

APPENDICES

Summary

Sister Carrie

Carrie, 18 years old, moves to her sister's house in Chicago in the hope of getting a better life. Unfortunately, life in a big city is not really friendly for her. The job she gets is far from her dream; moreover, the Hansons (her sister's family) are not really warm to her. She is driven to pay the rent with her meager salary. Being disappointed, she flings herself to Drouet, who opens his arms and offers her the pleasures of life.

Everything is all right until Drouet introduces her to his friend, Hurstwood, the manager of a top bar in the city. They fall in love at first sight. Finally, they cheat upon Drouet. When Drouet knows this, he becomes furious, but he still loves Carrie and wants her to go back to him. Ironically, Hurstwood deceives Carrie and takes her to New York with him. There, Carrie and Hurstwood get married.

Hurstwood opens a bar to make a living in New York. Things are fine until his partner kicks him out. He only has \$700 left and struggles to find a new job, but nothing works. Carrie loses interest in him as he becomes poorer every

day. She decides to earn money by herself by working in the chorus line on Broadway.

Her career is a success as she is promoted to lead the chorus line, then she is chosen to be an actress. After her success, she becomes bored with Hurstwood and leaves him. Hurstwood finally becomes a beggar and commits suicide by gassing himself in his hotel room. Carrie reaches her dream but feels unhappy as she feels that her life is hollow.

McTeague

McTeague is a dentist on Polk Street in San Francisco. His life is plain but happy till he falls in love with Trina, Marcus' cousin, whom Marcus also loves. Marcus gives her to McTeague but, in his heart, he is not sincere in letting her go, especially when Trina wins \$5,000 and marries McTeague.

Time goes by and Trina becomes infatuated with money. The miserly wife even refuses to help McTeague to rent a better house for them. Trina does not want to use her \$5,000 savings. It makes McTeague disappointed.

Then, filled with hatred, Marcus ruins McTeague's career as a dentist by telling the authorities that McTeague does not have any formal education from college. Losing his job, McTeague's life becomes more and more pitiful. Furthermore, at this difficult moment, Trina still refuses to use her \$5,000 to help McTeague. Finally, he steals Trina's savings (\$400) and runs away.

When McTeague returns, asking help once more, Trina refuses. Feeling angry and under the control of whisky, he beats her to death. He also takes her \$5,000. The police soon run after him.

In his runaway, McTeague goes to the mining community where he had lived in the past. However, the fear of being pursued by the police forces him to head south. On his way, he meets Marcus, who also runs after him after knowing about the murder. They fight severely. McTeague wins the fight by killing Marcus. Unfortunately, before Marcus dies, he has cuffed McTeague's hand to his own. Being alone in the remote desert, McTeague's death is clear: since he is cuffed together with the dead body of Marcus, he cannot go anywhere to save his own life.

Biography

Theodore Dreiser

Theodore Dreiser was the son of a poor couple, John Paul and Sarah Maria Dreiser. He was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, on August 27, 1871. He was the ninth of ten children.

Dreiser left home when he was 16 and worked at whatever jobs he could find. With the help of his former teacher, he spent the year 1889-1890 at Indiana University. As a reader, the impact of such writers as Hawthorne, Poe, Balzac, Herbert Spencer, and Freud influenced his thought very much.

In 1892 Dreiser started to work for the Chicago Globe, and moved to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. During this period he wrote the short story "Nigger Jeff". The story appeared in *Ainslee* (November 1901), a small monthly journal, and was collected in *Free and Other Stories* (1918). In 1894 Dreiser published an article, "Ten Foot-Drop", in the *Republic*. This was about a lynching outside St. Louis. However, as a novelist, Dreiser made his debut with *Sister Carrie*.

In the next 35 years, he wrote some novels, such as *Jennie Gerhardt* (1911), *The Financier* (1912), *The Titan* (1914), *The Hand* (1921), *The Stoic* (1945). Among them, the most distinguished one was, *An American Tragedy* (1925), which was adapted for screen twice. Dreiser married twice and died in Hollywood, California, on December 28, 1945.

Source: McMillan

Frank Norris

Benjamin Franklin Norris was born in Chicago in 1870. At the age of 14 Norris and his family moved to San Francisco. He wrote about the Boer War for the *San Francisco Chronicle* but was deported from the country after being captured by the Boer Army.

Norris returned to San Francisco where he joined the staff of the magazine called “The Wave”. A sea story written by Norris was serialized in the magazine and was later published as a novel, *Moran of the Lady Letty* (1898).

Norris continued to work as a journalist and reported the Spanish-American War for *McClure's Magazine*. This was followed by a couple of novels, *McTeague: A Story of San Francisco* (1899) and *A Man's Woman* (1900). Norris also began work on a trilogy, *The Epic of Wheat*. The first book, *The Octopus* (1901), described the struggle between farming and railroad interests in California. In August 1902, *Everybody's Magazine* published an article by Norris, “A Deal in Wheat”, exposing corrupt business dealings in agriculture.

Frank Norris died of peritonitis following an appendix operation on 25th October, 1902. He is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, California. The second book in his trilogy, *The Pitt*, about the manipulation of the wheat market, was published posthumously in 1903. The third part, *The Wolf*, was never written. Also published posthumously was *The Responsibility of the Novelist* (1903).

Source: "Frank Norris"