

Fur

Introduction: Hector Hugh Munro was a witty British author who published under the pen name Saki. He was a master of short story writing. Fur is a short story about two friends – Eleanor and Suzanne

Suzanne's anxiety: One of the friends, Suzanne was about to celebrate her birthday the following week. Instead of feeling excited over the celebrations, she looked worried. Eleanor tried to comfort her friend. Suzanne confessed the cause of her anxiety to Eleanor. Her distant maternal relative – cousin Bertram Kneyght was an affluent man. He mostly lived abroad. He had come to England from the Argentine and was very excited to gift Suzanne on her birthday.

Suzanne's problem: Suzanne was in a fix. Eleanor could understand Suzanne's problem. Suzanne first thought of asking for a little Dresden figure as her birthday present. But cousin Bertram's financial position was such that he could spend thirty-six pounds as easily as others could buy a bunch of Violets. Hence asking for the Dresden figure from immensely wealthy man seemed petty to Suzanne.

Suzanne's Dilemma: Eleanor expressed her doubts about the “rags to riches” men's gifting attitudes. These men mostly prefer gifting cheap showy presents. Suzanne was confused how to convey her relative exactly what she wanted. If she hinted upon her winter vacation to Davos, she might end up with an expensive dressing bag or a travel book as gift. She might even get a fan for her dance during her vacations. But Suzanne wanted a fur as a gift from Bertram. She wanted to wear an expensive fur in Davos. The Russians in Davos were famous for their fashionable fur. Eleanor advised Suzanne to super intent the choice of the fur to the cousin. As he might not differentiate between a squirrel fur and an expensive silver fox fur, they should be accompanying him during the shopping.

The Plan of the friends: Eleanor made a plan to bring Bertram into Goliath and Mastodon's as they had a lovely collection of silver fox stones. Their plan was to meet Bertram near the shop around three o'clock. He used to walk past the shop while paying a regular visit to the club. Eleanor planned out the meeting seem like an accident. The next afternoon, by few minutes to three, the friends were waiting for Bertram near the shop.

Favour: Eleanor wanted a favour from Suzanne. She wanted Suzanne to play bridge (card game) with her boring aunts at her house. She wanted to utilise the time in the evening with Harry. Eleanor was confident of Suzanne's help. But Suzanne outrightly refused. The sacrifices of friendship were beautiful in her eyes as long as she was not asked to make them.

Eleanor's revenge: The disappointed Eleanor was seething with anger inside. The two of them met cousin Bertram. Suzanne rushed much ahead of the other two in the crowded shop in all her excitements. Using that opportunity, Eleanor told Bertram her sob story. She portrayed herself a loser as she had no rich relative to gift her an expensive present. She narrated Bertram how a few years back she closely lost a chance to receive a silver fox stole as a birthday present. She even misguided Bertram to gift Suzanne a fan.

Suzanne's birthday present: Suzanne could not find Bertram in the shop. A few days after the birthday, Suzanne called Eleanor. She spoke about her various birthday presents. She complained about getting a fan as birthday gift from cousin Bertram. Eleanor informed Suzanne that she got an expensive silver fox stole from Bertram. Eleanor took her silent revenge. A cloud arose between the friendship of the two young women. Eleanor's cloud had silver fox lining.

Conclusion: Saki's short story brings out the theme of friendship of convenience, and revenge.

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