

SYNOPSIS

One of Willa Cather's masterpiece novels *The Professor's House* tells about a story of a fifty-two years old man named Godfrey St. Peter who has desperated life in his elderly age. He actually lives his whole life in perfection: famous, genius, and has a happy family until troubles come to him in sequences. He seems getting shocked of horrible things that approach towards him since he lives his life flawlessly. First matter comes when he loses Tom Outland, his beloved student and foster-son whom inherits lots of money to St. Peter's family. The reason why St. Peter's family is inherited Tom's money because Tom was formerly a fiancé of St. Peter's first pretty daughter, Rosamund. His family suddenly becomes richer than before after receiving Outland's inheritance and they spend that amount of money in hedonist's way which makes St. Peter disgusted.

That poor Professor tries to show his uncomfortably feeling with his ignorant and intolerant attitude towards his family. He rejects to move in to new house which is currently built by Rosamund and her husband, Louie Marsellus. He shows his disrespect to his son-in-law and his wife, Lillian, whom forces him to move in to the luxurious residence together. He stays still in the old house because he thinks that all the enchanting events have happened in there; his happy family, the blue lake, and the French garden at his backyard that was built since he first time created the house.

One of problems which make St. Peter overrated is when Marsellus claims that *The Blue Mesa* which is Tom Outland's discovery is worthy because of his effort to make it famous. *The Blue Mesa* is a place which has treasure that contains diamond and ancient sculptures in Old Mexico; it is very valuable and commercial. St. Peter does not want to sell it yet but Rosamund whom has the Tom Outland's will, trade it and use the money. St. Peter refuses to receive Outland's money even Lillian says that he deserves it since he helps his student to do *The Blue Mesa* research. That head of family decides to live himself alone in the old house with Augusta, a family's maid. He asks why his happiness life like the previous time is not nice to him anymore. He seems to get frustrated with his present life after his family members change to be somebody else. He lives in unhealthy lives, tries to consuming more liquor and isolates himself alone.

Finally, he is seeing a doctor for his healthy examination and the doctor says that nothing is wrong to him. He goes to home with a full of thought why he cannot maintain the happiness as the time before, why everybody forgets about the meaning of happiness itself and start to worshipping the prosperity. And that night, he goes to bed alone without turn off the stove's flame, deliberately, when all his family members have a trip to France. He gives up with his life and expects to end himself. Fortunately, Augusta saves his life from the burning house. On the following day, his maid asks him whether he really want to finish his life, however, St. Peter says a lie. He realizes that suicide is the first stupid thing he has ever done during his whole years. At the final of the story, he explains to himself that he never lives his life as glad as before, maybe his chance to have

happiness is gone. He decides to manage the present condition in order to keep his happiness to stay on even it is not as perfect as he expects.