. The man that Andrea seduced when she was thirty was the same man that Jack had kissed on his yacht shortly after their wedding.
3. The gun which Jack had used to kill Andrea and Howard was the same gun that he later used to kill himself.
4. Why is the person who wrote this so interested in stories which end in this way?
5. There was a story in the newspaper a few days ago that ended in the same way as the story that you have just read.

**Explain the difference in these sentences, too.**

1. When Jack found Andrea in bed with Howard, he killed her and then him.
2. When Jack found Andrea in bed with Howard, he killed her and then himself.
3. The two men both had guns. They killed each other.
4. The two men both had guns. They killed themselves.

**Complete the sentences with the missing word or words.**

1. Andrea looked at \_\_\_\_\_ in the mirror.
2. Andrea was waiting for Howard when he came into the restaurant. They looked at \_\_\_\_\_ and smiled.
3. Do you know anything about self-defence? I mean, do you know how to defend \_\_\_\_\_?

4. More and more women today are learning to defend \_\_\_\_\_ against men.
5. In a good family, the members help \_\_\_\_\_ in emergencies or when other problems occur.

## Word Forms and Stress

**What is the correct form of the word in brackets?**

1. Andrea's \_\_\_\_\_ intelligence was only one of her advantages. (**nature**)
2. Another great advantage was her \_\_\_\_\_. (**beautiful**)
3. An \_\_\_\_\_ man like Jack needed such a woman as his wife. (**ambition**)
4. In many ways, their \_\_\_\_\_ was useful to them both. (**marry**)
5. In those days \_\_\_\_\_ women like Andrea did not have many opportunities to lead independent lives. (**talent**)
6. Jack's sexual \_\_\_\_\_ did not bother her. (**prefer**)
7. She was \_\_\_\_\_ mainly in his money and the advantages it could bring her. (**interest**)
8. Did you find their story \_\_\_\_\_? (**interest**)
9. Or do you think it is too \_\_\_\_\_ to be used for language practice? (**shock**)

**Read the sentences aloud. Which words need special stress?**

1. Victor was not only Andrea's uncle. He was her lover, as well.
2. Howard was not only Jack's lover. He became Andrea's lover, as well.
3. I hope this story was more than shocking. I hope it was interesting, as well.
4. This is not the only story I've found shocking. I've found many of your other stories shocking, too.