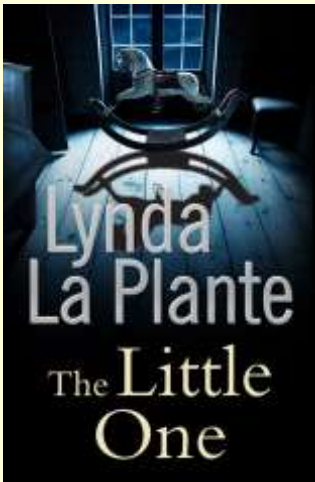


The Little One – Creating suspense



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 or read the first chapter of *The Little One* on BBC Skillswise:
bbc.co.uk/skillswise/learners/quick-reads/adult-learning-article-quick-reads-the-little-one

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.