

SYNOPSIS

The Real Thing is a play which is set in the early 1980s. The theme of this play is marriage, fidelity, high art and pop culture. In the Act 1 scene 1, Max is in the living room waiting for his wife, Charlotte. Max is an architect. When her wife comes home, Max accuses her for having an affair. He found the evidence which shows that Charlotte lied to him. He found Charlotte's ticket left in her drawer at home.

In scene two, the writer realizes that what has been seen in previous scene is actually a play within the play, John Ford's *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* within Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*. Max is an actor who is married to Annie, an actress. Scene two takes place in Henry's house. While Henry is listening to the music, Annie and Max visit his house. Then, all of them are involved in a serious conversation about Brodie, a soldier who is not revealed in the beginning of the play. He is only revealed in the end of the play. While whipping up a batch of Hawaiian dip, Max cuts his finger and staunches his blood with Henry's handkerchief. Then he promptly gives it back to Henry.

In the third scene, Max confronts Annie with Henry's handkerchief. He finds it in the car. Annie admits that she is in love with Henry. Max falls apart after knowing Annie's affair with Henry. Scene four portrays that Annie is already living with Henry in his apartment. Here, Annie tries to make Henry jealous by telling Henry about one of her fellow actors, a young one. Henry does not seem to care enough because according to Henry, there is no enough reason to

be jealous . He thinks that he is better than Gerald. Annie tries to make Henry jealous because she is jealous with Charlotte and Henry's writing.

Act two resumes the action two years later. Before going off to perform in Glasgow, Annie is trying to interest Henry in a play written by Brodie but Henry is not interested in that. According to him, Brodie's work is poor and boring. In the next scene, Annie is flirting to a young actor named Billie. This is part of John Ford's *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*

In the next scene, Henry visits his ex-wife to meet his daughter, Debbie. In Charlotte's house, Henry reminisces about their marriage. They talk about love and marital infidelity. Scene eight is the rehearsal of John Ford's *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*. In scene nine, Annie is confronted by Henry. Henry accuses Annie for having an affair with another man. He wants Annie to tell the truth.

In scene ten, Annie is involved in Brodie's script. The last scene talks about Brodie. He is free from the prison. Then Annie and Brodie have a conversation about Henry's play. This play ends when Annie gets a phone call from Max. Max tells her that he is getting re-married soon.