

# Nightmare Town (1925)

By Dashiell Hammett

## DAY 1

### Reading Assignment

beginning - p. 6

#### Task 1

**DIRECTIONS:** As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

**Example:** Steve Threefall: Why does he drive so erratically? Why is he so difficult to understand when he apologizes to Nova Vallance?

**Answer:** Threefall speaks and drives poorly because he is drunk (having made a bet that he could drive from Whitetufts to Izzard on nothing but liquor).

**Complete the rest on your own paper.**

**Steve Threefall:** Why is he in Izzard? Why does he not stay in jail? What does he always carry? What is he like?

**Nova Vallance** (the girl whom Threefall almost hits with his Ford): What is her connection to Steve Threefall? What is her career?

**Grant Fernie** (the marshal): What is his connection to Steve Threefall? What is his connection to Tobin Denvir?

**Tobin Denvir:** What is his connection to Steve Threefall? How could the fine be exactly what Threefall has in his pockets?

#### Task 2

**DIRECTIONS:** For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

## DAY 2

### Reading Assignment

p. 7 - bottom of p. 14, paragraph ending "I'll get in touch with you when I want you.")

#### Task 1

**DIRECTIONS:** As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

**Nova Vallance:** What is her connection to Steve Threefall?

**Roy Kamp:** What is his connection to Steve Threefall?

**Larry Ormsby:** What is his connection to Nova Vallance? What is his position in the town?

**W. W. Ormsby:** What is his position in the town?

**old man Rymer:** What is his connection to Steve Threefall? Who is he, and where does he live?

**David Brackett:** What is his connection to Steve Threefall?

**thugs of Izzard:** What is their connection to Steve Threefall? What is their connection to Roy Kamp?

**Grant Fernie** (the marshal): What is his connection to Steve Threefall? Where does he tell him to go?

### Task 2

**DIRECTIONS:** For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most **IMPORTANT** events. Do **NOT** rewrite the story.

## DAY 3

### Reading Assignment

bottom of p. 14, paragraph beginning "Steve Threefall found Dr. MacPhail's house" - top of p. 20, paragraph ending "the caravan vanished toward the desert")

### Task 1

**DIRECTIONS:** As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

**Nova Vallance:** What is her connection to Steve Threefall (what does she ask him to do)? Why does Threefall not completely trust her?

**Burglar at the MacPhail's:** What is his connection to Steve Threefall? What is his connection to old man Rymer?

**old man Rymer:** What is his connection to Nova Vallance? What is his connection to Steve Threefall?

**Dr. MacPhail:** What is his connection to Nova Vallance? What is his connection to Steve Threefall?

### Task 2

**DIRECTIONS:** For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

## DAY 4

### Reading Assignment

top of p. 20 "Steve went on toward the hotel, thinking" - bottom of p. 25, paragraph ending "That's all there is to it."

#### Task 1

**DIRECTIONS:** As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

**Larry Ormsby:** What is his purpose in offering Steve Threefall a ride? What is his connection to W. W. Ormsby?

**Ross Amthor:** What is his connection to Roy Kamp? What is his career?

**Austrian prisoner:** What is his connection to Grant Fernie? What is or is not his connection to Steve Threefall?

**Conan Elder:** What is his career? With whom does Steve Threefall see him?

**David Brackett:** What is his career? What is his connection to Steve Threefall? What is his connection to W. W. Ormsby (according to Larry Ormsby)?

#### Task 2

**DIRECTIONS:** For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

## DAY 5

### Reading Assignment

bottom of p. 25, paragraph beginning "Steve went slowly down to the street" - top of p. 30, paragraph ending "whose bodies can't be found")

#### Task 1

**DIRECTIONS:** As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

**Dr. MacPhail:** What is his connection to David Brackett?

**Larry Ormsby:** What is his connection to Grant Fernie?

**Izzard:** What's the real story about the town?

**Roy Kamp:** Who was he really?

### Task 2

**DIRECTIONS:** For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

## DAY 6

### Reading Assignment

top of p. 30, paragraph beginning "There never was a bigger game!" - end

### Task 1

**DIRECTIONS:** As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

**Larry Ormsby:** Why does he tell Steve Threefall and Nova Vallance the truth?

**W. W. Ormsby, Conan Elder, and David Brackett:** What are their real positions in Izzard?

**Dr. and Mrs. MacPhail:** What are their connections to Steve Threefall and Nova Vallance?

**old man Rymer:** What is his connection to W. W. Ormsby? Who is he really?

### Task 2

**DIRECTIONS:** For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

