

SYNOPSIS

The Independent Female is a high-energy comedy about confrontation in feminist struggle in facing the corporate whose power and greediness prevents them from giving the appropriate wage for the women labors. The story begins with the quarrel of Gloria Pennybank and her fiancé, John Heartright. Their relationship seems to be disturbed for they often have some fights. Gloria loves her job as a secretary in the Personnel Department of Amalgamated Corporate Life, a large corporation in San Fransisco. She is upset when John tells her to quit from her job and stay at home. John does not allow Gloria to have career after they get married and threats to cancel the marriage if Gloria keeps insisting on pursuing her desire. Matilda Pennybank, Gloria's mother, also suggests Gloria to quit working and become a full-time housewife, who stays at home and raises children for John.

Later, Gloria finds herself drawn to Sarah Bullitt, a co-worker with a plan for women's rights movement. In *The Independent Female*, Gloria is depicted as the ingénue, John the hyper-masculine hero, and Sarah the traditional villain lurking in the shadows. Having been fired by the company for her rebelliousness, Sarah convinces Gloria to help her persuade the women in the company to go on strike and demand their rights for equal work and equal pay, especially with the fact that the company where Gloria, John, and Sarah work together consists of a large majority of women. After several confusing times of consideration, the innocent Gloria comes up with her support on Sarah's ideas. This, of course,

makes John angry and hates Sarah for persuading his fiancée to be an “abnormal” girl with rebellion idea in her mind.

While Gloria and Sarah prepares everything for the strike, Matilda (who has witnessed Gloria's change) tells John her daughter's plans. In order to stop Gloria and Sarah, John meets the President of the Chamber of Commerce, Walter Pennybank, to suggest him stop the women’s strike. The climax of the drama happens as Sarah and Gloria (as the bargaining committee of the women’s movement) come to Walter’s office and starts addressing their demands: equal work with men, equal work by men, and equal rights, including equal pay. Walter offers some agreement and asks Gloria to sign the contract. John appears with a gun pointing to his own head and tells Gloria that he would prefer shooting himself than watching Gloria support the women’s strike. Being in such dilemma, Gloria begins to change her mind and tells Sarah that “Love is stronger”. Sarah reminds her not to betray 100.000 women under San Fransisco Women’s Union who wait for them outside Walter’s office.

Recognizing the change in Gloria’s stand, Sarah takes over the situation by pointing out a 38 millimeter gun. She asks Gloria to tear the contract up, while commanding John to drop his gun and insisting Walter to fulfill her demands, to have the commander of the National Guard to arm the 100.000 women on strike. Such condition is beyond Walter’s estimation that it brings such a shock for him and makes him get sudden heart attack. The climax’s tension gets high when Matilda comes afterward at the office. The arrival of Matilda brings surprise to Walter, for they were husband and wife in the past. Thus, it means that Gloria is

Walter's own daughter. Such surprise brings more burdens to Walter and he dies elaborately of that heart attack. The heated atmosphere occurs right after Walter's death. Since there is no one to sign the petition of the San Fransisco Women's Union, John uses the condition and shoots Sarah till death. Seeing such tragedy which causes her partner's death, Gloria gets deeply sad, disappointed, and angry to John. It affects the way Gloria sees her fiancé and no longer able to be influenced by any threatening statements. She becomes the real "independent female", as the drama's title suggests. It seems that Gloria will continue Sarah's struggle instead of being dictated by John. She will fight against male's oppression in the name of women's solidarity.