Comparing Two Stories: “Appointment with Love” and “The Chaser”

1. **Plot**
   1. What interior or exterior conflicts exist in “Appointment with Love”?
   2. If any, how are they resolved?
   3. What interior or exterior conflicts exist in “The Chaser”?
   4. If any, how are they resolved?
   5. Indicate any event in the story that seems implausible.
   6. Indicate and verify the point of climax in the story.
   7. Which story leaves the reader with the greater sense of completion? Why?
   8. Which story has the more complicated plot? Explain.
2. **Character** – Characters can be defined as “static” (unchanging throughout the story) or dynamic (changing for better or worse throughout the story)
   1. Describe what types of characters inhabit these two stories
   2. What does the reader know about each of these characters? How is the information given to the reader?
   3. Which of the characters does something that seems out of character? What is it?
   4. Why is the old man in “The Chaser” nameless?
   5. Alan is described as “nervous as a kitten”. Is this a good description of him? Is it simply an empty cliché? Justify your answer.
3. **Setting**

Which setting is the most explicit? Do the settings add anything to the story? If so, explain.

1. **Theme**

Construct a theme statement for each story. Which was the more difficult to construct? Why?

1. The final line of a short story can end it, or it can drive the reader back into the story’s details to add significance. Which of these stories has the most significant final line. Explain.
2. The title of a short story can be simply a detail from the story, or it can be an important image given for emphasis, or it can express an entirely new, yet related idea. Which of these stories has the more suggestive title? What does it add to the story?
3. Closely read the stories again. List any lies that seem to be vague or confusing. List any images or descriptions that seem to have no purpose. Be critical of anything in the diction of either story that seems artificial.
4. “Young people who need a love potion very seldom have five thousand dollars. Otherwise the would not need a love potion.” What is implied by this statement from “The Chaser”? What do you learn about the old man from hearing him say this?
5. In which story does the point of view allow the reader to feel intellectually superior to one or the other of the characters? What effect does that have on the readers perceptions?
6. What does the following description imply? “opening the drawer in the kitchen table and taking out a tine, rather dirty looking phial”?