

CHAPTER III
S Y N O P S I S

Joe Keller is a successful manufacturer of military aids. He has a loving wife, Kate and two grown up sons. The older is Chris, while the younger is Larry. During the war both of them joined up the military services.

As a father, Joe Keller loves his family dearly. His main concern in doing business in such away till he succeed is that he wants to give it to his sons. So that in the future they'll not have difficulties in life since they only have to continue their father's business. He is an ambitious business man. His mind, however, is filled with the ideas of getting as much money as possible.

Distinct with their father, Chris and Larry Keller are more interested in the principle of universal brotherhood and human responsibility. Returned from the war, Chris having been converted to the principle of human responsibility, partly as the result of the self-sacrifice of men in war and of his own culpability for the death of his platoon. Unfortunately, Larry never come back. He's reported missing in the war mission, and presumed dead.

Someday, Ann Deever comes to Joe Keller's house because of Chris's invitation. She is the daughter of Joe Keller's business partner, Steve Deever, and actually Ann

Deever is Larry's fiancée. Ann and her family moved to New York after his father was put in jail. She arrives to become engaged to the dead boy's brother, Chris. Chris loves Ann so much and he wants to marry her even though he knows that the girl is his brother's fiancée. However, it is not easy for him to make real his desire. The first trouble comes from his own mother, Kate, since she has refused to accept the fact of her son's death. Kate believes that Larry is still alive. She's so sure that he will come back due to the fact that many soldiers turned up, as reported by Newspaper, after missing in the war even longer than Larry. Because of her conviction, Kate doesn't allow Chris to marry Ann. She thinks that if she gives her permission to Chris for marrying Ann, it means she believes in Larry's death.

Meanwhile, Ann's brother, George, arrives after visiting his father at the prison. He comes to confront Joe Keller due to the fact that Joe Keller had denied his responsibility at the trial which leads Steve Deever to be put in jail. Then, George tells Chris that Joe Keller had done a crime action. He told his business partner to ship the cracked cylinder heads to the Army which finally cause the death of twenty-one pilots.

Realizing their position, slyly Joe and Kate try to seduce George from his threatening demand for truth.

Joe Keller almost succeeds in this verbal enterprise; he woos George with nostalgic reminiscence while describing his father with a show of gruff honesty. Then, Kate ruins her husband's plan through an incriminating slip of the tongue. Joe Keller stubbornly conceals the truth, Kate frantically evades it, and George persistently drives to uncover it. And though he fails to wring confession from Joe the imminent marriage does. This case makes Kate feel that her efforts to prevent the marriage will be in vain. And Chris's marriage with Ann looks like the signal of the end of her hope.

At last, all the secrets and the wicked deeds must be exposed. Being argued by Chris, Kate reveals Joe Keller's guilty finally. She said that Larry is alive, because if he's dead, his father killed him. Then, Chris insists on his father for telling the truth. Eventually, Joe Keller admits his deeds but, he still defends himself on the ground of sound business procedure and the family responsibility which he claims as his motivating force. This fact, of course, disappointed Chris and makes him angry. He feels ashamed to the society and to the country because of his father's deeds. But he doesn't know what to do despite Kate who still forbids him to marry Ann who formerly Larry's girl.

At that very critical situation, unexpectedly, Ann

shows Larry's letter which's written at the day before he died. The letter indicates that Larry committed suicide after knowing that his father being convicted. Because of his father's way of conducting business, he cannot help feeling guilty to the country as well as to his fiancée, Ann, the daughter of Steve Deever whom his father has wronged. In his anger, being unable to kill his own father, Larry kills himself by crashing his plane to the sea.

After reading Larry's letter, Kate able to accept the fact of her son's death. But, this letter also leads Joe Keller to realize that his sons wanted him to die for expiating his sins. Stunned into accepting responsibility for his actions, Joe Keller shoots himself finally.

