

SYNOPSIS

Henry Potter was a fifty-year-old man who was rich and bored. He was sick of people around him. He was sick of everything around him; the people, the activities even his wealth. He felt lost and empty in his luxurious life. Henry Potter felt that he has done everything in his life. He felt that there is nothing more he can do. However, he is not satisfy with his own life. He is not happy with everything he has and also with his relationship with his own wife. There is no passion, no warmth, no understanding about each other and no attention from her. However, he loved her very much and did not want another woman in his life.

In connection with his condition, Henry Potter wanted to enter another stage of existence. He wanted to change himself and his life. Nevertheless, Henry Potter cannot figure out what thing he really needed. He just wanted to go out from his boring life. This situation disturbs his mind and influence his emotion. He felt there is something heavy in his heart that must be released. Henry Potter has inner conflict in his heart.

One night, Henry Potter accompanied his wife, Ethel to go to the theater to see the play. Because he did not like the play presented on the stage, he left the theater

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and his wife alone in that building. Coincidentally, in the lobby of the theater, he met the director of that play, Aubrey Dane who also had the same feeling about the play. Then, they went to the cafe near the theater and had some coffee. They talked about the play which had just see and about themselves.

His chance meeting with Aubrey Dane thrust him into a totally new world. Henry Potter decided to back a play which is directed by Aubrey Dane. He made that decision since he thought that it was something different and something new for him. It is an adventure for Henry Potter. However, gradually that decision took over his life and challenged all his beliefs. Furthermore, Henry Potter was caught up in a conflict happened among three persons: Elena, the amoral star of the play; Aubrey, the enthusiastic young director; and Stella, Aubrey's wise and gifted wife.

As a producer of the play, Henry Potter has to cooperate with Aubrey Dane as the director. Both of them are different in most of the things, in way of life, in way of thinking even in running the show. This condition caused them having conflicts. Henry Potter started to think that he did not belong to the theater world although for some people especially theater people, it is a very beautiful world in which they can be somebody that they

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wanna be but not in their real life.

One night, in the rehearsal, Henry Potter could not stand with the love scene which is done many times. Then, he left the theater but suddenly, he felt that his legs has touched a body of the woman who was sitting on the stair. That is the first time for him to talk with Elena. They went to the restaurant to have a hot drink and Elena started talking about her feeling about Aubrey Dane. From this moment, Henry Potter starts having an intimate relationship with Elena. For another people, Elena is a woman who always wants to be loved. She needs a man to be praised and loved, and Aubrey Dane is the right person for her. As a director, Aubrey Dane thought that he has an obligation to release Elena's emotion, her inner self; and in order to do that, he has to have an intimate even a sexual relationship with Elena. Elena liked the way Aubrey Dane treated her but, on the other hand, she was angry when Aubrey acted cold to her when she could not play her part properly. For Elena, Henry Potter is a figure that can make her stronger in facing Aubrey Dane. For Henry Potter, Elena is just a place where he can release his passion and get warmth that he has never felt with Ethel.

Day after day, Henry Potter more realized that actually, theater world is not his world. He often has conflicts with Aubrey Dane since he thought that

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everything Aubrey has done is against his beliefs. When he saw that Aubrey Dane kissed Elena and call her 'darling', he accused that Aubrey has made a business tampering with the emotions of sex for the success of the play, through the torment of a woman. When he saw Aubrey Dane made a chalk mark on stage, he accused him as a dictator who treated his actors as mannikins.

One day, there is a conflict between Aubrey Dane and Elena Lonigan. Elena told about it to Henry Potter and wanted him to fire Aubrey and changed the story of the play. In the afternoon, Aubrey went to Henry's office and discussed that problem with him. To convince Henry Potter not to change the story, Aubrey, then, introduced Stella as the playwright and his wife to Henry Potter.

As Aubrey's wife, Stella told much about her husband to Henry Potter. She said that she wrote the play for Aubrey Dane so that she can enter his world and they can communicate each other. Theater is the only way for her to be closer to her husband. Through Stella, Henry Potter more understand about Aubrey Dane. He starts admiring Stella and also pity her. He becomes her best friend and the one who give her a support to be stronger in her household.

All of the things experienced by Henry Potter has made him realized that actually, he has a very different

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life with them. He has to realize that he has already had his own life. His conflicts with Aubrey Dane has made him more realize about his real life. It also give a clue that actually there are differences between Henry Potter and those theater people.

In his adventure in the theater world and in his socialization with Aubrey Dane and Elena Lonigan, Henry Potter always remebered his wife. Ethel was on cruise alone to South America and Henry Potter refused to come along since he has made a deal with Aubrey Dane to work together to produce a play, a different play. For Henry Potter, Ethel has her own charisma. She has shaped his life by her simple way of thinking. By remebering Ethel, Henry Potter more realized that he has his own life and he did not belong to the theater world.

For Henry Potter, the theater world is just world of dream and everybody in it keeps dreaming; even he wondered whether they could come into life again. Besides, Henry Potter started thinking that there was no investment on earth as foolish, as this one which depended upon men and women like Aubrey Dane and Elena. Having the situation like that, Henry Potter started missing his wife. He wanted her to come back from her cruise. He knew right now that he loved her and she is the best woman in his life. Henry Potter wanted to come back to his old life and to

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finish his adventure. Then, he called his wife and asked her to go home.

APPENDIX B

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF PEARL S. BUCK**

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PEARL S. BUCK

Pearl S. Buck was born Pearl Comfort Sydenstricker on June 26, 1892, in the family home at Hillsboro, West Virginia, to Absalom and Caroline (Stulting) Sydenstricker. Her parents were missionaries in China. After five months she was taken to China. Her parents' marriage was not a particularly happy one because of their disparate natures. Her mother, fun-loving and witty, was torn by her devotion to God; her father, single-minded and zealous, had success with his mission but not with his family. Buck grew up in Chinkiang, an inland city on the Yangtze river. In 1900, during the Boxer Rebellion, her family was forced to flee and she experienced the horrors of racism. Her education included one year at boarding school in Shanghai and four years at Randolph-Macon Women's College in Virginia.

In 1917, she married John Lossing Buck, an agricultural specialist. They lived in Nanhsuchon in Anhwei province. After five years, they moved southward to Nanking, where her husband taught agriculture and she taught English at the university. She published her first article in *The Atlantic* (January, 1923); "In China, Too" described the growing Western influence in China, particularly on Chinese youth.

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Tragedy struck Buck's life with the birth of Carol, her only natural child, who was mentally retarded (she later adopted eight children). She took Carol to the United States for medical treatment in 1925. When her husband took a year's leave of absence, Buck studied English at Cornell University and received her master's degree. Her first published novel, *East Wind: West Wind*, combined two short stories, one of which was originally published in 1925 in *Asia* magazine. On March 2, 1931, *The Good Earth* appeared, creating a literary sensation.

The Bucks were divorced in 1932, and that same year Pearl married her publisher, Richard J. Walsh, president of John Day and editor of *Asia* magazine. Their marriage lasted until his death in 1960. Buck loved both United States and China throughout her life, serving as an intermediary between the two.

Buck's own humanitarian efforts began in 1941 with the founding of the East and West Association, which endeavored to increase understanding between diverse cultures. During World War II, Buck actively spoke against racism, against the internment of Japanese-Americans, and against the yielding of democratic privileges during wartime.

In 1949, she and her husband founded Welcome House, an adoption agency for Amerasians children. In 1954, her

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letter of protest to *The New York Times* led to the changing of a policy which put immigrants in federal prisons with criminals. In 1964, she founded the Pearl S. Buck Foundation to care for Amerasians children who remain overseas. She also worked for the Training School, a school for the retarded in Vineland, New Jersey. For her many humanitarian efforts, she received the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Wesley Award for Distinguished Service to Humanity and more than a dozen honorary degrees from American colleges and universities.

Because her American novels *This Proud and Other Gods* were not well received, Buck assumed the pen name "John Sedge" to write with freedom on American subjects. Between 1945 and 1953, five novels were published under this name while she wrote Asian stories her own name. She continued writing, such as short stories, pamphlets, magazine articles, literary history, biographies, play (including a musical), an Oriental cook-book, etc. By the time of her death on March 6, 1973, she had written more than eighty novels and novellas.