

APPENDICES

Synopsis of The Day of The Locust

Tod Hackett is recruited from Yale School of Fine Arts to work as a set and costume designer in National Films in Hollywood. Tod observes some groups of people who come to California to die and portrays them in his painting “The Burning of Los Angeles”. When in Hollywood, Tod admires Faye Greener, a beautiful movie extra who lives downstairs.

Homer Simpson has recently moved to Hollywood from Iowa on his doctor’s suggestion because he has pneumonia. He does not work because he has saved enough money. In Hollywood, Homer meets Faye, and he is very attracted to her.

After Faye’s father dies, she works as a prostitute to pay for her father’s funeral. She has moved into Homer’s house on the arrangement that Homer will support her until she becomes a star.

One day, Faye throws a party in Homer’s house and invites Tod, his screenwriter friend Claude Estee, Abe Kusich the dwarf bookie, and also Miguel and Earle, the Mexican. Homer wants to share with Tod about his feeling for Faye, but it is very difficult for him to explain his feeling. In the early morning, Homer and Earle discover Miguel in bed with Faye, and it causes Earle and Miguel to fight against each other.

Faye's attitude hurts Homer so that he decides to go back to Iowa. Tod tries to hold him back in the crowd of Hollywood when a boy who lives in Homer's neighborhood throws a stone that hits Homer. Homer gets up and jumps on the boy's back with both of his feet until the boy dies. The situation in the crowd that turns into a riot is the same as the atmosphere in Tod's painting.

Biography of Nathanael West

Nathanael West is an American writer who satirized the American dream and saw that liberty and freedom had become a bizarre nightmare. He was fascinated by what he called 'the secret inner life of the masses', where the power of unfulfilled desires always threatens to turn into malignant violence.

Nathanael West was born by the name of Nathan Weinstein in New York City on October 17, 1903. His interest in the arts, books, and theatre make him reluctant to follow his father in business career. He studied at Brown University.

In 1924 West graduated with a Ph.D. degree and changed his name legally to Nathanael West. He moves to Paris and he wrote his first novel, The Dream Life of Balso Snell (1931), a fantasy about western civilization set in the innards of the Trojan horse. Back in the United States, West managed small hotels, Kenmore Hall from 1927 to 1930 and the Sutton Club Hotel from 1930 to 1933.

West continued with a similar theme of good aims gone wrong in his next novel, A Cool Million (1934), an attack on the optimistic rags-to-riches ideal.

West moved to Hollywood in 1933, to work on a film version of Miss Lonelyhearts. He returned in 1935. He remained in Hollywood for the rest of his life, working as a scriptwriter for smaller studios like Monogram. During this time West published The Day of the Locust (1939), a study of the fragility of illusion. West and his wife were tragically killed in a car accident in 1940.

Source: "Nathanael West"