Retelling

“The Monkey’s Paw”

W. W. Jacobs

One night, Sergeant Major Morris visits Mr. and Mrs. White and their son, Herbert. At Mr. White’s urging, Morris shows them a monkey’s paw that, he claims, has the power to grant three wishes. Although both the sergeant major and another man have wished on the paw with disastrous results, Mr. White plunges ahead and requests two hundred pounds with which to pay off his mortgage. The next day, Mr. and Mrs. White learn that Herbert has been killed in an accident at work; his company offers the couple two hundred pounds as compensation. Soon after, Mrs. White demands that her husband use his second wish to bring back their son. That night they hear a pounding at the door. Mr. White, fearing the worst, makes his last wish; when his wife opens the door, no one is there.