

# RUSSELL-COTES



HOUSE • GALLERY • GARDEN



*The Fortune Teller, 'Beware of a Dark Lady'*

Frank Cadogan Cowper (1877-1958)

Looking at Art

*The Fortune Teller, 'Beware of a Dark Lady'*

Frank Cadogan Cowper (1877-1958)

1. What is going on in this picture?

2. Are the ladies friends?

3. Are the young ladies rich or poor? How can you tell?

4. What do you think the blonde lady is being told?

5. Now look at the title of the painting, what more does this tell you?

6. If you had to make a thought bubble for the characters in this painting. What would they be thinking?



*The Fortune Teller, 'Beware of a Dark Lady'*

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This painting shows two wealthy young ladies sat on a bench in the gardens of a large house. The blonde lady is having her palm read by a fortune teller, whilst the brunette waits her turn.

We can tell the ladies are rich by the quality of their clothes and the large house in the background.

What can we tell about the relationship between the two ladies? They could be friends as are together with the fortune teller, sharing the experience. However, looking at their faces, they are not looking at each other as friends may, sharing the experience. Look at the facial expression of the brunette - she looks rather moody and superior. Perhaps she doesn't like the blonde?

The title of the painting *The Fortune Teller, 'Beware of a Dark Lady'* gives the impression that the fortune teller is telling the blonde lady "beware of a dark lady". Is the brunette in the painting the dark lady, the fortune teller is warning against?

Perhaps the brunette is plotting against the blonde?

Or is the dark lady actually the fortune teller, who isn't to be trusted?