

## SYNOPSIS

*The Housebreaker of Shaddy Hill* is a story about a young man named Johnny Hake, who has a nice family (a wife and four kids) and has a good job. His parents were divorced when Johnny Hake was five years old. Johnny Hake lives in suburban area called Shaddy Hill. He is unlucky on his career. He is fired from his job. Even if he conducts his own business, it does not run very well. Because of it, there tense and frustrations occupy his house. Eager to keep up appearances, however, he does not tell his wife about the financial crisis. He is envy with the life of bourgeoisie class and tries to equalize his class position with them. He loses his happiness and his life became miserable because of alienation. Finally, Johnny realizes that money is not everything and cannot buy happiness.

Meanwhile the second story, *Reunion*, is a short story about a reunion of a son and a father after long time separation as the result of divorce. The son, Charlie and the father are from the rich family. In the beginning of the story, Charlie seems happy to see his father again because his father has a good appearance as a gentleman. When his father asks him to have lunch in a restaurant, they enter three different restaurants in America. At that time, Charlie sees the way his father treats the waiters. Then, he knows the real of his father who is arrogant and overbearing. Charlie becomes disappointed and he decided not to see his father again in the future.

The last story, *The Swimmer*, is a story about a man named Neddy Merrill who lives in a suburban area but acts as glamorous city gentlemen. The story tells how Neddy swims into pool to pool until he gets home. In his journey, he makes a stop and do drinking and party with his rich group of friends. However, beneath this security and comfort, he lives in a fake and unhappiness life. The experiences lead him into the misfortune that pushes him down in the social ranks and his world. He loses track of friends and does not even know about their moves or illnesses. He cheats on his wife, abandons his mistress, and consequently ends up alone.