

# The Little One – Ghost stories



## The Little One by Lynda La Plante

### About the book

Barbara has broken up with her boyfriend. She is also behind with her rent and has just been fired from her job as a journalist. When she meets reclusive soap star Margaret Reynolds, she thinks her luck has turned.

But Margaret has a secret. What are the strange noises in the night, and who is *The Little One*?

You can read and listen to the first chapter on the Skillswise website:  
[bbc.co.uk/skillswise/learners/quick-reads/adult-learning-article-quick-reads-the-little-one](http://bbc.co.uk/skillswise/learners/quick-reads/adult-learning-article-quick-reads-the-little-one)

## How do ghost stories create mystery and suspense?

Ghost stories are designed to frighten and surprise the reader. *The Little One* has several features that a reader expects from a ghost story.

**Setting:** The story is mainly set in a creepy manor house.

**Secrets:** One character (Margaret) has a secret which another character (Barbara) wants to reveal.

**Unexplained events:** Barbara becomes aware of unexplained noises and a hidden presence in the house.

**A twist in the tale:** Barbara's life changes, but perhaps not in the way she – or the reader – expects!