

What the author said ...

Below are statements made by Daphne Du Maurier in her book *Enchanted Cornwall*. Read through them and discuss their significance with a partner:

'I can see clearly how my reading influenced me in more than a general way. For example, *Jane Eyre* must have influenced me directly with *Rebecca* ...' (p.21)

'I continue to receive letters from all over the world asking me ... why did I never give the heroine a name? The answer to the ... question is simple: I could not think of one, and it became a challenge in technique, the easier because I was writing in the first person.' (p.132)

'Just as I had first come as a trespasser to Menabilly*, so now 'I', the narrator, am made to feel the interloper, for Manderley is the sepulchral home of Rebecca's spirit and 'I' am but a trespasser in time.' (p.133)

'Jealousy is the theme, the narrator's jealousy of Maxim's first wife, Rebecca.' (p.133)

'As the narrator nervously explores, Rebecca's powerful personality seems to radiate through the house ... Rebecca is everywhere ... in the arrangement and choice of furniture, in the candlesticks on the mantelpiece, in the pictures on the walls.' (p.134)

'The past can sometimes seem so close, and that sense of fear, of furtive unrest, struggling at length to blind unreasoning panic that the past might in some manner unforeseen become a living companion.' (p.134)

'The spirit of Rebecca is alive in Manderley, bottled up, preserved in time, never fading, never becoming stale, and when Mrs Danvers removes the dust sheets from Rebecca's bedroom – her dressing table – Rebecca's suffocating presence begins to envelope the narrator's personality.' (p.138)

*Menabilly was the house Daphne Du Maurier rented in Cornwall; she first came across it on a walk and fell in love with the place. She based the exterior and the grounds of Manderley on Menabilly.

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