

## English-302

### Chapter 8 A Case of Suspicion

#### Summary

A Case of Suspicion by Ed Wallace is an exciting story with a surprise ending. Doctor Benson tells us that passing judgment on people based on their looks is incorrect. Many people judge a book by its cover before even reading it, but they could be pleasantly surprised by what they find inside. The same may be said about humans. Before making a judgment, we must allow people the opportunity to exhibit their genuine selves.

#### Important points from the text:

- Dr. Benson, a young doctor received a call at 2.00 am in the morning to deliver a baby. He grumbled at the horrible hour and wondered why babies had to be born at such inappropriate times.
- He took two small handbags, a short pill bag, and a long obstetrical case.
- Benson pondered on Mrs. Ott Sorley, the birth mother who already had a dozen children, and resented the fact that she never had her children born in nice weather or during the day.
- It was a long drive to the Sorley farm. As he drove he came across a lean man with small black eyes filled with tears from the wind. Since Benson was bored and had nothing to do, when he saw the man he was relieved, He offered him a ride.
- The man was on his way to Detroit. Both of them conversed, and Benson learned from them that the man's name was Evan and that he worked as a mechanic. During the war, he drove an ambulance for the army for four years. But he had been driving a truck for a month and had lately lost his job.
- They drove silently along, and as the rider placed his package on the floor, the man leaned over, and Doctor Benson looked at him. He noticed a bright red scar on his cheek.
- Benson suddenly realized his watch to be missing and took the pistol from his leather hostler from below the seat and threatened the man to give his watch back.
- When Evans put the cigarette packet back into the doctor's pocket, Doctor Benson assumed Evans had stolen his watch. Evans' appearance confirmed his suspicions that he was a thief.

Evans, he felt had lied to him about being an ambulance driver. When he threatened Evans with returning the watch, the latter took one from his own pocket and placed it in the doctor's hands.

- Later, at Sorley's Farm, when the doctor took his watch from his pocket to check the time and announce the newborn baby's birth time, he discovered that the watch had a cracked crystal and a damaged dial. When he flipped the watch, he saw an inscription saying named Evans .
- Dr. Benson judges Evans to be a bad person from his behaviour and appearance especially the scar, but in the end, he discovers that Evans is an able, good, brave and innocent person. Sometimes the look of certain individuals misleads us into doing unpleasant things, such as passing judgment on people, which can lead to negative results.
- Moral of the lesson:

Many people judge a book by its cover before even reading it, but they could be pleasantly surprised by what they find within. The same may be said about humans. Before making our own judgment, we must allow people the opportunity to demonstrate their true selves.

**Important words from the text:**

1. Insistently : constant/ repetitive
2. Obstetrical: medical tools
3. Mechanic: a skilled worker who repairs vehicles.
4. Holster: a cover usually made of leather for carrying a handgun.
5. Inscription: words engraved on a stone, monument or in a book

**Evaluate yourself:**

1. Who called Dr. Benson at night? Why did he leave immediately?
2. “Dr. Benson was prejudiced against Evans because of his shabby experience.” Explain in your words.
3. Why did the doctor reach for his pistol? What did he do with it?
4. How did the doctor realize that he was not looking at his own watch?

**Do you know?**

There are several reasons why we should not judge a book by its cover. The first is that you can't tell anything about someone based just on their appearance. For example, if you look at a good-looking individual, you can only notice their skin colour, physical characteristics, and perhaps their clothes. But what about after that? What if the attractive individual turns out to be a monster in real life? As a result, you can see how outer looks can be deceiving. They are basically worthless items, therefore never evaluate someone based on their appearance.

**Extend your horizon?**

“Outfits don't define your character, your behaviour does. Great achievements are born, not from fancy suits, but from great minds. And great minds do not need suits to feel and look important. Only the shallow look at outfits, but the wise know to look beyond. Look at the person beyond the outfit.” Try to understand the quote, and write an essay on it.