

SYNOPSIS

Charles Bovary was the only son of a middle-class family. He did not have great intelligence, but he was diligent. He lived in contradictions between his father - a cruel, unfaithful, and tyrannical - and his mother - an overprotecting mother . He was forced by his mother to attend a medical school without interest for he just pleased her. After he became a doctor, his mother help him to get practice in Tostes and marry him to Heloise Dubuc, an ugly wealthy widow who was several years older than him. Charles had hope that marriage would bring him freedom from the his mother domineering, but soon he realised that his wife was just the same as his mother.

One day, he was called to 18 miles out the country to set a broken leg. When he arrived at the house, he was struck by the beauty of the patient's daughter, Emma Rouault. After setting the broken leg of old Rouault, he promised to come back in three days. In fact, he came back the next day and went twice a week regularly in long ride. His wife finally made inquiries upon his visits, and found that the patient had a beautiful daughter. She made him swear not to go there anymore. In the mean time, Charles' parents found that Heloise was not as rich as they thought, they had a violent argument and Heloise was very upset about it. A week later she got a stroke and died.

After the death of his wife Charles became a regular guest of the Rouault. Emma's father recognised what kind of feeling that Charles had to his daughter. Soon, he gave a consent for Charles to marry his daughter after Charles was out of the mourning.

Afterwards, Charles took Emma to his house in Tostes. Charles was very happy, he never thought that life could be so pleasant. But Emma wondered why she couldn't be happy as she expected from marriage. At the time when the boredom came, Emma recalled her days in the convent. She mostly interested in the romantic matters of the church instead of the essential of being sent in the convent.

Day after day Emma noted that Charles was so dull, while she was expecting a man who could introduce her to exciting activities and passions. One day, they were invited to a ball at the chateau of the Marquis d'Andervilliers, the patient of Charles. The Marquis was far above them in social rank, but he wanted to demonstrate his gratitude for the service that Charles had been given him. Emma received the invitation with enthusiasms. The events caused a deep impression of a noble society. Emma went down into the fantasies and dreamed of living in Paris, among the nobility. Life became so unbearable for her. As the fantasies went too far, Emma became physically ill, the doctor of Rouen suggested a change of scene for the sake of Emma's health. Charles was willing to sacrifice his prosperous practice in

Tostes for Emma's welfare. When they moved to Yonville, Emma was pregnant.

In Yonville, they made an acquaintance to Homais -the apothecary-, Leon - a law clerk -, and many others. Homais lived across the street, he enjoyed talking about science, philosophy, and politics in his limited intelligence. On Sundays Bovary usually visited the Homais family, Leon was always there, they became more attracted each other. Emma gave birth to a baby girl called Berthe, a baby that she actually hoped as a boy for boy had more freedom than girl. One day she realised that Leon loved her ; she began to complain about the cruel fate that had separated them. She became more disgusted by Charles commonplace appearance and personality. The frustration for realising there was no future for her love to Leon made her compensate being an ideal wife and mother. To solve her problem, she went to the church to see Abbey Bournisien, but unfortunately the priest kept on busy in managing the children instead of listening to Emma's despair. Leon decided to go to Rouen after realising there was no good in expecting love from a married woman. Emma became more melancholy to faced the reality.

One day, she met Rudolphe Boulanger, a rich bachelor who took his servant to be cured by Charles Bovary. He soon attracted to Emma's beauty and arranged a plan to see her. They met again in Agricultural Show to gave the prize to the winner of various people. He declared his love for Emma



the middle of the Prefect speeches about the morality and government. They became more intimate one another. She thought she found a new happiness, the same as one in the novels. She bought many gifts for him that caused her to have a plenty of unpaid bill. Soon, Rudolphe realised Emma's imprudent behaviour for she offered to go away from Yonville together. Rudolphe wrote a note to Emma that he could not do it for Emma's sake. Emma's health was worse after the rejection. Charles took her to Rouen to cure her health. Unfortunately, they met Leon. The memory suddenly came back.. They arranged the next meeting. They planned a rendezvous in a cathedral. Emma spent the next days in Rouen with Leon. This occasion was like a honeymoon for them. They soon arrange a meeting regularly by telling Charles that she had a piano course. For the meeting with Leon, she spent much money so that she had many unpaid bills. She was going down into a deep debt. When finally the creditors asked her to pay her bill, she frantically went anywhere she thought she could get the money. Unfortunately, they all were not doing so good. She even got an embarrassing experience while asking for a help to Maitre Guillamin, a lawyer. He was willing to give her money as long as she would give her body. She rejected the idea in despair. Even Rudolphe and Leon could do nothing due to her problem. Being desperate, she finally took her life by swallowing an arsenic.

After she died, Charles was desperate, he became more desperate to find a letter from Rudolphe and Leon to his wife. He was shocked by his wife's infidelity. He died in grief and left their daughter, Berthe in poverty.