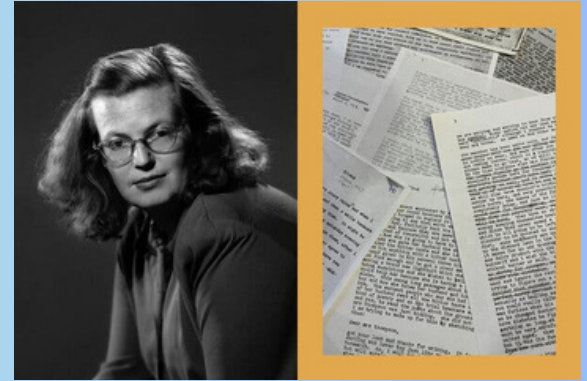


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**ZJ CZUPOR'S
MYSTERY MINUTE:
ON TOUR WITH DEAD WRITERS**

Answer:

Left: Shirley Jackson, photographed in 1940; right: a selection of the writer's private letters. Credit...Left to right: Erich Hartmann/Magnum Photos; Laurence Hyman Jackson. From The New York Times, July 11, 2021



Shirley Jackson's (1916-1965) short story "The Lottery" was published in The New Yorker magazine on June 26, 1948. Because the unconventional story concerned a stoning, The New Yorker received the most "hate mail" and subscription cancellations in the magazine's history at that time. Readers were furious, disgusted, and bewildered. "The Lottery" was adapted for radio, live television drama, a ballet, a TV movie, an opera, and a one-act play. In 1949, the story won the O. Henry Prize. The story has been published in dozens of languages and is still required reading in U.S. high schools.

The Haunting of Hill House, Jackson's fifth and best-known novel, employs terror to grab the reader. While the house doesn't overtly have a ghost, Jackson said, "The house is the haunting...the house brings out the disturbance in Eleanor (the main character)." The novel was a finalist for the National Book Award and is considered not only one of the best ghost stories of all time but the Number One book that revolutionized the modern ghost story and became the quintessential haunted house tale. Stephen King listed it as one of the most important horror novels of the 20th century. The New York Times called it "caviar for connoisseurs of the cryptic."

In the last years of her life, Jackson suffered from agoraphobia (anxiety disorder) that was so severe she often was unable to leave her house. She also had several ailments including fainting spells which were attributed to heart disease. She died at her home in her sleep at the age of 48. The cause of death was cardiac arrest.