

SYNOPSIS

Carrie leaves her family home in Columbia in City to travel to Chicago by train. As she parts from the family, she is filled with fears, tears, and regrets. However, she keeps on making her way to the big city. On the way to Chicago, she encounters Charles Drouet, a handsome young traveling salesman. Drouet's easy manner and flashy clothes assure Carrie to make a warm respond to the man. Carrie conceives that he is a person of wealth and influence. As soon as the train arrives at Chicago, Drouet and Carrie make an appointment to meet again in the following week, for Drouet intends to take her to look at the sight-seeing of the city.

Minnie Hanson, Carrie's sister, picks Carrie up at the station. Together they go to the flat where Minnie lives with Sven, her husband, and the baby. Since it is thought that Carrie can reduce the Hanson's expenses by paying her room, the couple invites her to stay with them. Carrie is enthusiastic over finding work in Chicago. She fantasizes herself become a part of the hustle and bustle of the city. When she at last gets a job in a shoe factory at four and a half dollars a week, her hopes are rather restrained.

Carrie has to accept that she should give up some of her excellent plans. The Hansons disagree of her wish to visit the theatre.

Carrie is reminded by Minnie that she will have hardly enough money left for car fare after used for paying her room. Carrie is so sorry that she cannot invite Drouet to come to the flat since it is too small.

As the cold winter creeps on, Carrie cannot keep up with the hard work at the factory. Eventually, long hours, hard work, and inadequate clothing which are combined with the unpleasant treatment of the Hansons bring about Carrie's illness and losing her job. In this regard, Hanson intends to send Carrie back to her hometown that is absolutely opposed to Carrie's longing.

One day as she wanders about downtown looking for a new job, she encounters Drouet on the street. He buys her an excellent meal and lends her twenty dollars to buy proper clothes. At last, he suggests Carrie move from the Hansons and take a room of her own, offering to sustain her until she is settled. Soon, Carrie and Drouet are living together in a comfortable apartment. As time goes by, Carrie realizes that Drouet is not really an ideal figure like she has firstly imagined. He is selfish as well as insensitive, yet he is also kind and generous. Drouet intends to educate the untutored girl in the ways of society; teaching her to dress and behave fashionably.

One evening the young couple receive a visit of Hurstwood, a friend of Drouet, who is also a manager of a thriving bar. He is both mature and attractive; and finds Carrie young and pretty. On the other hand, Carrie is fascinated by his imposing appearance. The two are immediately struck by a fascination for each other and meet together every time Drouet is out of town.

Without Carrie's knowledge, Drouet involves the girl in an amateur performance. To the surprise of Carrie and her two admirers, she obtains a great success. The following day, Hurstwood expresses his love to Carrie and she gladly responds.

Finally, Drouet finds out that Carrie and Hurstwood have been seeing each other plenty of times. He, therefore, leaves the flat to frighten the girl. Meanwhile, Hurstwood's shrewd and selfish wife accuses Hurstwood of cheating on her and initiates to have a divorce.

One night when he stays late in his office to finish some paperwork, Hurstwood discovers that the safe has been left unlocked with over ten thousand dollars in it. While he is debating with himself whether to take the money, the door of the safe slams shut as he holds the entire amount in his hand. He is frightened and decides to flee. He rushes to Carrie's flat, tells her that Drouet has

been injured and wishes to see her and takes her away with him on a train to Canada.

Carrie is filled with anger at Hurstwood now due to the fact that she is informed by Drouet about the former's marriage state. Hurstwood defends that he willingly leaves his wife in order to be with Carrie. She accepts Hurstwood's explanation as true and decides to stay with him if he agrees to marry her.

In Canada, Hurstwood is followed by a private detective and returns most of the stolen money on one condition that he will not be prosecuted by his employers. The couple are married in a hurried ceremony, although the marriage is not legal.

The couple then are headed to New York, and occupy a comfortable apartment. Hurstwood invests his little money in a second-rate saloon. He and Carrie held a regular life in New York, without having entertainment outside or encountering anyone.

Carrie establishes a relationship with her neighbor, Mrs. Vance, who is a young lady with fashionable taste and fine manners. Through her association with Mrs. Vance and her cousin Bob Ames, Carrie begins to realize that she is not too content with her present condition as a common housewife.

Hurstwood's business finally ruins and he is confronted with the fact that he is unable to get job. After a while he quits his

searching and merely stays in the flat without doing anything useful while his savings is close to end. He becomes a man with no pride and dignity. He scarcely ever goes out of the flat.

When the condition of the household becomes unbearable, Carrie decides to apply for job. She finally gets a job in a Broadway opera as a chorus girl. Her position as well as her salary rises constantly hereafter. Carrie then fixes her decision to get separated from Hurstwood, for she finds him as a good-for-nothing man.

In a few years Carrie reaches out fame as a star of the stage. On the other hand, Hurstwood's condition becomes more and more pathetic until he finally commits suicide.

At the time of Hurstwood's suicide, Carrie has achieved material success she has dreamt for a long time: affluence, well-established position, and fame. However, she still feels lonely and dissatisfied. It is obvious that she is unable to enjoy the true happiness she originally looks forward.