

Analyzing Elizabeth Bowen's "The Demon Lover"

During the nineteenth-century romantic movement, the focus of literature turned to the personal lives of everyday people. Some of these stories were of people with dark or mysterious events in their lives. One of the offshoots of this movement was the development of gothic novels, so named of settings that often included castles or other buildings of gothic architecture. Inevitably such stories began to include tales of folklore and other metaphysical events. Others were written with an emphasis on the supernatural. The **ghost story**, long and oral tradition, became a popular literary form as well.

Part of the appeal of a good ghost story is that it is about normal people who do everyday things. Somehow, though, their normality is disrupted by something that cannot be easily explained or dismissed. Readers relate to the ordinariness of the characters, and are, therefore, intrigued when something unusual happens. Most writers of ghost stories build tension throughout the story by dropping hints or including small details that could be interpreted in more than one way.

Scene or Detail	What is normal?	What is unusual?
outside Mrs. Drover's house		
inside Mrs. Drover's house		
the letter		
the farewell, 25 years ago		
Mrs. Drover's marriage and family		
catching the taxi		