

APPENDICES

Synopsys of Willa Cther's A Lost Lady

Captain Forrester is a contractor who has built hundreds of miles of road for Burlington. His second wife is a beautiful woman who is twenty five years younger than him. One day, Niel Hebert, the nephew of Captain Forrester's lawyer, comes to the Forrester's house to have a picnic on the Forrester's land.

Niel and his friends try to save a woodpecker which has been shot by Ivy Peters in the Forest. However, Niel falls down from the tree and his friends take him to the Forester's house, where he gets good treatment from Mrs. Forrester. Niel is enchanted by Mrs. Forrester's chram and kindness.

Several years later, he is invited with his uncles, Judge Pommeroy, to her house for dinner. Niel spends a lot of time that winter with this family. One day, a telegram arrives and informs them that a small bank in which Captain Forrester has invested a lot of money is declared bankrupt. Consequently, he is forced to pay out his own money in order to guarantee their customer's money in the bank.

The next day, when Mrs. Forrester goes to wake her husband up for lunch, she finds that her husband has suffered from a stroke. Niel finds out that Ellinger, a bachelor of forty who comes and meets with Mrs. Forrester at the dinner for the Ogdens family, is Mrs. Forrester's secret lover. His image of her soon changes.

Two years later, Niel returns to Sweet Water. He meets Ivy Peters, who has become a businessman. He tells Niel that he has drained the marsh and turned it into wheat fields to pay for the Forrester's rent. Ivy adds that Mrs. Forrester has started drinking and laughs about the fact that the Forrester family now has the same low financial level as everyone else.

When Captain Forrester suffers from another stroke, Mrs. Forrester is unable to take care of him anymore. He dies in early December. Since the captain's death, Ivy Peters spends much more time at the Forrester's place and flirts with Mrs. Forrester. She hopes to sell the house and move to California.

Niel comes back to the city. He finds that Ivy Peters has taken control of the entire Forrester property because Mrs. Forrester does not have enough money to pay off her husband's debts. Mrs. Forrester marries a rich Englishman who has bad manners, and she dies three years after her marriage.

Biography of Willa Cather

Willa Sibert Cather was born on December 7, 1873 in Back Creek Valley in Virginia. She was the eldest child of Charles Cather, a deputy Sheriff, and Mary Boak Cather. In 1883, her family moved to a farm near Red Cloud, Nebraska. During her childhood, Willa Cather was tutored at home by her grandmother, a well-read woman. Later she attended a frontier high school.

Willa graduated from Red Cloud School in 1890. At the age of seventeen, she entered the University of Nebraska, where she contributed to the local paper by writing columns on criticisms of plays and concerts while studying journalism. After her graduation in 1895, she left her family to take a job as a journalist with a Pittsburgh newspaper.

She was also sending reports of events to the *Nebraska State Journal*. Between 1901 and 1906, however, she turned to teaching in two high schools in Pittsburgh. She wrote poetry and short stories as well. Her first collections of poems and short stories are called *April Twilight* (1903) and *The Troll Garden* (1905). They were both favourably received.

In 1906 she again took a journalistic appointment on the editorial staff of *Mc Clure's Magazine* in New York. She stayed there until 1912. Willa Cather began her serious writing with a cycle of novels concerning the Nebraska Frontier. They are *O Pioneers!* (1913), *The Song of the Lark* (1915) and *My Antonia* (1918), which is her masterpiece. She also wrote *One of Ours* (1922), for which she won a Pulitzer Prize. Some of her other works are *Youth and Bright Medusa* (1920), *A Lost Lady* (1923), *The Professor's House* (1925), *My Mortal Enemy* (1926), *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (1927), *Shadows on the Rock*

(1931), *Obscure Destinies* (1923), *Lucy Gayheart* (1935) and *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* (1940).

Cather also wrote some essays. *Not under Forty* (1936) is her collection of essays, presenting the author's theory of fiction. Her writing was influenced by some of writers, one of whom Sarah Orne Jewett. Besides obtaining a Pulitzer Prize, Willa Cather had also received the Howells Medal for fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1930. She was presented a gold medal by the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1944.

Willa Cather maintained an active writing career, publishing novels and short stories for many years until her death on April 24, 1947. She was buried in New Hampshire.