

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Room Between Blinks

A horror short story by C.R. Lang

Read the story free at 100acrespotlight.com/stories/the-room-between-blinks/

A 100 Acre Spotlight Production

100 Acre Spotlight UnSeries © Copyright 2026 C.R. Lang

Copyright notice: All rights reserved under the International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher, except for the use of brief quotations in a book, journal, blog or otherwise online review.

The information in this book was correct at the time of publication, but the Author does not assume any liability for loss or damage caused by errors or omissions. Some scenarios in this book are fictitious. This is a work of fiction. Names, places, characters and incidents are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously, and any resemblance to any actual persons, living or dead, organizations, events or locales is entirely coincidental.

Warning: the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of this copyrighted work is illegal. Criminal copyright infringement, including infringement without monetary gain, is investigated by the FBI and is punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

For more information, www.100AcreSpotlight.com

A 100 Acre Spotlight Production

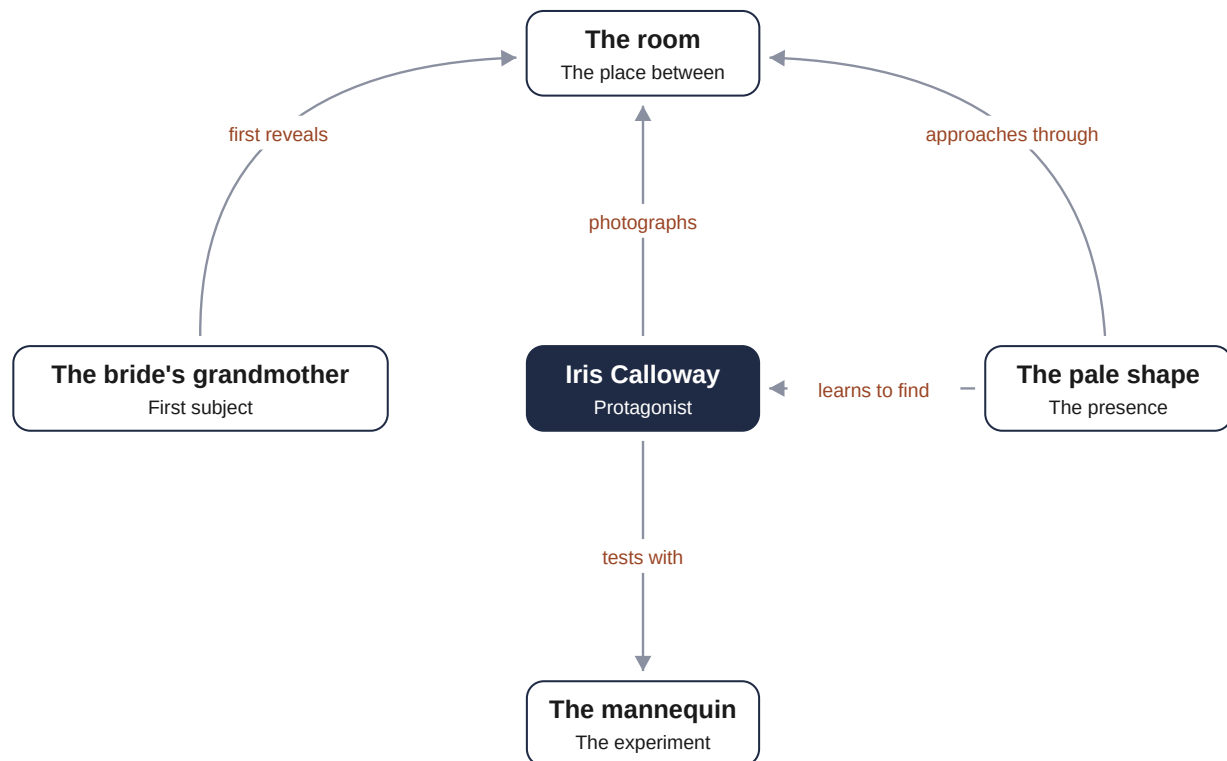
About the story

A wedding photographer catches a hidden room in the split second of a blink. Every photo shows the room a little differently, and something in it is getting closer to the lens.

This guide assumes everyone has finished the story, so it discusses the ending.

Character map

The main character is in the dark box. Arrows show who acts on whom.



Who's who

Iris Calloway (Protagonist). A wedding photographer of nine years whose curiosity turns into obsession.

The room (The place between). Narrow, low, with a bare bulb and a worn circle on the floor. Everyone passes through it with each blink.

The pale shape (The presence). Too thin, with a slit that blinks. It has learned to keep its eyes open.

The bride's grandmother (First subject). Her blink at a wedding reveals the room for the first time.

The mannequin (The experiment). A subject that 'could not be harmed,' used to record the shape's approach.

Themes to look for

Looking and being looked at. ‘She had been taking pictures of the room, but the room had been taking pictures of her.’

Curiosity. Iris keeps going long after she should stop. Is curiosity her flaw or her nature?

The unavoidable. No one can stop blinking. The horror comes from something everyone does.

Hidden worlds. For a third of a second, the whole world goes somewhere and never notices.

Discussion questions

- 1 What first draws Iris back to the room after she deletes the frame?
- 2 The room changes in each print: the bulb lower, a crack spreading, a doorway forming. What is the story telling us through these small changes?
- 3 Why does photographing herself in the mirror change everything?
- 4 Iris uses a mannequin so no one gets hurt. What does that choice say about her?
- 5 What do you make of the shape’s ‘blinking’ slit, which opens onto another room?
- 6 The story says Iris ‘spent two months teaching it where to look.’ Is she responsible for what happens?
- 7 The ending stops before the final blink. Why might the author leave it there?
- 8 How does the story turn something as small as a third of a second into something huge?

Craft corner

For writers in the group: two ways to look at how the story is built.

Pacing. The twelve-frame sequence reads like a flip book. How do short paragraphs change the speed of reading?

Open ending. What happens after the last sentence? Does the story need to say?

Try this together

Pick a single frame from the sequence of twelve and draw or describe it in detail. Put the group’s frames in order and read the sequence aloud as one scene.

More free stories and guides at 100acrespotlight.com/book-clubs