

Catherine Morland has met Henry Tilney in Bath and been invited to stay at his family home, Northanger Abbey. Catherine has read many Gothic novels and is sure that Northanger Abbey contains secrets and mysteries. During her first night at the Abbey, she believes she has discovered an old manuscript in her room.

**T**HE DIMNESS<sup>1</sup> OF THE LIGHT HER CANDLE emitted made her turn to it with alarm; but there was no danger of its sudden extinction; it had yet some hours to burn; and that she might not have any greater difficulty in distinguishing the writing than what its ancient date might occasion, she hastily snuffed<sup>2</sup> it. Alas! It was snuffed  
5 and extinguished in one. A lamp could not have expired with more awful effect. Catherine, for a few moments, was motionless with horror. It was done completely; not a remnant of light in the wick<sup>3</sup> could give hope to the rekindling<sup>4</sup> breath. Darkness impenetrable and immovable filled the room. A violent gust of wind, rising with sudden fury, added fresh horror to the moment. Catherine trembled from head to  
10 foot. In the pause which succeeded, a sound like receding<sup>5</sup> footsteps and the closing of a distant door struck on her affrighted ear. Human nature could support no more. A cold sweat stood on her forehead, the manuscript fell from her hand, and groping<sup>6</sup> her way to the bed, she jumped hastily in, and sought some suspension of agony by creeping far underneath the clothes. To close her eyes in sleep that night,  
15 she felt must be entirely out of the question. With a curiosity so justly awakened, and feelings in every way so agitated, repose must be absolutely impossible. The storm too abroad<sup>7</sup> so dreadful! She had not been used to feel alarm from wind, but now every blast<sup>8</sup> seemed fraught with<sup>9</sup> awful intelligence. The manuscript so wonderfully found, so wonderfully accomplishing the morning's prediction, how was it to be  
20 accounted for? What could it contain? To whom could it relate? By what means could it have been so long concealed? And how singularly strange that it should fall to her lot<sup>10</sup> to discover it! Till she had made herself mistress of its contents, however, she could have neither repose nor comfort; and with the sun's first rays she was determined to peruse<sup>11</sup> it. But many were the tedious hours which must yet  
25 intervene. She shuddered, tossed about in her bed, and envied every quiet sleeper. The storm still raged, and various were the noises, more terrific even than the wind, which struck at intervals on her startled ear.

1. dimness: faiblesse (de la lumière) 2. to snuff a candle: moucher une bougie 3. the wick: la mèche  
4. to rekindle: rallumer, raviver 5. to recede: s'éloigner 6. to grope: avancer à tâtons 7. abroad: outside  
8. a blast of wind: une rafale 9. fraught with: plein de 10. to fall to someone's lot: le sort veut que  
quelqu'un... 11. to peruse: lire