

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Cansu Yersal, B.A.

The Student Prince in Old Heidelberg (1927)

Ernst Lubitsch (1892-1947)

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OVERVIEW

Auteur: Ernst Lubitsch was a German-American film director, producer, writer, and actor. He is famous for urbane comedies of manners. With the growth of his prestige, his films came to be known as having *the Lubitsch touch*. Lubitsch was born in 1892 in Berlin, as the son of Simon Lubitsch, a tailor, and Anna (née) Lindenstaedt. His family was Ashkenazi Jewish. He did not enter his father's tailoring business, and by 1911, he was a member of Max Reinhardt's Deutsches Theater. Lubitsch was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Director three times for *The Patriot* (1928), *The Love Parade* (1929), and *Heaven Can Wait* (1943). In 1946, he received an Honorary Academy Award for his contributions to the art of motion pictures. His best-known works are *Trouble in Paradise* (1932), *Design for Living* (1933), *Ninotchka* (1939), *The Shop Around the Corner* (1940), *To Be or Not to Be* (1942) and *Heaven Can Wait* (1943). Lubitsch died of a heart attack on November 30, 1947, in Hollywood at the age of 55.

Film: *The Student Prince in Old Heidelberg*, also known as *The Student Prince* and *Old Heidelberg*, is a 1927 silent drama film based on the 1901 play *Old Heidelberg* by Wilhelm Meyer-Förster. The film stars Ramon Novarro and Norma Shearer. *The Student Prince in Old Heidelberg* has had a big impact on film history. Many critics consider it one of Lubitsch's finest silent films. Nevertheless, during its original theatrical run, it was far from a unanimous success. Mordaunt Hall wrote in a review for *The New York Times* that: 'Mr. Novarro is natural and earnest, but he is a little too Latin in appearance for the role. Norma Shearer is attractive as Kathi. She, however, does not seem to put her soul into the part. She, too, acts well, but, like Mr. Novarro, she does not respond, as other players have done, to Mr. Lubitsch's direction.'

Historical background: *The Student Prince in Old Heidelberg* is based on *Old Heidelberg* (German: *Alt Heidelberg*) which is a German romantic play by Wilhelm Meyer-Förster. The play itself was based on Meyer-Förster's own 1898 novel *Karl Heinrich*. The play is about Prince Karl from Saxony who goes to Heidelberg to study and falls in love with Käthie, an innkeeper's daughter, but has to give his love up when his father dies, and he is called to return to his homeland and rule as King. The play was a major international success and became one of the most-performed plays in Germany during the first half of the twentieth century. Because the story was very popular, it has been adapted to films on numerous occasions such as the American silent film *Old Heidelberg* (1915), the German silent film *Old Heidelberg* (1923), *The Student Prince in Old Heidelberg* (1926), and Ernst Marischka's *Old Heidelberg* (1959).

SYNOPSIS

Young Crown Prince Karl Heinrich is heir to the kingdom of Karlsburg which is a fictional sovereign state of the German Confederation. He is sent to live with his strict uncle King Karl VII. King Karl VII abruptly dismisses the boy's nanny without allowing him to say goodbye, in order to avoid emotional distress. The prince finds solace in his new, sympathetic tutor, Dr. Friedrich Jüttner, who becomes his lifelong friend. However, despite the perception of others that his life must be wonderful, the prince grows up feeling lonely and lacking companionship, without peers his age.

Karl Heinrich passes his high school examination with the help of Dr. Jüttner. Afterward, the young prince is elevated to learn that both he and Dr. Jüttner are being sent to Heidelberg where he will continue his education. Upon their arrival, Karl's servant is displeased with the rooms provided for the prince and

Jüttner at the inn of Ruder. But Karl becomes captivated by Ruder's niece, Kathi, who stoutly defends their family business, and decides to stay. Soon he is made a member of Corps Saxonia, a student society. Karl Heinrich develops feelings for Kathi but soon learns that she is engaged. Her family approves of her fiancé, but she is not so sure about him. She eventually confesses to Karl that, despite the vast social difference between them, she has fallen in love with him. Karl feels the same about her and vows to overcome any obstacles that may come between them. During a boat outing, the rower gives them privacy by turning away. Karl tells him jokingly that when he is king, he will make Kellermann his majordomo. Later, Jüttner receives a letter from the king that a princess has been chosen for Karl to marry. However, Jüttner finds himself unable to destroy his friend's happiness. On the same day, Prime Minister von Haugk arrives and informs Karl that the king is gravely ill, and Karl must return home to assume the royal responsibilities. When Karl sees his uncle, he gets informed about the planned marriage. Karl is shocked because of the news of his planned marriage. Karl is soon further devastated by the deaths of both the old king and Jüttner. Later, von Haugk pressures the new monarch to proceed with the wedding. The anguished Karl reluctantly signs the marriage document. Later, Kellermann shows up to take the job Karl had offered him. Karl asks him about Kathi and he learns that she is still waiting for him. He decides to visit her one last time. In the last scene, we see Karl riding through the streets in a carriage with his bride. One onlooker, unaware of Karl's misery, comments that it must be wonderful to be king.

CHARACTERS

<i>Prince Karl Heinrich:</i>	Heir to the kingdom of Karlsburg; an idealistic, young man
<i>Kathi:</i>	Old Ruder's niece who works at his inn, she falls in love with Karl Heinrich
<i>Dr. Jüttner:</i>	The tutor of the prince, a sympathetic, warm-hearted, and protective teacher
<i>King Karl VII:</i>	A strict, unemotional king who has 'great' plans for young Karl Heinrich
<i>Johann Kellermann:</i>	A servant of the Corp Saxon who later becomes a majordomo of Karl Heinrich
<i>Prime Minister von Haugk:</i>	A strict man for whom the affairs of the state always come first
<i>Old Ruder:</i>	The man who manages the inn with his relatives, uncle of Kathi
<i>Young Karl's nanny:</i>	Nanny of young Karl Heinrich who has to leave

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Prince Karl Heinrich:

Young Karl Heinrich is heir to the Kingdom of Karlsburg. As a child, he is a naive, curious yet somewhat shy child who is afraid of the King's strict and intimidating presence. He spends his childhood in isolation from peers his age. Therefore, he does not know much about 'the real world' and is shy and naive. Later in the film we the viewers witness how he becomes a passionate and loving man. We also see his idealistic side regarding his love. Nevertheless, he grows to be a man who is heavily subject to outer influences around him, and thus manipulable.

Shy: The young prince has a shy and naive nature. We can see this when he looks at the ladies touring the palace in one of the early scenes of the film. The way he quickly avoids looking at them suggests to us that he is not very comfortable around ladies, thus still very naive and shy.

Loving: Karl Heinrich is a loving person. Loving means 'feeling or showing love or great care'. Karl Heinrich's loving nature can first be seen in his relationship with his nanny who is like a mother to him. Next, there is his tutor Dr. Jüttner with whom he forges a lifelong friendship. Karl Heinrich cares greatly about his warm-hearted tutor. Then Kathi comes into his life and his love for her can be seen in many scenes throughout the film. We can say that the love that so adequately characterizes his personality builds a sharp contrast to the strict nature of the palace and the government officials surrounding him.

Idealistic: Young Karl Heinrich is an idealistic person. For instance, he cannot understand why Dr. Jüttner thinks about leaving the palace after his examinations as he assumes that Dr. Jüttner will be with him forever. However, the reality of the situation is different and the truth is that if someone is of no more

use for a particular duty, then that person is simply sent away or discarded. The idealistic and also naive nature of the prince prevents him from seeing the harsh and bitter truths of life. Another scene where we see his idealistic yet rather naive side is when he talks to the members of Corps Saxonia and tells them that he would like to stay friends with them as long as they live. Soon, the prince sees however, that things cannot always be as he hopes and the way people, including the members of Corps Saxon, treat Karl Heinrich changes after he becomes the King. The Prince's idealistic nature perhaps comes to the forefront the most when he tells Kathi that he will never give her up even if he has to fight the whole world: 'If anyone should try to separate us, I swear—!' However, his remarks turn out to be merely empty statements or words as these are not backed up by his actions. After leaving Heidelberg, he does not return to Kathi and seems to have forgotten her until Kellerman the majordomo comes and reminds him of Heidelberg and he 'accidentally' sees a photograph of Kathi. This reminds us of another empty promise that the prince had made to Kathi. He says to her before he leaves for Karlsburg that: 'When I come back— and I *will* come back— we'll have glorious times— just you and I, my Kathi!'. But the truth of the matter is that things do not go according to his idealistic wishes and they never have the glorious times that he promises to her.

Manipulable: The prince is a manipulable person. Because of the pressure of the government and royal officials, he eventually accepts to marry Princess Ilse. We thus see that his love is not stronger than the demands of royalty and the concepts of duty, obligation, and tradition. This makes us viewers question how real or deep his love was as it has lost the fight against external powers so easily.

Kathi:

Kathi is a young girl who works at the inn of his uncle Ruder. We first see her greeting the young prince with a bouquet in her hands. She is dressed in white which symbolizes her youth and innocence. She recites a poem to the prince so as to welcome him at their inn.

Passionate: Kathi is a passionate person. When the prince's servant comes to inform the prince that: 'the rooms are impossible' she fiercely defends her inn and the rooms that she fixed. Her passion for the things she cares about is possibly one of the reasons why the prince falls in love with her. Another way we see her passionate nature is her behavior toward Karl Heinrich. She loves him passionately as can be seen in her gestures and facial expressions toward him.

Loving: Kathi is a loving person. She feels love or shows great care for the people around her and is in return also loved by others such as her relatives and the members of Corps Saxonia. From the first moment Kathi sees the prince, she is impressed by him, in particular by his outer appearance. Later, that admiration turns into a sort of infatuation and love. Her love for the prince is so great that she keeps waiting for him even after quite a long time has passed since the departure of the prince from Heidelberg.

Realistic: Kathi is a realistic person which builds a contrast to the idealistic nature of the prince. She knows that she will never be his wife because she is not of royal origin. She knows that from a societal and hierarchical point of view, they are simply incompatible as lovers which the prince at first denies to be true. Kathi also knows that Karl Heinrich will probably never come back after he has gone to Karlsburg even though he promises to her that he will. Nevertheless, she still has bits of hope because of the greatness of her love, yet her hope soon turns into a state of dejection and melancholia. When Karl Heinrich finally comes to see her, she knows that they will never be together and that it was never meant to be anyway: 'You see, Karl Heinrich, it never could have been any different. You'll marry, and I'll marry— and we'll both be quite happy.' This is thus another scene where Kathi's realism is contrasted with Karl Heinrich's childish yet empty, hopeful statements about never leaving her.

Dr. Jüttner:

Dr. Jüttner is the person who is assigned the role of tutor of the crown prince. He is a warm-hearted, emphatic, and wise man who understands the emotions of the young boy and tries to befriend him and support him as much as he can throughout his development.

Warm-hearted: Dr. Jüttner is a warm-hearted man and this quality of his character is observable from the moment he meets the young prince. He plays games with him so as to be a friend to him even though he cannot be a peer his age. The scene where both the prince and Dr. Jüttner drink beer on the shoulders of the students to celebrate shows us the degree of friendship that they have and the emphatic, warm-hearted nature of Dr. Jüttner.

Wise: Dr. Jüttner is a wise man. He knows that the palace will kick him out whenever he is not needed anymore. He is much more acquainted with the hard realities of life than the naive and idealistic prince is.

Emphatic: Dr. Jüttner understands whenever Karl Heinrich is downhearted or in a blue mood. He always tries to cheer him up in these instances. It can be said that he assumes the roles of both a mother and a father in his compassionate attitude toward him. He even empathizes with the prince during his examinations and helps him pass by secretly giving him some information. As empathy is 'the ability to understand and share the feelings of another' we can say that Dr. Jüttner certainly understands Karl Heinrich's problems and tries to help him out. Another scene where Dr. Jüttner's emphatic side is seen is when he tries to console the prince as he learns that he will have to go back to Karlsburg because the king is gravely ill.

King Karl VII:

King Karl VII is the king of the kingdom of Karlsburg. He is widely respected by the public. He has great plans for the future of his nephew, the young Karl Heinrich.

Strict: He is someone for whom the country comes first and foremost. Personal relationships, emotions, and the like take on a secondary or even tertiary value. He has great plans for the young Karl Heinrich. He hopes that: 'the country will be proud of him.' One act that the King engages in that shows us his personality is the fact that he sends away young Karl's nanny without informing Karl in the first place. The reason for his doing so is explained by the Prime Minister as 'not wishing the Crown Prince to be excited by sentimental farewells.' Thus, the King is very strict and unforgiving and does not wish to be bothered by problematic emotions and also wishes to raise Karl in the same way.

Prime Minister von Haugk: Prime Minister is an important official in the Kingdom of Karlsburg. Personality-wise, he is very much like King Karl VII. He is strict and puts the State and its affairs above all matters. His strict nature can be observed throughout several scenes in the film.

Strict: One scene where the strict nature of von Haugk comes to the forefront is when he sees the prince laughing because he has recently made a joke. Von Haugk immediately warns the prince about appropriate ways of behavior and etiquette which shows us that in his view, there is no place for laughter and fun in a prince's life. All this underscores his strict nature regarding proper royal behavior. For von Haugk, the important principles are duty, obligation, and tradition which are societal, cultural, and political concepts that he holds above all other values. Perhaps the only scene where we see a different side of the prime minister is when he advises the prince to sign his wedding documents. He gives him this pearl of bitter wisdom regarding Kathi: 'Your Majesty, the years make us all forget. You will forget, too.' This shows us that von Haugk has emotions deep buried in his psyche too even though they have been covered up with years of training in royal and governmental affairs.

Johann Kellerman:

Johann Kellermann is a corps servant of Saxonians. He is loved by everyone. He creates comic relief in several scenes of the film where he appears. Later on in the film, he becomes the majordomo of the King.

Friendly: He is a very friendly person. The first scene where we see Kellerman is when he brings a glass of beer to the prince and welcomes him. Another scene where we see him is when he is the rower of the boat that Kathi and the prince are on. He is a helpful man.

THEMES

SOCIETY

Class A class or 'a social class is a grouping of people into a set of hierarchical social categories'. Social class is an important theme of the film because it is due to their respective class differences that Kathi and Karl Heinrich cannot be together. Even though their love for one another is great, there are external forces at play that become impassable obstacles to their staying together. These class differences and the obstacles they cause in people's lives make us question whether these socially constructed structures or concepts are indeed beneficial for humanity as a whole or whether they create an artificial insurmountability that does more harm than good.

POLITICS

Power Since the film is about the life of a crown prince from his childhood up until his young adulthood, the social and political concept of power plays a significant role in the film. The power or authority is represented by the King. King Karl VII is a very strict man with certain ideals and has plans to transform his young nephew into a great king like himself. He might be considered to be the embodiment of political and social power or authority. However, even bigger than the authority and power of the king is the invisible power of social and political institutions. This is the reason why the crown prince cannot argue against the wishes of the king regarding his arranged marriage. The government and royal officials embody the power of the institutions. One particularly noteworthy scene in the film is when the crown prince learns from the ill king that he will have to marry Princess Ilse. His attempts at arguing the matter with the king are thwarted by the pressure coming from the government officials. The way they encircle him symbolizes the invisible power of traditions and institutions that, as concepts, have become more important than the happiness and well-being of human beings. All in all, power can be said to be either visible or invisible, that is the power either belongs to persons or abstract institutions or the concept of state. Because the young love of the prince is under *attack* by these both concrete and abstract forces of power, the prince has to yield to these forces bigger than himself and give up on his love.

PSYCHOLOGY

Sadness 'Sadness is an emotional pain associated with, or characterized by, feelings of disadvantage, loss, despair, grief, helplessness, disappointment and sorrow'. Sadness is seen in several different scenes of the film. One of these scenes is when the nanny of the crown prince is secretly sent away by King Karl VII so as not to cause the prince any excitement by 'sentimental farewells'. The scene of their separation is marked by the crying of the young boy in despair. He is seen behind the bars of the gates of the palace and to us the viewers he looks not unlike a prisoner in a cell. Another scene where we witness the sadness of the prince is after he completes his examinations. His lifelong tutor and only friend Dr. Jüttner mentions to the prince that he may no longer be needed in the palace after the completion of the education of the prince. Therefore, he may be discarded by the palace and may have to leave the prince. After hearing all this, the prince has tears in his eyes because Dr. Jüttner is his one and only friend who has been there for him and supported him throughout his development and childhood, and teenagehood. A third scene of sadness is when the prince has to leave Heidelberg for Karlsburg and Kathi looks at the Karl Heinrich as he is going away in his carriage. Kathi is in a state of despair and knows that things will never be the same and their joyful days will never return. Looking at these three separate scenes, we can infer that all these scenes are about either possible or real separation events regarding people who love each other, either in a friendly or romantic manner.

Isolation Karl Heinrich spends his childhood in total isolation from peers his age. From the moment he is taken to the palace by the carriage of the king, he is not allowed to play with other children. He has to

watch the other children play from afar while he is in the garden of the palace and he has to play with adult servants. This isolation from the world is detrimental to Karl Heinrich. He does not grow to construct a realistic view of the world. This can be seen in his naiveté toward ladies his age, his not understanding how the palace might want to discard his friend Dr. Jüttner after the completion of his studies, his promising to Kathi that he will never give her up but later succumbing to the governmental and royal forces and pressure.

Loss Loss is another theme important to the story of the film. The prince 'loses' his nanny, that is, he has to be separated from her. This loss creates feelings of sadness and despair in the young crown prince. Another loss is that which Kathi endures when Karl Heinrich has to leave for Karlsburg and attend to his ill uncle. The scenes where we see Kathi after their separation convey to us viewers so well the state of dejection and sorrow that she feels. There is also grief or bereavement in the film which happens when the lifelong friend Dr. Jüttner dies. We see Kathi visiting the grave of Dr. Jüttner and putting a bouquet on his grave. She not only grieves the loss of Dr. Jüttner but also of the metaphorical loss of her love as Karl Heinrich is not in Heidelberg anymore and it becomes clear that it is not possible for her to be with him.

QUEST

Explore Exploration, in the sense of traveling over new territory for discovery, constitutes one of the major themes of the film. As we observe and become witnesses to the life of the crown prince from his childhood to young adulthood, we see how he explores and interacts with his environment. First of all, he has to adapt himself to the palace life and is guided by Dr. Jüttner in doing so. He also has to get used to not living with and being separated from his nanny. After the exploration of the palace and the end of his studies, the prince goes to Heidelberg and explores this new city, falls in love, and has many adventures. Throughout these explorations, we see how the prince's idealism clashes with the harsh and bitter realities of life and royal responsibilities and duties.

RELATIONSHIP

Friendship Friendship which is a relationship of mutual affection between people plays a chief role in the film. The first and best friend of Karl Heinrich is his tutor Dr. Jüttner. Because he is raised isolated and separate from peers who are his age, his only companion and supporter is Dr. Jüttner. Dr. Jüttner is an empathetic person, supports the prince at his worst, and is always there for him in good and bad times. Despite there being an age gap between them, the two can be considered friends nonetheless. When in Heidelberg, the prince tries to befriend the members of Corps Saxonia. However, their friendship does not last long. After the crown prince becomes the King of Karlsburg, the attitude of the members of Corps Saxonia toward him changes drastically. Karl Heinrich thus learns that people start to treat differently one with great power and authority.

Love/Attraction Kathi and Karl Heinrich are romantically attracted to one another from the first moment they see each other. At first, they are both shy in expressing their affection and passion for each other. Later, however, they fully express their love. Theirs represent the love of youth and innocence which is devoid of superficialities and concerns about social status or hierarchy. Perhaps this is one of the reasons it does not last. Their love for each other represents a childlike innocence and spontaneous naturalness which is in contrast to the strict and hierarchically structured environment of the palace. The film ends in a sad tone, with the king marrying someone whom he does not even personally know and is not in love with. People greeted by the king think about how wonderful it must be to be a king whereas the truth is that they do not know about the personal defeats and losses Karl Heinrich has had to endure. Love does not win in the end as it may in most 'fairytales' because humans are also subject to the influences and power of the invisible and visible norms, obligations, traditions, institutions, and the State.

Loyalty/Betrayal Is Karl Heinrich loyal or does he in a way betray Kathi? He makes several promises to her throughout the film. For instance, he says that he will never leave her. He will stand up for his love even if he has to fight the whole world and so on. However, his statements turn out to be empty words that do not get translated into actions. Because his uncle King Karl VII is gravely ill, he cannot argue with

him about whom to marry. In other words, because of the pressure from royalty and government officials; he cannot stand up for and defend his love. It can be said that it is not that Karl Heinrich betrays Kathi but his idealism stop him from seeing the harsh and bitter realities of life and the weight of his responsibilities. Coupled with the energy and spontaneity of his youth he makes promises that he will not be able to keep. Therefore, we can conclude that Karl Heinrich does not betray Kathi, only that his idealism, unduly optimism, and seeing the world through rose-tinted glasses stops him from realizing the objective truth that he has responsibilities to keep and royal duties to fulfill, the kind of duties that do not allow for any kind of love affair with the lower classes.

PAST

Nostalgia Karl Heinrich engages in nostalgia which is 'a sentimentality for the past, typically for a period or place with happy personal associations'. When he becomes the king and is visited by Johann Kellerman to whom he had promised that he would be the majordomo after he became the king, Karl Heinrich looks at the personal objects that were given to him by the members of the Corps Saxonia. Later, he sees a photograph of Kathi and remembers the times he had spent with her and perhaps the promises he had made to her. This nostalgic state drives him to decide to visit Heidelberg one more time, perhaps to see Kathi for the last time and bring the relationship to a closure.

Transience Transience or the impermanence of events and everything surrounding the characters of the film is one of the chief subjects or themes of the film. We see the young crown prince grow and turn into a young adult. We see Dr. Jüttner getting older and more frail with time and ultimately, his death. We witness the beginning of young love, its development, and the sad end. We see Kathi's emotions changing from passionate love to dejection because of the departure of the prince. We also see how the members of the Corps Saxonia change from being friends with the prince to mere subjects and soldiers of the king. The seasons change from spring to autumn and nothing stays the same. This theme of impermanence is perhaps what underlies the story of the film. The film itself does not give us tools to deal with the uncertainties and temporariness of life. Yet, perhaps the song that is sung by the members of Corps Saxonia 'Gaudeamus igitur' provides us with one possible response to life's impermanence. It means 'So Let Us Rejoice'. 'It is in the tradition of *carpe diem* (seize the day) with its exhortations to enjoy life'. So, the message of the film can be said to be to enjoy the beauty of our lives while it lasts. Nevertheless, the melancholy and subtle sadness surrounding the film seems to me to be more powerful a thread than that of mere enjoyment.

SCENES

People have great respect for the King *In the Kingdom of Karlsburg, there was great excitement! The people were to see for the first time their Crown Prince, nephew of the King—*The film begins with a scene from Hotel Stadt Karlsburg. We see a dozen men drinking beer in honor of King Karl VII: 'To our most gracious King, Karl VII!'



King Karl VII greets the public Next, we see King Karl VII in his carriage, riding through the streets of the city and greeting the public. The public has great reverence for the King as they all stand up and take off their hats to greet Karl VII.



Thoughts of the King about Young Karl Young Crown Prince Karl Heinrich, who is heir to the kingdom of Karlsburg, is sent to live with his uncle King Karl VII. The King waits for the arrival of Young Karl. He says to the prime minister: 'I haven't seen Karl Heinrich since he was a baby. I hope the country will be proud of him.'



CHILDHOOD

Young Karl is afraid of the big ceremony The crown prince arrives. He is a boy who is around seven years old and observes his surroundings with wide-open eyes which indicate his curiosity. The boy is astonished at how everyone greets him and he gets scared because of the artillery fire in his honor. He runs to his nanny but does not take his eyes off of King Karl VII and seems afraid of him too.



Karl is sad to have left his nanny Finally, the boy shakes hands with the King who takes him away from his nanny and does not let him go to her. At the entrance of the train station, there is a big crowd ready to greet the Young Karl Heinrich. They depart for the palace with a carriage. The little boy looks thoughtful and sad while sitting near the king, perhaps already missing his nanny. A big smile appears on his face nonetheless when he sees children his age greeting him. He waves at them enthusiastically but is stopped by his Uncle Karl VII.



Children think it must be wonderful to be a prince We see the latest photograph of Prince Karl Heinrich where he has a rifle in his hand. Children of his age gather around the hanged photograph. One of the children tells the other: 'It must be great to be a prince!'



Young Prince is isolated from peers his age However, things are not as they seem. Young Prince is isolated from other children, behind the gates of the palace and is sad that he cannot play with his peers. He watches them playing from afar. Seeing this situation, the servants bring him a ball to play with. Yet, the way they play is far from entertaining or fun. Thus, soon the boy gets bored with the game.



The nanny is sent away Meanwhile, the nanny is secretly sent away without being allowed to talk to the young prince one last time. The prime minister says to the nanny that: 'His Majesty does not wish the Crown Prince to be excited by sentimental farewells.'



Young Karl cries after the separation from her nanny Yet, the young boy sees his nanny waving at him while riding in the carriage. He runs toward her but cannot reach her as the gates of the palace are already closed. He starts to cry out of despair and loneliness.



The King disciplines Young Karl When he turns to look around, he sees the King standing with a man. The King is looking very seriously, so the little boy greets him immediately. The King sees the tears on the boy's face and says to him: 'A prince never cries!'



Dr. Jüttner is assigned the role of tutor of the Crown Prince Next, he introduces his new teacher to the little boy: 'Dr. Jüttner will be your tutor. He will instruct you in etiquette, obligation, duty, demeanor, and formality.' Dr. Jüttner smiles at the young boy warmly. They shake hands. As they walk, they see the servants waiting with the ball in their hands. Dr. Jüttner takes the ball and tells the servants to leave. Seeing them leaving, the boy bursts into a peal of laughter. Next, Dr. Jüttner throws the ball forcefully in the air. They run toward the ball together...



ADOLESCENCE

Young ladies believe it must be wonderful to be a king We once again see the latest photograph of Prince Karl Heinrich. Now he is a young, good-looking man. This time young ladies gather in front of his photograph. One of the young ladies says to the other: 'It must be wonderful to be a prince!'



The young prince has a shy personality Yet, once again, things are not what they seem to be. The young prince is standing near the window, looking at the ladies who are touring around the palace. A smile covers his face when he sees them. He seems to have a shy personality as he quickly moves away from the window after the ladies have greeted him and smiles to himself.



Prime Minister wishes the Prince to be more serious and well-behaved Later, the prince notices his uncle who is sleeping on the throne. He leaves the room and goes to his room where his tutor Dr. Jüttner is sleeping on a chair. The young prince grabs a pillow and throws it at him. While he is laughing at his joke, the prime minister comes and warns him about the appropriate ways of behavior.



Dr. Jüttner cheers up the Prince Dr. Jüttner realizes how down-hearted the young prince is when he comes back. He tries to console him by offering him a cigarette. The young prince becomes joyful once again and has a few minutes to enjoy his cigarette.



The Prince has his final exams *Court News, Karlsburg, April 25, 1901*
The faculty of the King Karl High School has been summoned to the Palace to conduct the final examination of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. We see the young prince in front of the school faculty, being asked questions about history. He is asked a question about the date of the reign of Philip II. However, he does not know the answer to this question.



Dr. Jüttner helps the Prince pass the exam After failing to answer the exam question multiple times, Dr. Jüttner decides to help the young prince by standing below a painting of Philip II under whose name the dates between which he reigned can be seen. Finally, the prince gets the right answer. The faculty announces that His Highness has passed with the highest honors. Everybody gathers around Karl to congratulate him while Dr. Jüttner retires to his room.



Dr. Jüttner thinks he is no longer needed in the palace When the prince returns to Dr. Jüttner's room, he sees him looking at railroad timetables. He cannot understand what is going on. Dr. Jüttner clarifies the situation: 'Well, Boy, your studies are finished. I'm no longer needed here.' The prince laughs neurotically: 'You and I are going to stick together.'



The Prince is devastated by the possibility that his only friend will leave him Dr. Jüttner is more realistic and talks about how the King will send him away. At that moment, a servant comes in and notifies them that His Majesty requests the presence of Dr. Jüttner. The prince, sad about the possible separation from his tutor, has tears in his eyes. Dr. Jüttner hugs the young prince before he leaves. The prince sits on a chair and is dejected.



The Prince will continue his education in Heidelberg When Dr. Jüttner comes back, he has a serious look on his face for a while, but soon breaks into a peal of laughter: 'Boy, they've decided to send you to Heidelberg—and I am going with you! Boy, do you know what it means to go to Heidelberg?' He whispers something in the young prince's ear. The young prince likewise breaks into a peal of laughter.



In Heidelberg, the Prince and Dr. Jüttner are welcomed at Rüder's Inn The prince and Dr. Jüttner get off the train and arrive at Rüder's Inn. One of his servants tells him that there must be a mistake as this is an ordinary inn. At that very moment, a young girl with a flower bouquet in her hand comes to the front of the inn. She greets them and recites a poem: 'These fairest flowers of Spring, To you, Prince, a message bring, The lilac tells of loyalty, the violet-blue of service true—'



The young girl forgets the poem she is reciting to the Prince The girl forgets the rest of the poem, so the staff of the inn tries to remind her of the lines, but she cannot hear them well. Dr. Jüttner decides to help her, so he goes to the staff to learn the poem's lines and says them to the girl. She happily recites the lines afterward.



The young girl seems quite impressed by the Prince The girl and the prince shake hands. She introduces the staff of the inn to the prince: 'This is my uncle, Herr Ruder.' As they get to know each other, the girl examines the prince from top to bottom. She seems to be quite impressed with the prince's outer appearance.



The servant believes the rooms are not suitable for the Prince Meanwhile, the servant comes to inform the prince about the state of the rooms: 'Your Royal Highness, the rooms are impossible!' The girl comes to confront the servant: 'Why, what are you talking about? Everybody has liked those rooms for the last four hundred years!' Next, she goes to talk to the prince: 'Your Highness, how can the rooms be impossible, when I fixed them myself?'



The young girl proves that the rooms are perfectly comfortable She takes both the prince and Dr. Jüttner upstairs to show them the rooms. She shows them the cake she prepared, the piano, the couch, and the bed. This provides us the viewers with a light-hearted scene that builds a contrast to the stern, serious, and structured environment of the palace. At the end of her demonstration, she says: 'I think the rooms are good enough for any human being. And a prince, after all, is only a human being.' She bends her head down after realizing what she said in front of the prince.



The Prince decides to stay Contrary to her expectations, however, the prince has a huge smile on his face, appreciating her honest opinions. Dr. Jüttner asks the prince whether they shall stay. The prince announces loudly: 'We stay!' The girl becomes so joyful after learning that they will stay: 'I'll always be at your service, Your Highness. When you want me, ring the bell—and when the bell doesn't work, just call me.' Then she roams around the room not knowing how to behave. Finally, she greets them and leaves.



A big celebration occurs in the inn There is a big celebration in the inn where the students have gathered to drink. The prince sees the people and goes to inform Dr. Jüttner: 'Doctor, Doctor— —the students are down below! This is Heidelberg!' However, Dr. Jüttner is too sleepy to join any event.



LOVE

Kathi is loved by all the students The students at the celebration shout: 'Kathi! Kathi!' One of the students asks the others loudly: 'Who is the pretties and the sweetest girl in Heidelberg?' They all shout at once: 'Kathi!' The students give her two shoulder straps as a symbol of honor. They lift her to the air and she drinks a glass of beer. The prince has been watching all Kathi has been doing. He pours himself a glass of water after seeing her drink beer but puts the glass away as a sign of his distaste. He decides to go downstairs to see the celebration. We witness the joy of the students and Kathi who is carried on the shoulders of the students. The prince is much impressed by her spunky nature.



The affection Kathi and the Prince feel for each other becomes apparent After leaving the students, she goes upstairs but hesitates to knock on the door of the prince. She checks her appearance in the mirror. Then she goes inside. The prince follows her to the room, unbeknownst to her. The prince sees that she is inside his bedroom. She caresses the pillow of the prince. She stumbles upon the prince as she leaves the room. They are both shy and cannot look each other in the eyes, but the affection that they feel toward each other is nevertheless observable.



The Prince tries to get closer to Kathi Kathi soon notices the sliced cake which the prince ate and laughs happily. She goes up to the prince and they start laughing together. Soon, their laughter turns into silence and the prince tries to hug Kathi to kiss her. Kathi soon pulls herself away and says: 'But, Your Highness, you mustn't! I'm engaged!' As the prince questions her further, she clarifies the situation further: 'Well—I'm not so terribly engaged. My parents like him— —but for myself, I don't know—' She shows the prince a photograph of her fiancé. She asks the prince: 'Now, would *you* marry him?' The prince cannot answer.



The Prince continues his efforts to be romantically close to Kathi Kathi goes to sit on the sofa in a thoughtful manner: 'I think you know right away when you really love someone.' Meanwhile, the prince has already seated next to her. The prince wishes to kiss her but she gets up.



A comic relief At that moment, a drunk student comes in. He goes to hug the prince. This entrance creates comic relief in the film. Soon, Kathi leaves the room.



Corps Saxonia welcome the Prince among themselves The drunk student calls other students to the room and introduces to them the prince as his friend *Haasenpfeffer*. The students ask the prince whether he is a student in Heidelberg and they soon accept him as one of them and bring him to the celebration scene: 'Here's a new member for the Corps Saxonia.' They gift him the special hat of the Corps Saxonia. When one of the students asks how he wishes to be introduced to others, the prince says: 'I am Karl Heinrich of Karlsburg.' At that moment, everybody goes silent; however, the prince shakes their hands one by one and behaves very friendly toward them. All the students wish to shake the hand of the prince.



Kellerman gives beer to the Prince Soon, a man called Kellermann comes with a beer in his hand and introduces himself: 'I am Kellermann, corps servant of Saxonians.' He gives the beer to the prince. They shake hands. Kellermann keeps looking at his hands after he leaves the students' presence. It is as if he feels blessed to have shaken the hand of a prince. Everyone drinks their beers and we see the prince finishing his glass of beer, showing that he is indeed a part of the students.



The Prince and Dr. Jüttner drink beer together Dr. Jüttner finally wakes up. Looking out the window, he sees Karl drinking beer on the shoulders of the students. He cannot believe what he sees. He goes downstairs to tell the prince to stop drinking but Karl invites him to drink beer himself. The students run toward Dr. Jüttner and carry him on their shoulders. The prince insists that Dr. Jüttner drinks beer and in the end, Dr. Jüttner and he drink beer together, being lifted on the shoulders of the students.



The Prince sings along with the members of Corps Saxonia Soon, a band starts playing a traditional song and everybody sings along. The prince sings together both with the students and Dr. Jüttner. Kathi listens to the music while sitting by the window pane.



The Prince wishes to be life-long friends with the members of Corps Saxonia Prince Karl Heinrich says goodbye to his new friends: 'It's great to have friends like you! Let's make this last—as long as we live!'



The Prince and Kathi confess their love for each other Next, Prince Karl goes to search for Kathi. Kathi likewise searches for him. They both fail to find each other. They each sit on chairs separated by a wall between them. Prince Karl throws some stuff to the air side which falls on Kathi's head. Kathi, likewise, throws the stuff back. When the stuff hits on Karl's head, he understands that someone is on the other side of the wall and climbs it. Next, we see Karl chasing Kathi, trying to hug her. Kathi runs away from Karl. Karl does not want her to call him Highness but rather Karl Heinrich. After they address each other with their names, they kiss each other passionately.



The meadows that Prince Karl and Kathi sit on symbolize their youth and innocence

Prince Karl lifts her and brings her to lie on the meadow. The meadows in spring represent both their youth and innocence and build a sharp contrast to the structured, stern, serious atmosphere of palace life. Kathi kisses him passionately once again and runs toward the inn. Prince Karl looks very content with his life.



Dance time We see young people dancing and celebrating. Kathi and Prince Karl are dancing together. Dr. Jüttner is dancing with a rather chubby girl which creates a comic relief in the film. However, Dr. Jüttner cannot dance for too long as he gets tired too soon. He goes outside to get some air. Kathi and Prince Karl also go outside and see him in a rather exhausted state. They worry about him. Dr. Jüttner pretends to be just fine to not upset them but after the young couple leaves, we see how tired he is and how his health has deteriorated in time.



A princess is chosen by his Majesty the King as the future consort of the Crown Prince Back at the inn, Dr. Jüttner receives a letter. The letter is from the Prime Minister and informs Dr. Jüttner that a princess has been chosen by his Majesty the King as the future consort of the Crown Prince. The Prime Minister begs Dr. Jüttner to inform Prince Karl. Attached is a photograph of the princess. Dr. Jüttner is shocked to have received this news.



Boat trip Meanwhile, Kathi and Prince Karl get on a boat. As they hug and kiss other, the rower Kellerman turns his back to give them some privacy. Prince Karl laughs at this, goes near Kellerman, and says to him: "When I am King, you shall be my major-domo!" Everyone laughs.



The Prince and Kathi have no future together When he goes back to sit next to Kathi, he says to her: 'And you shall be my —!' However, he cannot finish his sentence which implies both to Kathi and us the viewers that he does not see a future with her. After this incident, the rower Kellerman rows the boat to the shore.



Kathi and Prince Karl are incompatible Kathi and Prince Karl return to the inn without uttering a word. Kathi goes to her room. Prince Karl likewise goes to his room, he sits on a sofa with a troubled look on his face, unable to deal with the reality of his incompatibility with Kathi.



Prince Karl won't give Kathi up even if he has to fight the whole world He says to himself adamantly: 'I won't give her up if I have to fight the whole world!' At that moment, Kathi enters the room and they hug each other passionately. She says to him: 'I can't help it if you are a prince, Karl Heinrich—I love you.' While they are hugging each other, Dr. Jüttner opens the door and sees them. He decides that he cannot yet deliver the news to the prince as it would be unfair to him to disrupt his happiness with Kathi. Karl Heinrich kisses Kathi's hands and says: 'If anyone should try to separate us, I swear—!' Kathi replies: 'Just tell me you love me—that's enough—' Then they embrace each other.



Dr. Jüttner is sick, Prime Minister Haugk arrives *Heidelberg— gay, romantic Heidelberg— is a place for youth— and Dr. Jüttner was no longer young—* We see Dr. Jüttner taking his medicine unwillingly and complainingly. Soon, a servant comes in and announces the arrival of Prime Minister von Haugk.



Prince Karl brings gifts to Kathi Prince Karl brings a lot of new clothes and gifts to Kathi. She gets very excited over the gifts she receives. Prince Karl says: 'We'll go for a ride! I want the whole world to know I love you, my Kathi!' They dream about how their ride through the town would be and how everyone would be witnesses to their love. Prince Karl excitedly leaves the room to wait for Kathi to be prepared for the ride.



DUTY

Prime Minister von Haugk demands that the Prince returns immediately to Karlsburg However, when he goes to his room, he sees prime minister von Haugk who tells him about the illness of the king. Von Haugk asks the prince to return to Karlsburg at once to assume the reins of government. Prince Karl is shocked to have received this news and does not want to go back to Karlsburg. From the outside, the students shout: 'Karl Heinrich!' and ask him to come to join them. Von Haugk continues to pressure Karl Heinrich: 'Has Your Highness so soon forgotten duty, obligation, tradition?'



Dr. Jüttner tries to console the Prince Soon, Dr. Jüttner appears and tries to console the prince by telling him not to be down-hearted and that the King will soon be well and he'll be back. After the moment the prince has been persuaded, Kathi comes into the room where she is met with the judging eyes of von Haugk.



The Prince has to go and leave Kathi A servant brings a suitcase for the prince to prepare to leave. Kathi is disappointed and sad. The prince repeats to her only what he has been told by Dr. Jüttner: 'Don't be down-hearted, Kathi— —the King will soon be well, and I'll be back—' Kathi has tears in her eyes, nevertheless, she helps Karl Heinrich put on his formal coat. Dr. Jüttner gives a piece of advice to the prince: 'Do not let them crush your spirit! Stay young, Karl Heinrich!' The prince hugs Dr. Jüttner and goes back to Kathi. He says to her: 'When I come back— and I *will* come back— we'll have glorious times— just you and I, my Kathi!' They hug and kiss each other. The prince leaves afterward. It is a heart-wrenching scene of separation and the end of a joyful era.



Kathi thinks that the Prince will never come back Kathi cries as the prince waves goodbye to Kathi from his carriage, Kathi goes to Dr. Jüttner and says to him: 'Doctor, he will never, never come back!'



The Prince is pressured to accept to marry Princess Ilse Back in Karlsburg, the king is very sick. Nevertheless, he has some strength left to talk to the prince. He says to Karl Heinrich: 'Dr. Jüttner has already told you of my great plans for you—and what they mean for the State. May you and Princess Ilse carry on our illustrious line' The prince is shocked and devastated to have now heard these plans. He tries to say no but there is an incredible pressure coming from the other members of the royal court. Von Haugk says: 'Your Royal Highness will surely not oppose His Majesty now. Argue some other time.'



The Prince accepts the King's plans for him They bring the prince back to the ill king. The king offers his hand to the prince and Karl Heinrich holds his hand as a sign of his acceptance of the king's plans for him.



Nothing can be done now to revert the course of events The prince leaves the room and goes back to his room. However, he is still in shock and cannot believe what he had just accepted. He decides to go back to the king to tell him that he does not want to marry Princess Ilse. Unfortunately, it is too late now as the king has died. There is nothing that can be done now. The bells that are ringing emphasize the deterministic course of events, or that everything has been decided upon.



Kathi visits the grave of Dr. Jüttner who has recently passed away *His Majesty, Karl Heinrich, mourned in state the death of his uncle. In his heart, he mourned the death of another. We see Kathi visiting the grave of Dr. Jüttner who died while the Prince was in Karlsburg. She leaves flowers on his grave.*



Kathi is dejected *After she leaves the cemetery, she sees a young couple riding through the roads which reminds her of Karl Heinrich's promise to her that they would ride through the town to show the public how much he loved her. Kathi looks dejected, fully aware of the reality that her dreams will never become actualized. She has a little bit go hope left in her heart nevertheless. When she sees the postman, she excitedly runs toward him to see if there is any letter for her from Prince Heinrich. However, there is none.*



The Prince signs the plans for his wedding ceremony Back in Karlsburg, von Haugk brings to the prince the program of his planned wedding ceremony. Seeing the prince unresponsive and numb, von Haugk tells him what might be considered a piece of advice: 'Your Majesty, the years make us all forget. You will forget, too.' The prince finally signs the document.



Comic relief We see the rower Kellerman waiting at the gates of the palace. He calls out to the four men at the entrance of the gates. He says to one of the guardians that he is Kellerman, 'an old friend of the King'. The guardian dismisses him and asks him to leave but Karl Heinrich sees and recognizes Kellerman while looking out the window and requests his servant to bring the old man to him.



Kellerman is welcomed by the King The king gives Kellerman a warm welcome: 'Kellerman! My old friend Kellerman!' He makes him sit and gives him a cigar to smoke. Next, the servants bring a meal for Kellerman. As he eats his meal, the king asks him: 'Do you remember— in Heidelberg— —in Heidelberg?' The king takes out the old hat that was given to him by the students and his medal strap and cherishes his old memories.



The King decides to leave for Heidelberg His joy transforms into nostalgia and sadness when he sees the photograph of Kathi. He asks Kellerman about her. Kellerman tells the king that Kathi is still waiting for him. The king is devastated to hear that. He collapses onto his chair. He dreams of Heidelberg, of the students celebrating by drinking beer, and of Kathi and the happy, surprised look on her face when she sees him. He decides to go back to his happy place and tells his servant: 'We leave immediately for Heidelberg!' He then pours himself and Kellerman drinks and proposes a toast to a painting of Dr. Jüttner: 'Just one more day of life, Doctor— one day of life—and love!'

Everything has changed in Heidelberg When Karl Heinrich goes back to Heidelberg with high expectations, he finds that everything has changed. No more students are celebrating in the garden of the inn.



Old Ruder and the King meet Then he sees Old Ruder and asks him about the inn. After greeting the king, he hesitates to reply, words pour out of his mouth nonetheless: 'Yes, Your Majesty, all is changed. Even the students do not come here anymore.'



Kathi is disappointed once again We see Kathi and a postman. Apparently, the postman has brought a letter for her. She is so excited to receive the letter. She goes into the woods to read the letter which she thinks is from Karl Heinrich. To her disappointment, the letter is from Vienna, not from Karl Heinrich.



Corps Saxonia has also changed Meanwhile, Old Ruder is looking for Kathi but cannot find her anywhere. Later, Old Ruder comes in to give some news to Karl Heinrich: 'A little surprise for Your Majesty! The Corps Saxon is here to welcome you.' Karl Heinrich puts on his hat and goes downstairs to meet the students. But he sees that they all behave formally toward him because he is now the king.



A formal beer drinking ritual and *Gaudeamus igitur* After the formal greeting process, they sit at a table to drink their beers. One of the soldiers announces: 'Gentlemen, His Majesty has honored us, his unworthy servants! From his lofty eminence he has graciously condescended—' They drink their beers in a very ritualistic and formal manner. Karl Heinrich says: 'Gentlemen: I thank you for your warm and cordial welcome!' One of the soldiers announces again: 'We shall sing *Gaudeamus igitur*.'



Kathi and the Prince meet Kathi hears the singing and goes to the garden of the inn. She sees Karl Heinrich. She cannot believe what she saw. She shouts: 'Karl Heinrich!' The king and Kathi run toward and hug each other. The members of the Corps Saxon start to leave the scene one by one.



Kathi is more realistic than Karl Heinrich Kathi and the king sit on a bank. Karl Heinrich says to Kathi: 'The whole world has changed—but you, Kathi, are the same.' They kiss each other: 'Kathi, my Kathi—how can I ever leave you—?' Kathi holds his hand and replies: 'You see, Karl Heinrich, it never could have been any different. You'll marry, and I'll marry— and we'll both be quite happy.'



Kathi and Karl Heinrich say goodbye to each other They go to a green area where they say goodbye to each other. The king holds her hand and says to Kathi: 'Goodbye, my Kathi—I may never see you again— — but while I live I shall never forget.' They kiss each other one last time and Karl Heinrich leaves her to depart and head for Karlsburg. Kathi collapses on the meadow.



The prince pretends to be happy for his wedding which is all a facade covering his sadness

Next, we see the wedding ride of Karl Heinrich. He smiles at the crowds that are greeting him. An old lady says to an old man: 'It must be wonderful to be a King!' King Karl Heinrich continues to greet the public but we the viewers know that it is all a facade that he is presenting so as not to show his sadness.

