

7:6a *The Turn of the Screw*, Chapter 7

Summary:

The governess determines that the second ghost is Miss Jessel, the former governess, and confronts Mrs. Grose with this news. In a succession of nearly hysterical reactions, the governess claims that Flora is in on this spectral conspiracy. She ultimately sobs, “I don’t save or shield them! It’s far worse than I dreamed—they’re lost!”

Description of Miss Jessel from the governess:

- She is wearing black.
- She is pale and dreadful.
- She is a horror of horrors.
- She “fixed” the child “with awful eyes” and a “fury of intention”
- She was “wonderfully handsome.”

Additional descriptions from Mrs. Grose:

- She is infamous.
- She was a lady.
- She was pretty, almost as pretty as the governess.

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Motifs:

The governess seeks to protect the children, and recurring imagery reinforces this fact. There is much mention of screens, curtains, tapestries, windows, blinds, and shields.

There is also mention of reflective surfaces: mirrors, lakes, and windows. The governess often “reflects” on her situation, and spends time before mirrors and looking out windows.

Bly means “likeness” or “resemblance.”



A country estate similar in England similar to the description of Bly.