

The girl was gone. He called — “Rita! — Rita, Come back. I won’t touch you any more”. Then he realized that the girl had died in his arms. He got frightened — ran to his truck and drove away.

He told his story to his friends after supper.

Vic was convinced that the girl had played a joke on his friend, but Sam did not believe it possible.

John thought the girl was sick. He read a story by Guy de Maupassant of a girl who fainted that way. The girl probably knew it and resisted Sam. She would not do it on purpose.

Bill did not say a word. He thought of Margot and her death. There was a similiarity in the two cases. Was Sam inventing a story or did it really happen to him, and if it did was not the ghost of Margot involved in that encounter? But why did he think about Margot again and again? What had happened to his cool, realistic mind? Why did he go back to his cabin every time he could do it? Why was he always expecting to see her or hear her voice?

The next day Bill was going back to the office. He took the samples with him. He spent an hour in town visiting with Steve Schmidt but did not mention Margot any more. After visiting Sam he still had some time left. He went to the Land Registry Office. He wanted to know who owned his cabin now. It was still registered in his name but taxes were due for many years. Bill inquired

how much was due and was astonished at the modesty of the sum. He wrote a cheque and the cabin was his again.

When Bill boarded the plane he asked himself why had he bought that cabin? He certainly did not need it. Was it not the ghost of Margot who influenced him? Should he not avoid this country? Bili decided not to return to Stump Bridge — Ever!

