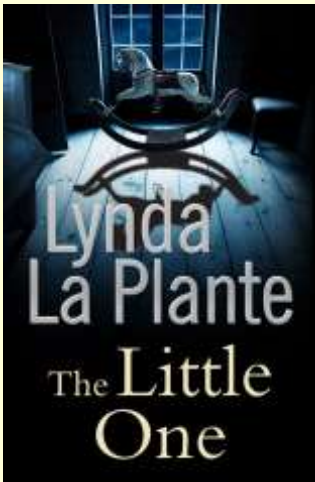


# The Little One – Creating suspense



***The Little One*** by Lynda La Plante ends:

*“She began to plan exactly how she would persuade Alan to take her to the surprise party.”*

The writer creates suspense in the story by introducing several mysteries and ending each chapter with a cliff-hanger. These techniques hook the reader by raising questions and making them want to read on.

Listen to the first chapter of *The Little One* here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00nr41f>

## Questions after listening to or reading the first chapter

Here are some questions that you could ask yourself after reading the first chapter:

- Are there any clues that this will turn out to be a ghost story?
- The drama starts straight away as Barbara has a panic attack and is fired from her job. Does this make you think there will be more drama later on?
- Will Barbara get her old job back?
- What is mysterious about Margaret Reynolds?
- What will happen at the surprise party?
- How do you think the story will develop?

Take a moment to consider what else the first chapter left you wanting to know more about.

Worksheet Entry 3