

## **Flowers for Mrs Harris**

**This book is written by Paul Gallico and counts 110 pages. The first edition of this book was lanced in 1963.**

Mrs Harris was a London Char who saw so much of the lovely clothes of her London employer that the one thing she wanted above all else was to own a Dior gown. What happened to her in Paris and what happened when she left its magic for her own London home is the story Mr Gallico tells in this book.

### **Summary**

1. An elderly lady is sitting in a plane (a BEA Viscount) that is flying from London to Paris. Her clothes are cheap but she has fourteen hundred dollars in her bag. She is Mrs Ada Harris, a London charwoman. She cleans the houses of a number of people in London. Mrs Harris is nervous, because she has heard many negative things about the French. An Englishman at the airport helps her to find a taxi. He is surprised to hear that Mrs Harris is on her way to the fashionable but expensive dress shop of Christian Dior. Itting in the taxi Mrs Harris thinks about her friend Mrs Butterfield, who is doing her work while she is gone, and about her clients in London. Of all the people whose houses she cleans Mrs Harris likes Miss Penrose best, although she is selfish and has no manners. She feels sympathy for the girl whose real name is Enid Snite and who wants to be a filmstar.

2. The story begins a few years earlier when Mrs Harris opens the wardrobe of Lady Dant, one of her clients, and sees two beautiful dresses made by Dior. Mrs Harris, who is very fond of flowers and all bright colours and beautiful things, falls in love with the dresses. She immediately decides that she must have a Dior dress of her own, even though Lady Dant tells her they cost about £400. That evening, while they make out their coupons for the football pool, Mrs Harris tells Mrs Butterfield about the dress. Mrs Butterfield thinks Mrs Harris has gone out of her mind.

3. Mrs Butterfield reads in the paper that Mrs Harris has won a prize in the football pool. But the prize turns out to be only £ 102. Mrs Harris is disappointed, for it is not nearly enough

to buy the dress. At night she cannot sleep, because she cannot forget the dress. She decides to start saving the rest of the money. It will take at least two years, and she will have to do without cigarettes and the cinema. She even does extra work in the evenings.

4. One day Mrs Harris has a feeling that something wonderful will happen. So when she sees dog races announced in a newspaper, she is sure she will win a lot of money there. She puts £50 on a dog called Haute Couture, because she overhears a man saying that the name has to do with dress-making. But the dog finishes last in the race and Mrs Harris loses her money. She thinks that God is punishing her for gambling. A week later, however, she finds a valuable piece of jewelry and receives a reward of £25 from the owner. Now she decides that God is no longer angry, but is telling her she should go ahead and earn the rest of the money through hard work.

5. Mrs Harris knows that it is forbidden to take more than £10 cash out of Great Britain. One of her clients, an American called Mrs Schreiber, pays her in dollars and exchanges her other money for her, so that the problem is solved. In order to get a passport, Mrs Harris needs photographs. She buys a green hat with a pink rose on it. But the photographer tells her that she is not allowed to wear a hat on passport photographs. Finally, after saving for three years, she is ready to leave for Paris. Some of her clients are unhappy that they will have to do without her for a day.

6. Mrs Harris is disappointed to see that the House of Christian Dior is not like the shops she knows in London. There is no display window (etalage). But she gathers courage and enters the shop. The first person she sees is Madame Colbert, the manageress, who has had an unpleasant morning. She has quarrelled with many people. The reason for her bad mood is that she is worried about her husband Jules. He is a clever man but has no connections who can help him to get a better position in the Foreign Office (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken). Madame Colbert

is surprised when she sees Mrs Harris. She tells Mrs Harris she cannot just come in and buy a dress. Dresses must be ordered at the fashion show. Although she is impressed by the sight of Mrs Harris's dollars, she explains that the shows are filled up all week. But when Mrs Harris cries out that she has wanted a Dior dress for many years, Madame Colbert suddenly feels sympathy for the poor woman and gives her an invitation for the afternoon show.

7. Monsieur André Fauvel, Dior's chief accountant, is in love with Natasha, the star model at Dior. Natasha, whose real name is Suzanne Petitpierre, is bored by the glamour and glitter of her position. She wants to marry a good, simple man and return to the middle class to which she belongs. Madame Colbert gives Mrs Harris a good seat in the front row, next to an elderly gentleman. He has come to the show to look at the beautiful clothes and women. Mrs Harris reminds him of a char he used to know 50 years ago. A rich woman does not want to sit next to Mrs Harris, but Madame Colbert refuses to send her away, even when M. Armand, her superior, orders her to do so.

8. Mrs Harris has the time of her life, looking at all the beautiful dresses. When Natasha enters the salon, wearing a dress called 'Temptation', Mrs Harris knows it is the very dress she wants. After the show she is taken to a dressing-room to try it on. It fits her well and she has exactly enough money to buy it. But Madame Colbert says she cannot have this dress. A copy will have to be made, which will take at least a week. When Mrs Harris begins to cry, André Fauvel invites her to stay at his house during that time. Mrs Butterfield will be sent a telegram. Natasha drives Mrs Harris to the address Fauvel has given her.

9. Fauvel's house is very untidy. Together with Natasha, Mrs Harris cleans it. Fauvel feels ashamed that Natasha is doing his housework, but at the same time he is happy to have her in his house. He treats the women to a fine dinner. When Mrs Harris goes to bed she realizes that Natasha and André like each other very much. During the days that follow, the two young people show Mrs Harris round Paris.

10, When Mrs Harris is enjoying the flowers at the flower market one day, she happens to meet the Marquis de Chassagne, the gentleman she sat beside at the Dior show. He is lonely and glad to see her again. She tells him about the dress she has bought. They talk about flowers and Mrs Harris tells the marquis about Madame Colbert's problem. The marquis, who turns out to be connected with the Foreign Office, gives Mrs Harris a message for Madame Colbert, in which he promises to help her husband.

11. On the last evening of Mrs Harris's stay in Paris, she, Natasha and André have dinner at a famous restaurant. They are all sad. Mrs Harris is unhappy to be leaving Paris and all her new friends. André and Natasha fear that, without Mrs Harris, they will not go out together anymore.. André thinks that Natasha likes her luxurious life too much to want to marry him. Natasha thinks that André would prefer a respectable middle-class girl. Mrs Harris knows that they are in love with each other, and she tells them so. She goes to the toilet and when she returns Natasha tells her she and André are engaged to be married.

12. When the dress is finished a new problem arises. Mrs Harris will have to pay £150 customs duty (invoerrechten). The customs officers will also be curious to know how Mrs Harris smuggled the money out of the country to pay for the dress, But Madame Colbert thinks of a solution : at the customs Mrs Harris says she has a Dior dress in her old bag. The officer thinks it is a joke and lets her pass.

13. When Mrs Harris arrives in London, she feels worried about Miss Penrose. She takes a bus to the girl's apartment, and finds her crying. Miss Penrose has been invited out to dinner by Mr Korngold, who may be important for her career. But Miss Penrose has nothing to wear Mrs Harris spontaneously lends her the Dior dress. It will look much better on a pretty young woman than on herself.

14. But the next day Mrs Harris finds her dress in Miss Penrose's apartment with a bad burn in it. In a note Miss Penrose apologises for the damage, Mrs Harris goes home

for a cup of tea. She begins to cry, thinking that buying the dress was a proud and foolish thing to do. Then the doorbell rings and a messenger brings her boxes and boxes of flowers. They are presents from her friends in Paris. They want to thank her for everything she has done for them. Mrs Harris decides not to have the dress repaired. Her memories of her wonderful friends in Paris are more important than the dress,

## **biography**

Paul William Gallico was born in New York City, on 26th July, 1897. His father was an Italian, and his mother came from Austria; they emigrated to New York in 1895. He went to school in the public schools of New York, and in 1916 went to Columbia University. He graduated in 1921 with a Bachelor of Science degree, having lost a year and a half due to World War I. He then worked for the National Board of Motion Picture Review, and after six months took a job as the motion picture critic for the New York Daily News. He was removed from this job as his "reviews were too Smart Alecky" (according to Confessions of a Story Teller), and took refuge in the sports department.

During his stint there, he was sent to cover the training camp of Jack Dempsey, and decided to ask Dempsey if he could spar with him, to get an idea of what it was like to be hit by the world heavyweight champion. The results were spectacular; Gallico was knocked out within two minutes. But he had his story, and from there his sports-writing career never looked back.

He became Sports Editor of the Daily News in 1923, and was given a daily sports column. He also invented and organised the Golden Gloves amateur boxing competition. During this part of his life, he was one of the most well-known sporting writers in America, and a minor celebrity. But he had always wanted to be a fiction writer, and was writing short stories and sports articles for magazines like Vanity Fair and the Saturday Evening Post. In 1936, he sold a short story to the movies for \$5000, which gave him a stake. So he retired from sports writing, and went to live in Europe, to devote

himself to writing. His first major book was Farewell to Sport, which as the title indicates, was his farewell to sports writing.

Though his name was well-known in the United States, he was an unknown in the rest of the world. In 1941, the Snow Goose changed all that, and he became, if not a best-selling author by today's standards, a writer who was always in demand. Apart from a short spell as a war correspondent between 1943 and 1946, he was a full-time freelance writer for the rest of his life. He has lived all over the place, including England, Mexico, Lichtenstein and Monaco, and he lived in Antibes for the last years of his life.

He was a first-class fencer, and a keen deep-sea fisherman. He was married four times, and had several children.

He died in Antibes on 15th July, 1976, just short of his 79th birthday.

---

**Summary:**

*The summary of this story is made per chapter.*

**1,** Mrs. Harris has taken the early flight from London to Paris and had just arrived. She was standing in front of the airport, waiting for a cab. When the cab came, the first thing he said, was that he saw she was an English char. He asked her where to go and she answered, to the Dior shop. She wanted to buy a pretty dress there for herself. He told her what they could see during their trip. She reflected upon the strange series of events that led to her being there.

**2,** It all had begun, when she was at Lady Dants house. This lady showed her what beautiful dress she was going to wear and that was bought at the Dior shop in Paris. She tried to impress Mrs. Harris. And it worked. Since that day Mrs. Harris wanted such a dress too. She had asked the prices and the dresses were at least 450 pounds. An amount that was impossible to pay for Mrs. Harris. The best friend of Mrs. Harris, who was also a char, and she used to play a lottery which had something to do with the football plays. They had never won much money, only a little. Today they both posted the ticket.

**3,** A few days later, when Mrs. Harris was at Mrs Butterfield, the message came that Mrs. Harris had won a price. She immediately thought of the Dior-

dress. A few days later a telegram came, which said Mrs. Harris had won one hundred and two pounds, seven shillings and nine pence halfpenny. When the disappointment was over, Mrs. Harris had thought that her desire for a Dior dress would go away, but it only became worse. Mrs. Harris had never paid more than five pounds for a dress, and now she wanted a dress from over 400 pounds! Mrs. Butterfield came that evening to go to the cinema, but Mrs. Harris had had that night a dream and woke up with the thought to save up for the dress. And that was what she had planned to do. So she was not able to go to the cinema with her best friend. They decided to stay home and have some tea. She saved up very good, and she did not drink too much tea anymore and left other things as they were. Only the lottery was still going on.

4, On a summer day, Mrs Harris went to her best friend to tell her how much money she had now. It was already over 250 pounds and she was going to the dog tracks, because she was convinced that she was going to double her money. She said she had dreamt about God and he had told her something good was going to happen and of course she thought about her dress. That morning when she was at Miss Pamela Penrose she noticed a magazine about dog tracks. Mrs Butterfield and Mrs Harris went to the dog tracks and betted fifty pounds on haute couture with his French boss. They lost and Mrs Harris was sad about this. But a few days later she found a jewellery and brought it to the police, left her name and address and after a few days she became 25 pounds from the lady, who had lost it.

5, Mrs. Butterfield and Mrs. Harris went the very next day, to have made a passport for Mrs Harris, because she had the money all together now. First she had to make some photo's. So they went to the photographer. Walking along a...

---

## 1. Summary

Missis Harris sit of the mornings in the airplane London - Paris. She wants to go with the plane of 23.00. With that plane she want to go back to Londen. She is a normally looking forward woman with cheap clothes with cheap handbag. She's a prank woman in all sorts of keep house, mostly rich persons. She is called Misses Harris, is widow and lives in London, She's nearly 60 year. On the airport in Paris does an English co-worker help her, he helps her at a taxi to Dior, an exclusive fashion-affair in Paris. In Paris has she no interest for the beautiful surroundings, she is only watching for a beautiful dress of her dreams.

The neighbour of Missis Haris, Missis Butterfly, is large and strongly while Missis Haris small and is discreetly. She is also

prank woman. They are very good friends - help each other as one no time has for her customers through other important affairs. Love for a beautiful, expensive dress is begun at a customer. That saw she 2 who beautiful expensive dresses. Self sees she from it always grey and insignificant with broken hands of the clean, but they had eye for beautiful and expensive compete. She has also 'green fingers' she loves plants. She asked the customer over the dress, and these told her what these cost (a fortune, namely 450 pound) and where these bought were (in Paris by 'Dior'). Consequence: her profoundest wish is also such dress to have. She never will wearing this dress, but want these have pure to 'to own'. Together with her neighbour fills in she weekly the sport-Toto. They have no reason what they do, it became pure for the tension when the rashes known. They never win also something. Sudden feels she that the hair lucky day is and fills fast the Toto in and steers him on, in the conviction that they a large sum goes win. She tells her neighbour over her dream. After the weekend stands the result of the lotto in the paper. And what appeared – Missis Haris goes a large sum wins! But they must until Wednesday wait. Cable comes and she appeared but £ 102.48 (= 102 pound and 48 pence) won to have! These because the price divided had to become with other. She is whole disappointed, and tries other things to invent that for it can buy. But they nothing want rather as a dress of Dior. After 1 week realized they that they the optimistic side must see: - they has the 1ste 1ste £ 100.- and £ 2.48 of the 2de 100. She does every thing before the dress. She work more and she don't go to the cinema also. Missis Haris comes behind it that they from England to France at most but £ 10.- may take along, and that large amounts in pounds not accepted become. She decide \$ to go save. A customer of her, (Missis Schreiber) is American and can at so much \$ come as they want. Missis Haris invents a nephew in America, that count want to steer she each month, and changes weekly with Missis. Schneider pounds for \$, and gets her work pay in \$. Her American money box grows slow. When she final (after 3 year) everything with each other saved has, (passport, day eat, return trip, dress), takes she a day free. Missis Butterfly will her on her work replace. All her clients reacting very surprised. Missis Haris comes by Dior. At the first floor she not see someone. There is a female manager. They called her Missis Colbert. When Madam Colbert Missis Haris saw was she think: her cheap appearance clears a prank woman, in the expensive affair of

Paris? Missis Haris asks her where the dresses hang. The manager says her that the collection here not be present, but that these shown become by models. The shows its furrow these week and next week fully planned. Missis Haris becomes angry, shakes her bag empty, through which already the dollar bills in it round fly, and calls: "Is my money then not enough? How can you me send away, while I for this as hard for worked have, as long to desires have! Madam Jacket sees her wrong in, known shamed that they surplus self pity has and has with Missis Haris to do. She hears how Missis Haris her money with each other has gotten and regulates still a ticket for the performance that of the clock of 15.00u begins, Missis Haris may then place take on the stair. Through the perseverance of Missis Haris has Madam Jacket prevent heap gotten for her own problems, namely the application of the proverb which a will is, is an away'. That afternoon Missis haris go to the Show. Missis Haris is delights over all creations that they sees they can impossible molars. Until she model Natasha sees with the dress named 'Temptation'! Then know she the that will they have! And not only they is delights everybody in the hall finds the dress beautiful. She asks Madam Jacket the dress may look at, and this brings her to a private dressing room after. Here look at she the dress precisely and just him. Is naturally there a dreadful difference: Missis Haris became old grey and simple, while the dress wealth and beauty radiates and behave must through a young beautiful woman, but Missis Haris finds the beautifully and asks what that dress must expense. It appeared precise the sum to be what they can spend \$1400.-! She asks or they the dress in want to take, but gets than to hear that that is impossible; there will precise such dress for her on measure made become and that will certainly a week last. Missis Haris is dreadful disappointed they not can a stay of a week in Paris pay and sees itself back already come in London without dress. Monsieur André Fauvel gets pity with her and offers her on a week by him in the apartment to stay. That does she. Missis Butterfly gets a cable sent through Madam Jacket, in which asked becomes or they the work of Missis Haris yet a week want to take over. A number of seamstresses go at the blow with mark ribbon, needles, matter etc. Everybody of Dior meanwhile has heard by the exceptional lady from England, that prank woman is, but really such expensive dress buys towards at her dream wish to come. That arrived been frightened Monsieur Fauvel self a hat because mademoiselle Natasha it also is, and feels ashamed kill for all troop in its

apartment. Missis Haris finds that totally no point and offers at everything on to clear away. Mademoiselle Natasha finds the junk also no point, but finds the apartment right warm and pleasant, just as the former home also was. She offers at round Missis Haris with clear to help. Her 'important' appointments of that evening with 'important' men are forgot, and she goes at the blow. After result ordered Monsieur André eat and Missis Haris eats enough for 3 weeks and hits the offer of Monsieur André off round together with Mademoiselle Natasha Paris to go look at. Natasha dares not only with André to go they has in her diligence all too much infringement on its privacy done, and says yet an appointment to have. André accepts this and is actual cheerfully for it not continue, for he dares in fact not only to go with as a considerably and someone succeeded as Natasha. Missis Haris saw this these too late, but let André the next day know now that well calliper rule enough to be for a round tour through Paris together with him and Natasha. They enjoy self-tremendous and come only in usual and cheaper restaurants and coffeehouse. They do these all evenings of the week. By day goes Misses Haris only on path and learns as the usual life know in Paris, the life of hard work men just as home in London. On a day walks she over the flowers market, and sees excess at tub plant in all possible beautiful colours. Sudden comes she the older man against that next her drunk in Dior. They go together on a fearful exam periods and make a talk. They are as different (rich/arm) only also as as (both widow/widower, solitary, interest for plant). Missis Haris told over the dear Natasha, over the helpful André, and over the problems that the man of Madam Jacket (Jules) has and how madam Jacket about this worries. The parent appeared Jules to know writes an errand on the back of its addresses ticket and asks or Missis Haris that off to give at madam Jacket. Missis Haris studies the front of the ticket and comes there as behind that the older man Canopy the Cassagne is. When they the ticket delivers at madam Jacket, is this as cheerfully with the errand that they a joy dance makes with Missis Haris. On the last evening in Paris go Missis Haris, Natasha, and André to the expensive restaurant that André self can permit. André and Natasha realize that, as Missis haris again way is, it an and comes at their daily gathering: Natasha thinks that André nothing of her wants to know, and André thinks that Natasha him to 'little' finds. Missis Haris say that , shakes them both 'wake' and makes them clear that they on each other fallen in love be, but it not at each other want to confess. After that goes

she long time to the toilet and Natasha and André 'find' each other. The next day is the dress ready. There is yet a small celebration in Dior with all men of the staff, the saleswomen, the seamstresses and all other that Missis Haris have learn know. Madam Jacket thanks Missis Haris because her man Jules probably the romotion gets on which he hoped had, because Missis Haris her problems told has at the Canopy, and that as good is been self for Jules in to set. Natasha tell her that they probably in the spring with André goes get married, and thanks her that they her with André has coupled.

Also gets she a lot of presents as a beautiful really leather handbag, a watch, soap, perfume, etc. André asks for the security or they everything regulated has for the return trip and also thought has of the import load that they must pay for the dress by customs (approximately £150.-) No! That has Missis Haris not and that money has she no longer! Just smuggle? No, naturally, that is not against the law! What now? The large boss of Dior want the price of the dress let fall so that she count keeps the tax revenues can pay. André says however that these also possible is not, because Missis Haris the \$1400.- all unlawful England has brought out without these by the customs on giving. How can than such usual woman such expensive dress with back take, and also yet once cash money have the import load can pay? Missis Haris her hands hit for her face, and cries with disappointment. Only then has Madam Jacket an idea and whispers this Missis Haris in her ear. Final state Missis Haris whit the dress in a quite cheap case and with loudly knocks heart by the customs. This requests her or they yet something has to give, and she answers: "yes, a dress of Dior". Descending on her cheap appearance, goes the customs civil servant of it from that these typical English humor is and late her continue! Missis Haris's heart makes a leap Succeed. I am not been honest, and as the civil servant me then praise that can I really nothing at do. She comes back in London and thinks of beauty queen Penrose. She decide before they to house goes yet just there her along to go. They see her cry on bed at and asks what to it the hand is. Beauty queen Penrose appeared an important appointment to have that deciding appears for her career, but they has no dress that can they on! An is by the dry cleaner's and the other is broken. Missis Haris has on with her to do and offers her her Dior dress. These just her perfect! Missis Haris asks or they by the entrance of the restaurant may watch

Missis Penrose there when arrives. That is good, but through the bad again on that moment, can Missis Haris only a short glimpse catch of her dress behave through beauty queen Penrose. Everybody admires beauty queen Penrose in the restaurant, and she is of it convinced that they an important role in a film offered goes get, thanks to the dress of Missis Harris. Once home is Missis Haris fearful round Missis Butterfly under eye to come dress without de, and Missis Butterfly will it certainly not understand as they told that they such expensive dress has loaned. That is why they Missis Butterfly told that they too of the travel is tired, and tomorrow her everything will tell and the dress will let see. The next day she full expectation to beauty queen Penrose and a cheerfully someone expects goes at to hit fully of enthusiastic stories. The is house however empty and there hangs a fire air. Then sees she her Dior-dress with large fire spots! Beside it lies a letter of beauty queen Penrose, in which they communicates - that they a soft way is, she Missis haris dedicates her house that week clean to hold, -they almost totally in fire had stood through a candle by a mirror that evening in the restaurant, but that an insurance the damage well probably would cover. Missis Haris totally has been disillusioned, and sees already for self how a beauty queen Penrose after her eat, in a record collection surplus alcohol uses and as too short by candles comes, through which her dresses flame wanted to catch. Missis Haris never goes without cleaning away and decision here more back to come. Home come know she no longer what they must do, and dares from shame nobody more below eye to come. She takes self for round against Missis Butterfly to say that they well in is Paris been, but naturally no Dior- dress has bought. What must usual men as we here now with. And she cries bitter tear from self-pity. Sudden goes the bell. She not want to react, but because the ring goes over in hard bang does she the door really but open. And what appeared: it become bake fully with flowers for her furnished. Cheerful flowers in all possible colors. She imagines self prevent back on the flowers market in Paris. After the read of the hoppers becomes her clear that the flowers have been ordered through all her friends from France - André and Natasha that her want to let know that they at the same time married be - the Canopy want her a 'welcome-at home' wish - Lady Jacket want her let know that thanks to her, Jules promotion has made - the seamstresses, the management and the large boss of Dior wish her each. A bunch of flowers many pleasure with her dress. Missis Haris thinks back of

all fine things that she has experienced in Paris through her decision for a Dior-dress to save and how many men they has fortunately made. She decides that they the dress no longer wants to repair, because these nothing changed at her beautiful memories. Also becomes she not considerably through the have of a Dior-dress, for everybody in Paris has her taken as she is and all did they many trouble her largest wish in fulfilment to let go.

## **2. Most important characters:**

Mr.s. Harris: She is a !!!! She wants the dress. She is nicely very much people like her. The dress and flowers are there considerably for her. Mr. Fauvel. He is the owner of the Dior go shopping. He comes regular to the fashion show of the dresses look. He finds the nicely the models to look at. On a correct Natascha, he is fallen in love. He is well very embarrassed.

**3. Title explanation:** The head person is Missis Harris. Because he is loving woman has been earned they flowers (these become through the Christian Dior house sent at the end). Further has Missis Harris a large love for flowers.

**4. Thema:** Dream Missis Haris dreams about a beautiful dress and she buy a dress in Paris by Dior. Her dream come true.

**5. Time and place of action** The story plays self off in the present time. It stretch well times difference in between the beginning of the book and the end the end is them to me 3 years later. The story plays self off in Paris.

**6.The most fascinating part** Missis Haris does there really everything for on her dream from to let come. If the shoes broken were filled she that on with papers. She worked lake and took to it also yet an extra job there. This part spoke me.

**7. My own opinion** I found this a very amusingly and cheerful bow. Well a strangely tell that someone as gladly that dress want to have and it final yet for each other gets. I think that these in the daily live not just will succeed. I found it nicely to read.

## **Flowers for Mrs.**

### **Harris 1 Main characters:**

Mrs. Ada Harris: she was a little middle-aged woman with apple-red cheeks, greying hair and sharp blue eyes. She had a weathered skin and a thin neck. She was dressed in a shabby brown coat and clean brown cotton gloves. She carried an old imitation leather handbag and had not much money. Her hat was of green straw with a huge imitation rose on the front of it. She was a charwoman and was fond of Dior-dresses. She helped everyone in Paris with their problems and other things. Her husband had died when she was about thirty years old. Her best friend was Mrs. Butterfield. Mrs. Harris lived in Battersea.

### **2 Supporting characters:**

Natacha: she was the famous Dior model. She was very beautiful and had always wanted to marry a man who wouldn't like her because of her money but for who she was. All men wanted to show her off. She was desperately in love with André Fauvel. They married in June.

André Fauvel: he was Dior's accountant and moneymen. He was desperately in love with the model Natacha. He had always admired her. He offered Mrs. Harris to stay at his house during the week her dress was being made. He and Natacha married in June and gave flowers to Mrs. Harris to thank her for bringing them together.

Mrs. Butterfield: she was Mrs. Harris best friend. She had spectacles and was a bit fat. She was a charwoman too and substituted Mrs. Harris. She did not believe in fortune and it was her opinion that Dior dresses weren't for people like them.

### **3 The time:**

The events took place at around 1950 until I guess 1953.

### **4 The places:**

The places where everything happened was in Paris and in Battersea.

### **5 The course of time:**

The story was chronological with several flashbacks.

6 perspective:

There were many conversations and not that many thoughts. Though I choose the SHE-form because there were more conversations than thoughts.

7 Summary:

Ada Harris was a charwoman. When Mrs. Harris was cleaning in Lady Dant's house, she saw two Christian Dior dresses with flowers on it hanging in a cupboard. Mrs. Harris was fond of flowers, especially geraniums. She absolutely wanted to have a dress like that but they were about £450. - each. Mrs. Harris would have done everything to possess a dress like that. To get together some money for the dresses Mrs. Harris filled in a coupon for the weekly football pool and won £102.48, but sadly enough this was not enough for a Dior dress. Therefore Mrs. Harris made a plan: she would save all her money she could miss and would not spend money on extra things she did not need. It took Mrs. Harris two years and seven months to save up the money for her Dior dress, her stay and the ferry to and from Paris.

When Mrs. Harris went to Paris her friend Mrs. Butterfield was substituting Mrs. Harris cleaning work. In the shop Christian Dior, Mrs. Harris asked the manageress, Mme Colbert, to show her the dresses but she wasn't allowed to see them. Mme. Colbert was very sad because her husband had troubles with his job. Mme Colbert gave Mrs. Harris an invitation to visit their private show that afternoon, because she admired Mrs. Harris for saving all that money for one dress.

At the show, Mrs. Harris met a man called Marquis de Chassagne, who sat next to her and was fond of flowers too. Mrs. Harris especially liked dress number 89, called Temptation. She could just afford it, but it would take a week to make it. The shown dress was the model and could not be sold. However, Mrs. Harris hadn't enough money to stay in Paris for a week. Mr. André Fauvel, the accountant and moneyman felt sorry for Mrs. Harris and offered her to stay the week in his house, because his sister was travelling. Mrs. Butterfield had to manage Mrs. Harris work seven more days. Mr. Fauvel was desperately in love with Dior's famous model, called Natacha. Because Mrs. Harris did not know where Mr. Fauvel's house was, although he had given her the address Natacha brought her to his house. Because his sister was gone, the house was a disaster. Mrs.

Harris and Natacha cleaned the whole house and Natacha kissed Mr. Fauvel because he had made dinner for them after their hard work. Then Natacha went home. A few days later Mrs. Harris met The Marquis again, when she was walking on the flower market and she had a chat with him. She told him about Mrs. Colbert's husband's problem and he wrote a note to Mrs. Colbert, which said he might be able to help her husband. Mr. Fauvel had gone fond of Mrs. Harris and she tried to bring Natacha and Mr. Fauvel together. They both were in love with each other. Mrs. Harris' dress was ready and there was a little gathering for her in the salon of Dior's. Mrs. Colbert thanked Mrs. Harris for helping her. Mr. Fauvel and Natacha were getting married in the autumn. Then Mrs. Harris went to the Airport and went home, to London. The customs let her go with her expensive Dior dress. Mrs. Harris lent the dress to a customer of her, called Miss Penrose, a model. Unfortunately the dress accidentally got burned and Mrs Harris cried for her dress. Miss Penrose had to go away for a week. The doorbell rang and a man gave her red roses, violets and other flowers from the flower market, which were send by Natacha and Mr. Fauvel: because they were married that day, from Mr. Chassagne, from the staff of Christian Dior, from Christian Dior himself, from the cutters, fitters an needle woman and from Mrs. Colbert husband, Jules. Fortunately, the dress could be repaired and Mrs. Harris embraced the dress and it looked like she embraced them all.

8 title explanation:

Mrs Harris helped several people with problems. Because they wanted to thank her they all send her different kind of flowers. Mrs. Harris was very fond of flowers. Only in the end of the story I finally understood the meaning of the title.

9 own opinion:

I think the story was quite boring. The theme and sphere were good, but the story wasn't exiting, because there happened not much. Ada Harris was well chosen but very dull. But the story was well written. I liked Ada Harris best because she was a good person who had helped several people. She had her heart on the right place.

10 the best part:

I think the best part was at the gathering where everyone thanked Mrs.Harris for helping them. Mrs. Harris was totaly happy.

PAUL GALLICO FLOWERS FOR MRS HARRIS

\* words you must check in the dictionary and learn. You must also be able to pronounce them correctly.

Chapter 1

p.7	slender *	mince
	shrewd *	rusé
	naughty *	méchant, vilain
	the runaway	la piste de décollage
	to soar aloft	monter en flèche
	the bliss *	l'extase
	to be off	être loin, parti
	neatly *	proprement, correctement
	shabby *	usé
	twill	sergé
	battered	cabossé
	to hug	serrer
	currency *	devise, monnaie
	a rubber band *	un élastique
	ebullient	exubérant
	straw *	de la paille
	a stem *	une tige
	huge *	énorme
	preposterous *	ridicule
	to lean	pencher
	to bank	monter par étage
	to avail oneself of	se servir de
	a breed	une race
	to scrub *	frotter
	a char	une femme de ménage
p.8	a widow *	une veuve
	the fringes	les limites
	hoisted off	hissé
	drudgery	corvée
	to relieve	soulager
	the flicks	le cinoche
	slop	eaux sales
	entrusted	confié
	the litter *	les détrit
	stale *	sentant le renfermé
	rumpled *	froissé
	to scatter	éparpillé
	laundry	linge, lessive
	to make a living *	gagner sa vie
	a pigsty *	un porcherie
	sparkling	étincillant
	to bother	ennuyer, gêner
p.9	checkered	à carreaux

	to slip *	glisser
	wind-ruffled	agité par le vent
	tiny *	minuscule
	a tanker	un pétrolier
	a freighter	un cargo
	to plough	labourer
	grasping	cupide, avide
	a snail *	un escargot
	a trunk	une malle
	a nonsense *	une chose insensée
	tremendous *	formidable, important
	an errand	une course
	wholesome *	sain
	lumme=Lord me	mon Dieu
	pin point	une tête en pointe d'épingle
	upthrust	pointé vers le haut
	a thread	un fil, une traînée
	a bump	un saut
	the concrete	le béton
	gloomy	sinistre
p.10	to be borne out	être confirmé
	to lessen	diminuer
	ware	marchandise
	to be assigned to	être chargé de
	the hurly-burly	le brouhaha
	saucy *	impertinant malicieux
	smoothly	doucement
	roguish	de filou
	monkey business	affaire louche
	to get along	s'en sortir
	roughly	à peu près
p.11	flimsy	trop mince, léger
	tattered	déchiré
	duds	des faux
	ramrod sraight	droit comme un piquet
	queer *	bizarre
	to grasp	saisir
	to sally forth	sortir gaiment
	the marrow	la moelle
	to do out	escroquer
p.12	to pound	battre
	to cope *	s'en sortir
	whilst=while	alors que
	without notice	sans délai
	to dismiss	congédier
	fairly *	passablement, joliment
	a schedule	un horaire
	a mew	petit appartement chic
	a bachelor *	un célibataire

	to spoil *	gâter
	muddled	confus, embrouillé
	chiefly *	principalement
p.13	a gossip *	un ragot, cancan
	idle	nonchalant
	to be up to	faire
	stout *	fort
	frail	frêle
	to pinch	piquer
	to be bedded	être alité
	duty	devoir
p.14	to kick up a fuss	faire des histoires
	shrewdness *	perspicacité, astuce
	to glean	glaner
	tight *	serré
	greedily *	avidement
	to trip *	trébucher
	a ladder *	une échelle
	to further	faire avancer
	mean *	avare, mesquin
	ruthless	sans coeur
	to drop *	laisser tomber
	a living *	un moyen d'existence
	to pierce	percer
p.15	to stick to smone	rester fidèle à qqun
	fierce	sauvage
	a craving	un désir ardent
	the rut	la routine, l'ornière
	an endeavour	une tentative
	unlike	dissemblable
	to be penniless *	être sans un sou
	the glamour	la fascination
	the stage *	la scène (théâtre)
	tenuous	ténu, précaire
	sketchy	sommaire
	the wireless	la radio
	an apron	un tablier
	lone	solitaire
	to wage a battle	mener une bataille
	to humour smone	ménager
	to cosset	choyer, dorloter
	broad	large
	not one whit	pas du tout
p.16	beneath	sous
	a walrus	un morse
	to covet	convoiter
<u>Chapter 2</u>		
p.17	a wardrobe *	une armoire à habits
	lace	ruban

	chiffon	mousseline
	crimson	cramoisi (rouge)
	adorned	décoré
	a bow *	un noeud
	thrilling	excitant
	drab *	monotone
	the skill *	l'habileté
	a barrow	une brouette
	wilted	flétri
	a pansy	une pensée
	a primrose	une primevère
	bright *	vif
p.18	stunning	pétrifiant
	cunningly	sournoisement
	a garment	un vêtement
	no rhyme or reason	pas de raison particulière
	dreadfully *	horriblement
	to yearn	désirer ardemment
	a crib	un berceau
	enthralled	encorcelé
	rapt	extasié
	a mop *	une brosse à récurer
	soiled	sali
	an overall	une blouse de travail
	wispy	fin
	to be engrossed in	être absorbé par
	daring *	osé
	to gasp	dire (avec le souffle coupé)
	to cost a packet *	coûter cher
p.19	to score	marque un point
	brittle	crispé
	a quid=£ *	une Livre
	slick	luisant
	a stitch	un point (couture)
	remote	éloigné
	spotless	sans tache
	a drudge	cendrillon, bonne
	the Grail	le Graal
p.20	adornment	parure, ornement
	woe	malheur
	to encroach	empiéter
	unremitting toil	labeur sans répit
	to make up	réparer, compenser
	damp	humide
p.21	to drip *	tomber, goutter
	cosy *	douillet
	a draw	un match nul
	poised	maintenu
	a chunk	un gros morceau

	to grab *	agripper
	to vanish	disparaître
	to woo	rechercher, convoiter
p.22	to attune	harmoniser
	a hunch	une intuition
	to hover	hésiter
	to query	demander
	to be addicted to *	être mordu de, accro
	catalepsy	catalepsie, léthargie
	Marks and Sparks= Marks & Spencers	grand magasin en GB
	barmy	cinglé
p.23	to subside	décroître
	ducks	mimi
	the fates	le destin
	to gloom	dire d'un air sombre
	volition	volonté
p.24	perfunctory	superficiel
	hoarsely	d'une voix rauque
	the slit	la fente
<u>Chapter 3</u>		
p.25	shattering *	renversant, bouleversant
	to quiver	trembler
	to storm into	s'engouffrer
	the former	ce/cette dernier/ière
	to iron *	repasser
	to pant *	haleter
	to snort	grogner
	to wave	brandir
	import	sens, teneur
	the waist *	la taille
	to pore over	méditer, être absorbé
p.26	to achieve *	atteindre, réussir
	a trial	une épreuve
	to undergo, went, gone	subir
	a swag	un butin
	an emporium	un grand magasin
	scraping and bowing	faisant des courbettes
	crammed	bourré
	to harbour	entretenir, garder
	to pin	attacher
	there was no gainsayings	on ne pouvait contredire
	to yield	rapporter
	to dither	tourner en rond
	fateful	fatal
p.27	to brace oneself	prendre des forces
	to fan oneself	s'éventer
	to unfold	déplier
	a let-down	une déception
	an upset	un changement soudain

p.28	to shrink a ward an oddity	réduire une pupille (enfant à charge) une singularité, qqch de
bizzare		
p.29	to tantalize embedded distorted a new tack a portent	mettre au supplice, tourmenter ancré confus, déformé une nouvelle voie un présage
p.30	to snap on to encroach staggering a windfall of to steel	allumer brusquement empiéter atterant beaucoup de renforcer
p.31	to admonish adamant	admonester, réprimander inflexible
p.32	to scrimp and save * lest a solace a zip discarded the passing to buoy smone up	économiser sur tout de peur que un réconfort une fermeture éclair mis à la poubelle la mort soutenir, maintenir (à flots)
<u>Chaper 4</u>		
p.34	to jangle in the grip to 'unch=hunch to labour hoarse a deity a nannie	faire retentir en proie à pressentiment oeuvrer rauque une divinité une nounou
p.35	to be uppermost to quibble the Bench to be wary tantrums the fulfilment * to attune oneself to	être à son sommet chicaner, faire des histoires la Cour, le tribunal être las crises la réalisation se préparer à, s'harmoniser
avec		
	a bounty to enthrall a wake bustling to be packed to waddle	un don, une prime encorceler, séduire un sillage trépignant, agité être bourré se dandiner
p.36	stringy titbits	filiforme potins
p.37	pallor ow=how	pâleur

	to pop out	sortir, être éjecté
	a fold	un pli
	a sheaf of	une liasse
	a better	un parieur
	a bead	une perle
	blimey	mince alors, merde alors
	thoroughbred	de race
	an itch	un grattement
p.38	to be out of sorts with	être fâché contre
	swift	rapide
	a flea	un fléau
	cast down	baissé
	a glitter	un éclat
	the gutter	le caniveau
	to have no truck with	refuser à avoir affaire à
	to wend one's way to	s'acheminer vers
p.39	to don	revêtir
	steadfast	ferme, résolu
	to gamble	parier
	self-denial	oubli de soi
<u>Chapter 5</u>		
p.40	a fib	un bobard, une blague
	a mug	une andouille
	impecunious	nécessiteux
	half-wit	simplet
	to be compelled to	ête obligé de
	derelict	abandonné
p.41	muzzy	nébuleux, confus
	a hoard of	un stock de
	nobody was any the wiser	personne n'en saurait rien
	the wad	la pile
	to grow in girth	grandir, augmenter sa
corpulence		
	the amazement *	la surprise, étonnement
	ministrations	les services
	to titter	glousser, rire sottement
p.42	a plumber	un plombier
	an ordeal *	une épreuve
	to adorn	décorer
	bobbed hair	coupe de cheveux avec une
frange		
	tiered	monté en étage
	plastered	plaqué
p.43	to rove	errer
	to be displayed	être exposé
	the price tag	l'étiquette
p.45	dubious	douteux, incertain
	to kick up a fuss	faire des histoires
	soothingly	de manière réconfortante

	shirty	en rogne
	to glower	lancer des regards noirs
	to sulk *	ruminer, boudier
<u>Chapter 6</u>		
p.46	meandering	vagabondage
	knick-knacks	des babioles
	demure	réservé
	the latter	ce dernier
	genuinely	véritablement
	to forbear	s'abstenir de
	mindful	attentif à
	a misgiving	une appréhension
	to stir	remuer
	wax	de la cire
	ruffled	en dentelle
p.47	to chisel	tailler
	a mansion	une demeure
	forlorn	abandonné
	in spite of *	malgré
	to stiffen	raidir
	balmy	ensoleillé
p.48	ruddy well	aussi
	a slipper	une pantoufle
	outsize	colossal
	to be accustomed to	être habitué à
	to ooze	disparaître
	a row	une rangée
	glossy	brillant
p.49	care-worn	rongé par les soucis
	a hollow	un creux, une poche
	an idiosyncrasy	une particularité
	trustworthiness	degré de confiance
	to bare	se découvrir, s'ouvrir
	to rail	injurier
	to tick off	passer un savon
	to scold *	réprimander
	a fitting	un essayage
	to snap back	répondre
p.50	to muddle	embrouiller
	to deny	refuser
	a seeker	un chercheur
	garbed	vêtu
	a bully	un tyran, qqun de dur
	the Foreign Office	le Ministère des affaires
étrangères		
	a rosette	un ruban (une décoration)
	a connexion	une relation
p.51	to handle	diriger, s'occuper de
	to shatter	briser

	a hack	un petit, un subalterne
	rife	répandu
	a strain	une pression
	to wheedle	faire des cajoleries pour
obtenir qqch		
	a plum	un boulot en or
p.52	the lap	les genoux
	not o care a fig	ne pas se soucier de
	frantic	hors de soi, frénétique
	to be shunted aside	être poussé, aiguillé de côté
	to rack one's brains *	se creuser la cervelle
	to ascend	monter
	a shudder	un frisson
	her frame	sa personne
	an asset	une qualité
p.53	jiggling	branlant
	warped	faussé
	the inception	le début
	flawless	sans fautes
	weird *	bizarre
	to stray	s'égarer
	to cock an ear	dresser l'oreille
	to pull oneself together *	se reprendre, se donner de la
peine		
	ghastly	horrible
	bewildered	perplexe
p.54	the bosom	la poitrine
	to bob	pencher
	snooty	prétentieux
p.55	the mound	le monceau
	to be taken aback *	être surpris
	to smack	sentir
	the thrust	le coup
p.56	contrition	remords
	feckless	maladroit
	appalled *	horrifié
	encrusted	encroûté
	the scales	les écailles (les ornières)
	to forbear, bore, borne	s'abstenir de
<u>Chapter 7.</u>		
p.58	entangled	mêlé
	to mill about	grouiller
	to pay smone court	faire la cour
p.59	to be fortunate	avoir la chance
	a frock	une robe
	a stole	une écharpe
	to stifle	étouffer
	a yawn	un bâillement
	weary *	las

	to settle down *	s'installer
	the offspring	la progéniture
	vain *	vaniteux
	boastful *	prétentieux
p.60	a swinging door	une porte battante
	a boob	un nigaud
	thither	jusque-là
	to thread	mener
	the throng	la foule
	V.I.P = very important person	
	to tow	emmener, tirer
p.61	to take stock of	faire l'inventaire
	the lapel	le revers
	a rosebud	un bouton de rose
	a beak nose	un nez crochu
	keen	aigu
	sere	flétri
	abashed	intimidé
p.62	rude *	impoli
	self-deprecating	autodénigrant
	to gawk at	rester bouche bée devant
	jolly good	sacrément bien, bon
	to dispell	dissiper
	puzzled	perplexe
	to stir	s'éveiller, remuer
	to be rounded out	enlever
	dingy	minable
	a closet	un petit bureau
	a pail	un seau
p.63	to resort to	avoir recours à
	to advance	émettre, suggérer
	prospective	possible, éventuel
	a recipient	un destinataire
	the completion	l'achèvement
	to dredge up	déterrer
	slatternly	peu soigné
	bedraggled	trempe
	freckled	avec des taches de rousseur
	the precincts	l'enceinte
	to exude	présenter, respirer
	waspish	hargneux, grincheux
	matter-of-fact	terre-à-terre
	the vicissitudes	les bonnes et mauvaises
choses de la vie		
p.64	a bearer of tidings	un porteur de nouvelles
	brash	impétueux, fougueux
	hardships	des difficultés
	toil	labeur
	leavened	relevé, allégé

	the sprinkling	le fait de saupoudrer
	grumbings	des plaintes
	a scoundrel	un garnement
	a scallywag	un polisson
	the premises	les locaux
	slight	menu
	the bearing	la tenue
	a legacy	un héritage
	untold	incalculable
	coal *	du charbon
p.65	grocery	de primeur
	to let on to	révéler, dévoiler
	a gown	une robe
	testy	irritable
	withdrawal	recul
p.66	the toffs	les aristos
	the ostentation	la parade
p.67	flustered	troublé
	ousting movements	'faire oust'avec la main
	unwitting	innocente, victime
	involontaire	
	a feeling of kinship	le sentiment d'appartenir à la
	même famille	
	to tip	donner
p.68	selfless	non égoïste
	unnerved	déconcerté
	to stalk	sortir avec raideur
	to peer	regarder, scruter
	the abyss	l'abîme
	flaring	évasé
	welling up	naissance
	<u>Chapter 8</u>	
p.70	trimmed	garni, orné
	bugle beads	des colliers de perles
	sequin	des paillettes
	to clash	choquer, s'opposer
	hemlines	les coutures
	the whim	le caprice
	a hint *	une allusion
	a forecast *	une prévision
	mink	un vison
	baumarten	une martre
	sable	une zibeline
	an array	un étalage, un déploiement
	slinky-sly	de manière provoquante
p.71	come-hither	accrocheur
	a minx	une friponne
	to woo	acclamer
	horny	rugueux

p.72	bridal velvet * froth tousled a broomstick * to thump to beam alluring haltingly tiered clad	de mariage de velours une mousse fripé un manche à balai taper luire séduisant de façon hésitante en étages vêtu
p.73	perfunctorily ravens to pounce upon a meadow * stifling frilly tamarind cowslip	pour la forme des corbeaux bondir sur une prairie étouffant fleuri tamarin (fruit tropical) cerfeuil
p.74	a hive	une ruche
p.75	lovelorn unconcealed the flag * raddled an old frump to abate	qui languit d'amour non masqué le drapeau aux traits marqués une vieille sorcière apaiser
p.76	thereupon a flash of insight *	sur ce une lueur de perspicacité
p.77	on the brink of a reward * to smite, smote, smitten	au moment de une récompense tourmenter
<u>Chapter 9</u>		
p.79	a stream * to dispatch dust *	le fleuve expédier de la poussière
p.80	genially in a jiffy	sincèrement en moins de deux
p.81	a cobweb the plight	une toile d'araignée la situation difficile
p.82	exhausting * dishevelled smudged a barrel ravenous a lobster an eel the fowl to crow a tuck in	exténuant ébouriffé sali un canon de fusil affamé un homard une anguille la volaille dire victorieusement un repas, festin

p.83	to plump for to pry in the squalor	jeter son dévolu sur fourrer son nez dans la condition sordide
p.84	a butterfly * to linger to twig stuffed * amidst flustered garn to scoff to beg *	un papillon s'attarder piger bourré (nourriture) parmi troublé exclamation genre oh! se moquer prier stupidement
p.85	dumbly the nap the strains the brewery to balk	le poil les accords la brasserie hésiter
p.86	to roam about to be taken for granted * heralded garlic mischief a hamper stichless beefy strenuous	vagabonder aller de soi annoncé de l'ail malice, espièglerie un panier en osier sans un fil, nu bien en chair ardu
p.87	to teem with	grouiller de
<u>Chapter10</u>		
p.88	a bank * a blossom a hot-house *	une rive une fleur une serre
p.89	a peony a row * a homburg fawn dewy to doff	une pivoine une rangée un feutre, un chapeau mou fauve humide de rosée ôter
p.90	an imp a bench *	un petit diable, un lutin un banc
p.91	scattered a copper the cashier *	éparpillé une pièce de cuivre le caissier
p.92	rear a tingling stern	derrière un fourmillement sévère
p.93	a chuckle unabashed a nob scribbled	un gloussement non intimidé un richard, un aristo griffonné

	a sieve *	une passoire
	rapt	intense
	to rummage	fourrager
<u>Chapter 11</u>		
p.95	a bough	un rameau
	peek-a-boo	semi-transparent
p.96	constrained by	gêné par
p.97	flighty *	frivole
	dowerless	sans talent
	merriment	joie
	athwart	en travers
	to compel	forcer
	reluctance	réticence
	to dart	passer rapidement
p.98	to peter out	tarir
	to relinquish	abandonner
p.99	blubby	du champ