

THE COUNT
AND THE
WEDDING
GUEST

O. HENRY

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The Count and The Wedding Guest Details

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Author : O. Henry

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From Reader Review The Count and The Wedding Guest for online ebook

Vaishali says

Fantastic! A complete twist in the middle, and so funny at the end! How wonderful it truly is to stumble upon 5-star material...

Cathi says

Fun, surprise ending (not really, since I easily figured it out), and clever dialogue. I loved the narrator's voice and sense of humor!

K. Anna Hardy says

This story had me chuckling. I arranged my takeaway thoughts into a haiku:

"The moral in this:
You may lie to catch your guy...
He'll know. And it'll work."

The end.

Realini says

The Count and The Wedding Guest by O'Henry
8 out of 10

The author of this narrative has another surprise for the reader of his Collection of Short Stories.

Andy Donovan and Maggie Conway are the protagonists of this account.
They meet at a dinner where the young man does not think much of his new acquaintance.

She appears negative, depressed, while the man is smiling and winning social and business favors henceforth.

A short early conclusion is that this confirms positive psychology research which demonstrates that positive, smiling people are better liked than those with a languid attitude.

Miss Conway is forgotten.
Until the two meet again.

Instead of the brown dress she first had, she now wears black, which she knows that it suits her much better.

Andy is really attracted and tries to open a conversation by mentioning the weather.

It is a lovely day, but alas, the young woman is very upset.

Therefore, a storm, pouring rain would have been more appropriate, thinks her interlocutor.

Andy ventures to ask if Miss Conway has lost a relative, seeing the chagrin written all over her face. Since she has no friend in the city, she begins to tell her story to this gentle young man.

She was supposed to be married to this Italian Count, present in the title, who had a castle in Italy. Her father was against this relationship and forced the couple to elope.

Regardless of their efforts, the parent catches up with the fugitives.

He is in the end convinced by the count and accepts to let him marry his daughter.

The noble foreigner sails to his home country to prepare the castle for his bride-to-be.

Disaster strikes and a message from Italy announces his death in a gondola accident.

Miss Conway is devastated.

O'Henry, with his usual cunning and humor describes men as the worst of grave robbers.

When a woman has the heart in a grave, they try hard to get it.

And Andy is successful at this endeavor, for in a month the young man and Maggie decide to be married.

Around this time, the two lovers sit on the bench where they first talked and Maggie notices that her fiancé is troubled by something.

When pressed, he talks about the presence of an important guest at the wedding, the one from the same title of this tale.

This Guest is one of the most powerful men, but his connection to the story is unclear, up to the very end.

Like in other narratives by the same author, there is a twist at the end.

In this account, Maggie has to admit to a lie, a fabrication concocted in order to improve her image, her credentials...

Part of the surprise is that Andy knew about the fictional nature of that story all along.
