

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
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Angel (1937) Ernst Lubitsch (1892-1947)

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: *Angel* is a 1937 romantic comedy-drama film produced and directed by Ernst Lubitsch. The screenplay of the film is by Samson Raphaelson and Frederick Lonsdale. The film is based on the play *Angyal* by Melchior Lengyel. The English play adaptation is by Guy Bolton and Russell Medcraft. The film stars Marlene Dietrich, Herbert Marshall, and Melvyn Douglas. The cinematography is by Charles Lang and the costume design is by Travis Banton. The music of the film is by Frederick Hollander and Gioachino Rossini. The film was released on October 29, 1937. The story of the film is about a love triangle initiated by Maria, Lady Barker who is the wealthy but neglected wife of Sir Frederick Barker who is a top-level British diplomat.

Historical background: *Angel* was adapted by Guy Bolton and Russell Medcraft from the play *Angyal* by Melchior Lengyel. Melchior Lengyel (1880-1974) was a Hungarian writer, dramatist, and film screenwriter. He started his career as a journalist. Later, he started writing plays many of which gained various awards. *Taifun (Typhoon)*, one of his plays, written in 1909, became a worldwide success and is still performed today. His story *The Miraculous Mandarin* came out in 1916. It was the story that inspired Béla Bartók, to create in 1924 the ballet *The Miraculous Mandarin*. He moved to Hollywood, California in 1937 and became a screenwriter. Several of his stories became the basis of screenplays for films by Ernst Lubitsch which became worldwide successes, such as *Ninotchka* (1939), for which he was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Writing, Original Story; *To Be or Not to Be* (1942), and *Angel*.

CHARACTERS

Maria, Lady Barker, aka Mrs. Brown, aka "Angel": The mysterious woman, wife of Mr. Barker
Sir Frederick Barker: Husband of Maria, a man dedicated to his profession
Anthony 'Tony' Halton: A man who meets Angel at the Grand Duchess' salon and falls in love with her
Graham: Sir Frederick Barker's valet
Christopher Wilton: The Barkers' butler, a man who is deeply inspired by the Barkers' marriage
Grand Duchess Anna Dmitrievna: A Russian Duchess who manages a grand salon
Mr. Greenwood: An assistant of Sir Frederick Barker
Emma MacGillicuddy Wilton: Fiancé of Christopher Wilton

SYNOPSIS

Angel is a story of a love triangle that is initiated by Maria who is the neglected wife of a wealthy and top-level British diplomat called Sir Frederick Barker. Mr. Barker has been neglecting her wife Maria in favor

of his political and diplomatic pursuits. Therefore, Maria secretly flies to Paris at a time when her husband is at a conference in Geneva. In Paris, she goes to the salon of Grand Duchess Anna Dmitrievna, an old friend of hers, to ask for advice. There she chancily meets Mr. Anthony Halton, a charming man to whom the salon was recommended by a friend called Captain Butler. Mr. Halton and Maria are attracted to each other and they have a private romantic rendezvous together. Maria insists that their relationship remains anonymous but Mr. Halton falls in love with her and is determined to learn who she truly is. He calls her *Angel* as she is not willing to share her name. Angel leaves Mr. Halton without saying a proper goodbye in a park at night. Later at the races, Maria sees Mr. Halton with her binoculars and decides to leave the races with the excuse that she has a headache. Next Saturday at a luncheon, Mr. Halton and Mr. Barker meet where Mr. Halton reminds Mr. Barker of their adventures in Paris at a time when they were at the military and how they spent their leaves with a girl named Paulette. Mr. Halton tells Mr. Barker all about his obsession with and love for Angel. They decide to have lunch together where Mr. Halton will be introduced to Mr. Barker's wife, whose identity is heretofore unknown to him. Maria finds out and is forewarned that her husband's friend is her secret lover when her husband tells her all about Mr. Halton's adventure and obsession with Angel. Before the two meet at lunch, Mr. Halton sees a photograph of Maria and finds out that his friend's wife is his Angel. When they meet, they pretend not to know each other. When the two are alone, Angel explains that she has no interest in continuing the liaison as this will be detrimental to her marriage and social status. However, Mr. Halton is blindly in love with her and offers her to meet him in Paris at the Grand Duchess' salon next Wednesday. Meanwhile, Mr. Barker has been dealing with his political business and decides to take the place of another man to be at a sub-committee. Therefore, he decides to go to Geneva, forgetting about his plans to go to Vienna with his wife. Maria is utterly disappointed to find out that he does not go to Vienna with her. To ensure a long layover in Paris, Mr. Barker needs a private plane and learns by calling the airlines that his wife had stayed in Paris the week before. He is shocked to learn this but conceals that he knows the truth about his wife's secret. Maria asks Mr. Barker to drop her off in Paris as he goes to Geneva. He accepts this. However, instead of going to Geneva, he goes to the Grand Duchess' salon in Paris to investigate the mysterious *Angel* as he has doubts that her wife could be Angel. Maria meets Mr. Barker in one of the rooms of the salon. Mr. Barker questions her angrily and nervously and asks her what kind of a life she has been leading. Maria does not understand why that should worry him as he never asks her about what she does while he is away on diplomacy trips and neglects her anyway. Maria tells Mr. Barker that Angel is in the adjoining room, however, she does not want him to enter the room and continue his marriage with her in a state of uncertainty about the true character of his wife. Mr. Barker enters the room anyway which happens to be empty, meaning Maria is indeed Angel. While Mr. Barker is in the other room, Mr. Halton comes into the room where Angel is. He expects Angel to come with him. At that moment, the door opens and Frederick comes. He says he has met Angel and thought about their marriage more in the few seconds he's been in that room than in all the other years they've been married together. He tells Maria that the train for Vienna leaves at ten and if she wishes to come with him, she must say goodbye to Angel. We see Mr. Barker leaving the room, taking his hat from a side table and a few seconds later Maria enters the frame, he opens the door for her and they leave the building together.

SCENES

AT THE GRAND DUCHESS

Traveling to Paris We see a woman traveling to Paris. She arrives in the city and goes to a hotel to arrange a room. As she signs her name, she uses a different name than her real one. The receptionist recognizes this but pretends to be unaware of it.



Mr. Halton has arrived at the Grand Duchess' salon The place the man enters is the salon of an aristocratic woman called the Grand Duchess. Soon, a servant comes to inform the Grand Duchess that a man named Anthony Halton has arrived to see her. The Grand Duchess makes Mr. Halton wait in a room.



The mysterious woman visits the Grand Duchess

In the meantime, the mysterious woman we met at the beginning of the film also makes an appearance in the place of the Grand Duchess. She tells the servant to tell the Duchess that an old friend of hers came to see her. When the servant informs the Duchess, she does not want to see her *old friend*. But the mysterious woman comes into the room and says: 'All I want is a cup of tea and a sandwich.' The Grand Duchess is most surprised to see the woman. They talk about how they haven't heard from each other in six years. The Grand Duchess Anna asks her about Rome but the woman says she hasn't been in Rome for years. We soon learn that she broke her engagement to a man named Savoldi. The mysterious woman reveals that she came to the Duchess to ask for her advice. However, soon, the phone rings, and their conversation gets interrupted.



The mysterious woman and Mr. Halton meet for the first time

The mysterious woman goes into another room to give the Duchess some privacy. Coincidentally, Mr. Halton is in the other room and they start chatting. Mr. Halton mistakes the mysterious woman for the Grand Duchess. He tells her that he brings her best regards from Captain Buckler and reveals that he is in Paris to have an amusing time. The mysterious woman decides to play along: 'Well, we must see that you have a very amusing time.' She makes him several suggestions of different places to see such as the Louvre Museum, the Eiffel Tower, and the Notre Dame. Mr. Halton does not shy away from stating that he is not interested in any kind of history: 'No, I've found through life, the days take care of themselves. It's the evenings that are so difficult.' The mysterious woman then comes up with another plan: 'Oh, how stupid of me. You want me to arrange a party for you. A nice, large party.' However, she soon finds out that Mr. Halton is interested in dining with her. Firstly, she tells him that she is engaged. However, she changes her mind after Mr. Halton asks her a couple of questions about loneliness: 'Madame, have you ever been at the mercy of loneliness? Have you ever been a stranger in a strange city?' The mysterious woman responds: 'Often.' Mr. Halton asks further: 'What did you do?' 'I cried.' 'Well, that's what I shall do.' At this moment, she agrees to dine with him at Café Danube. She also reveals before leaving the room that she is not the Grand Duchess.



Grand Duchess meets Mr. Halton A few moments after she leaves, Grand Duchess Anna enters the room. She asks him what she could do for him. Soon, he asks her about the name of the mysterious lady who had just left the room. The Grand Duchess pretends as if she does not know anything about her. However, as Mr. Halton is about to leave her, she asks why he is so interested in knowing her name. Mr. Halton responds: 'Because I'm dining with her at a quarter to 9:00.'



The mysterious woman and Mr. Halton dine together

Next, we see the restaurant scene. A man is playing a beautiful tune on the violin. Soon, the violinist comes to play near the table where the mysterious woman and Mr. Halton are dining. After the music ends, the mysterious woman asks for the name of the song. The violinist responds that he just made it up for them and that it has thus no name. After the violinist leaves the scene, they start to engage in a conversation. Mr. Halton desperately wants to know the name of the mysterious lady but she says: 'Why spoil such a perfect evening with names? I don't want to know your name. Whatever it is, I know it wouldn't suit you.' She further remarks: 'Besides, I know all about you. Providence gave you gray eyes, brown hair, a charming smile, and great attraction.'



Everything else is unimportant. I'm content.' Mr. Halton cannot stop questioning her nevertheless. He asks if she is married. She asks why he is so curious about her. He responds that he is just terribly jealous. Later, they continue their evening in the private dining room. Mr. Halton kisses the mysterious woman. He says to her afterward: 'Who are you? I must know.' She playfully says perhaps she is a spy or a thief. Mr. Halton, however, knows already that she is none of these things. He says: 'I must have done something very nice in my life to be so beautifully rewarded...You're an angel. *Angel*, that's what I shall call you.'

A romantic walk in the park Later, they go for a walk in the park. They sit on a bank. Angel is cold. When Mr. Halton asks about it, she says she is frightened of herself. She is indeed conflicted in her mind and cannot decide what to do. She asks for Mr. Halton to give her time to think things through: 'Next Wednesday at 5:00 at the Grand Duchess'. You wait for me. If I come, I won't ask any questions. I'll go with you wherever you ask me to.' Mr. Halton asks what will happen if she does not come. Then she says that he must forget about her, forget that she ever existed. She wants him to give her his promise.



However, Mr. Halton makes clear that this is a promise that he could not keep. He tells her that he loves her and they kiss each other. Then there appears a woman who is selling flowers. Mr. Halton goes up to the woman and buys flowers for Angel. However, when he turns back, he sees that Angel is gone, vanished into thin air. He looks for her everywhere but she seems to have simply disappeared.

AT HOME

Sir Frederick Barker is a busy man engaged in politics

We see a train and a well-dressed man in it who is being photographed by the press. We find out that he is Sir Frederick Barker who is returning from Geneva and that all the newspapers are talking about his political successes. We also find out that the League of Nations is adopting Barker's plan. As soon as Sir Barker arrives home, he is bombarded with more duties as the foreign secretary wants him on the phone. After his work is finally finished, he goes to his bedroom. In one of the bedrooms, we see Angel sleeping. It turns out that Angel is married to Sir Frederick Barker.



Mr. Barker and his wife finally meet, his wife tells him about her dreams

As she goes back to sleep, she accidentally sits on the side of the bed where Sir Barker is sleeping and wakes him up. They hug each other as they are happy to see each other. Frederick talks about how she had the loveliest expression while she was sleeping and he did not want to wake her up. Angel tells him that she was dreaming. In her dream, she dreamt that her husband was a great success at the League of Nations. But he was talking so she could not get near him. She traveled around the globe, went to Egypt and China, and came back to the League of Nations. But Frederick was still talking. So, she took him to Paris. They walked in a park, sat on a bench. She was cold and frightened. At this point, she says she got mixed up. This was actually a dream that she had dreamt the other day.



Mr. Barker has to return to work After she finishes talking about her dreams, she tells him about the telegram that Graham brought her the news of which excites Sir Barker. He goes and reads the telegram which turns out to be a bad piece of news about Yugoslavia. Frederick needs to work overnight. He is terribly sorry about it. Angel says she understands and goes to sleep in the next room.



Angel and Frederick contemplate what they could ever quarrel about only to find out they're a hopelessly happy married couple

Angel and Frederick are surprised to hear that. Frederick jokingly says: 'Perhaps, we should stage a rousing quarrel, so that we won't feel quite so responsible... What shall we quarrel about?' Angel says that she is a neglected wife to which Frederick responds that he would not argue about that because he'd agree with her. As the conversation goes on, Frederick calls his wife an *angel* which makes her freeze for a second. Then she says to Frederick: 'Someone is in love with me. I'm crazy about him. I've decided to leave you. I'm already packed. I wonder what you would do.' Frederick says he would not quarrel as it would be too late. As they finally run out of subjects to quarrel about, Frederick jokingly says: 'We might just as well face it. We're a hopelessly happy married couple.'



Angel plays on the piano the tune she heard when she dined with Mr. Halton

Next, we see Angel playing the piano. She is playing the same melody she had listened to while dining with Mr. Halton. Mr. Barker finds the tune so beautiful that he wants Angel to find an ending to it. She says: 'The beginning is so beautiful, I wonder if the end matters' which perhaps alludes to the affair she had with Mr. Halton. Then Mr. Barker starts playing an old tune. They talk about their days in Vienna and how the hotel they stayed in was in poor condition. Angel becomes melancholic.



At the Horse Race In the next scene, we see the preparations going on for a horse race. When they get to their seats, they look with binoculars if they can see Mrs. Barker. They see her in a black dress. Angel has recognized Mr. Halton in the crowd and she wanted to leave the race so suddenly. It turns out Angel has an annoying headache and wants to rest at home. She assures Frederick that she will be all right and does not want him to come with her. A man wants to take their photograph for the press but she says that she is not in the mood for a picture. Then she gets in the car and leaves the race.



A luncheon is planned We see an old man talking to Mr. Barker, asking him how his wife is. He also tells him not to forget Saturday. Mr. Barker responds that he will be there at one o'clock. After Mr. Barker leaves, Mr. Halton approaches the same old man. They talk about the horse that they bet on. Moreover, the old man mentions that he is getting quite a lot of interesting fellows together for Saturday. We learn that there will be important people in his house such as the Duke of Amesbury, Earl of Edinburgh, and Argentine Ambassador, and that there'll be about twenty people, altogether.



Mr. Halton is Mr. Barker's old friend At the luncheon, Mr. Halton and Mr. Barker are both attendants. After the luncheon, Mr. Halton goes up to Mr. Barker to talk to him. After a few courtly exchanges, Mr. Halton asks Mr. Barker if he knows who he is. It turns out they spent the war times together and made quite a few memories in Paris. It also happens to be the case that they knew a lovely woman who was called Paulette Fouchardiere. As they reminisce about their old and golden days together, they become closer to each other.



At the Opera Angel gets ready for the opera that she and Mr. Barker will go to that night. Soon, Mr. Barker comes home. He talks to Angel about the luncheon and his war friend Anthony. Angel tells her husband to get dressed because she would not want to miss the overture. We learn that Mr. Barker is not truly fond of operas: 'We might as well see the whole thing through from the bitter beginning.'



Mr. Barker tells his wife about Mr. Halton and his obsession with Angel As they are on their way to the opera, Angel reminds Sir Barker about Grand Duchess Anna. He goes on to tell her about how Mr. Halton has gone completely mad over a woman. He tells Angel that he met this woman at the Grand Duchess' salon. He also tells her that Mr. Halton has been looking for this mysterious woman in every possible place in Paris.



Mr. Barker asks his wife about Grand Duchess Before he leaves the room, he asks Angel whether she knows Grand Duchess Anna Dmitrievna. The mention of the name of the Grand Duchess makes Angel worried and get on edge as can be seen in her facial expressions.

Angel finds out at the opera they will meet Mr. Halton the next day At the opera, they further talk about Mr. Halton. Angel asks to her husband: 'Do you suppose your friend is here tonight?' Mr. Barker says: 'No, he couldn't come. He's telephoning tomorrow. He's trying to cancel another engagement and have lunch with us.' Angel accepts this lunch idea. Later, Mr. Barker underrates and depreciates Mr. Halton's feelings for the mysterious woman: 'He tried to romanticize the whole story. A night in the park. A bouquet of violets. The lady disappears.' While he continues to speak, the opera begins, so their conversation comes to an abrupt ending.



Angel has not slept the whole night In the next morning, we see a servant arranging the items in the room of Mrs. Barker. We see an ashtray filled with dozens of cigarettes. Moreover, the servant finds out that the lamp has been on all night long. These hint at the probable fact that Angel has not slept during the night at all.

MEETING AT HOIME

Mr. Halton and Mr. Barker talk about love and their expectations We see a car entering the mansion. It is Mr. Halton who has come to visit Mr. Barker for a luncheon. They shake hands and start conversing. Mr. Halton says to Mr. Barker: 'You know, it's funny, I've only known you since yesterday, and yet I...' Mr. Barker replies that he feels the same way indicating to us the viewers that they feel close to each other even though they do not know each other very well. They sit down and Mr. Halton tells Mr. Barker how much he admires his courage, wit, and the daring with which he tackles problems. He says he is proud to be in Mr. Barker's house. Then they proceed to talk about Mr. Halton's love story with Angel. Mr. Barker says about his friend's love story: 'It's an unusual story. I shouldn't mind reading it in a novel. But I'd hate to be the hero of it... Believe me, Halton, a man shouldn't go out of his way to create handicaps for himself.' Mr. Halton likens his love story to that between Caesar and Egyptian Queen Cleopatra. Spending one hour with Angel is more important to him than centuries of history that fill the history books. Mr. Halton yearningly says that spending one hour with Angel would equal to *three thousand six hundred seconds* at which point Mr. Barker says he gives up because 'It's always ridiculous to reason with a man in love, and I'm afraid you are a man in love.' Mr. Halton soon loses his patience as Mr. Barker does not understand where he is coming from: 'Good heavens, Barker, haven't you ever lost your head completely over a woman? Haven't you ever felt that now, at last, you can stop searching? You've found it, there it is.' Mr. Barker says he has and that Mr. Halton is going to meet her, implying that

he is going to meet his wife. He further adds that they probably expect different things from love and life: 'I don't measure in terms of seconds but of years.'

Mr. Halton sees the photograph of Mr. Barker's wife As their conversation deepens, Mr. Halton points to a photograph only the back of which is seen: 'That's your wife's photograph, I suppose?' Mr. Barker replies: 'Naturally.' We see Mr. Barker pouring gin and tonic to Mr. Halton's glass yet we do not see the facial expression of Mr. Halton and the utter shock he experiences when he sees the picture of Angel. At that moment, the scene changes to another one.



Mr. Halton and Angel pretend not to know each other We see the servant informing Angel that Mr. Halton has arrived. Angel fixes her hair and walks down the stairs to welcome Mr. Halton. Even though they both know each other perfectly, they pretend not to do so. Angel asks him most formally: 'How do you do, Mr. Halton?' Mr. Halton replies in the same vein. After they sit down, Angel says she hopes she did not come down too soon: 'Reunion of two old friends. Are you sure I didn't interrupt?'



A conversation about love and Mr. Halton's plans Mr. Barker shares that they just finished a most interesting discussion about love. They talk about how they see the same thing but with entirely different eyes. As Mr. Barker points out: 'It's like two men looking at the same lamp. One says the shade is blue, the other one swears it's green.' When Mr. Halton asks Angel what she thinks about this discussion, she changes the subject: 'Gentlemen, the sun is shining so brightly, don't you think it's rather early in the day to be talking about *lamps*?' Then she asks Mr. Halton how long he is going to stay in England. Mr. Halton says he may have to change his plans and stay a little longer. Then Angel talks about a trip that her husband and she are going to take. After that, they proceed to their lunch.

The Ladyship seems to be nervous, Mr. Halton does not finish his plate Another servant comes in and reports that Her Ladyship is playing with the bread and asks for the crumb tray. One of the servants mentions how Her Ladyship seems nervous but Mr. Wilton says that she is merely bored. Later, the servant brings back the plates from which they have eaten. They see that Her Ladyship has not even touched the plate and Mr. Halton has not eaten anything either. They first think there must be something wrong with the meat but after seeing Mr. Barker has finished his plate, they infer that Mr. Halton does not like veal and decide not to include it in the menu anymore if Mr. Halton ever comes to the house again.

Mr. Halton plays the piano splendidly Next, we see Mr. Halton playing a powerful piece on the piano and Mr.—and Mrs. Barker listening to him playing. After Mr. Halton finishes playing, Mr. Barker says: 'Bravo. Splendid...Tony, the fact that I like it doesn't mean anything. But Maria (referring to his wife, *Angel*), now, she's a great composer. Really, she composed the loveliest song.'



Angel changes the course of the conversation and plays a new tune Mr. Barker refers to the tune he heard Angel playing on the piano a couple of days ago. Angel, of course, does not want the tune to be played so, she says she has forgotten it. Mr. Halton says he heard a delightful tune in Paris, referring to the same tune that Angel and he had heard the violinist play at the restaurant in Paris. Angel tries to change the course of the conversation: 'Now, gentlemen, you're both working too hard. I insist that you relax, please. I'll play you something. Something even better.' As she is playing a new tune, Mr. Wilton comes and brings a telegram to Mr. Barker and he goes out.



Mr. Halton and Angel are alone for the first time After Angel has finished playing, she realizes that Mr. Barker has gone out, and keeps playing her role as Mrs. Barker, that is, she pretends not to personally know Mr. Halton. Referring to the tune she played, she says: 'It's a lovely waltz, isn't it? The first time I heard it, I was dancing with Frederick. It takes me right back to Vienna. It was our first dance together. I think it has a beautiful melodic quality, don't you?'



Angel keeps pretending she does not know Mr. Halton Mr. Halton surprises her most unexpectedly: 'Hello, Angel.' Angel does not seem to have understood or pretends not to have understood what is going on: 'I beg your pardon?' Mr. Halton continues: 'It seems incredible. That I should find you here in this house. His wife. It's like a dream.' Angel says that she still does not understand what he is talking about. Mr. Halton himself does not understand why she is keeping on playing games: 'I don't understand you. We're alone, Angel. Darling, how long are you going to keep this up?' She says that he must be confusing her with another woman and that she hasn't been in Paris for the last six months: 'It really seems to be a terrific coincidence. The lady with whom you had your adventure.' Mr. Halton asks whether it wasn't more than that. Angel says: 'Maybe it was. Maybe the lady thought so too. But it's impossible for me to read the mind of a woman I never saw nor heard of.' Mr. Halton gets angry at this point: 'In other words, to you, it was just an adventure.'



Lady Barker wishes Mr. Halton not to come to her house anymore

Lady Barker determinedly demands him to look at her: 'Now, Mr. Halton, I insist that we settle this once and for all. Look at me. Look at me carefully, and I'm sure you will realize as clearly as I do, that I am Lady Barker and nobody else.' Mr. Halton mentions how the resemblance is amazing and that she has exactly her hair, her eyes, her skin, and her lips: 'But when I listen to you, I begin to see the difference. You're not Angel.' After a few moments of silence between them, Angel continues: 'You know, Mr. Halton, I think this resemblance will always create embarrassment between us. It's unfortunate. But for my own comfort and peace and certainly for yours, don't you think you might find some excuse not to come here anymore?'



Mr. Halton plays the tune they had heard in Paris which makes Angel drop her mask

At that point, Mr. Halton changes the subject and talks about what a lovely home she has: 'I suppose this is the kind of house every woman dreams of having. And you're the wife of a charming and famous man. You must be very happy, Lady Barker.' She turns around as if she is being questioned by an authority or investigated and answers: 'I am.' Then she looks down, aware of the fact that she has lied. Mr. Halton goes to sit by the piano and plays the tune they had listened to while in Paris. Angel looks at him and gets worried. He says to her not to be afraid: 'Don't be afraid. I won't play it. I shall never play it. I hope I never hear it again.' Angel looks down again and says: 'Thank you.' At this moment, Mr. Halton realizes that she has taken off the mask she has been wearing the whole night, metaphorically speaking.



Mr. Halton expresses his love for Maria who feels that her home is threatened

He goes near to her and addresses her as Maria. Maria tells him: 'I told you in Paris, never to look for me. Never to recognize me whenever and wherever you find me. The whole thing must be forgotten.' Mr. Halton says he cannot keep such a promise: 'And I told you I would never keep such a promise, that I didn't care who you were. All I know is that I love you. And I'll never let you out of my life.' Maria replies that she will fight with everything in her command if he tries to destroy her home. He further asks her why she ever came to Paris in the first place. It does not make any



sense to him. Maria says to him: 'None whatsoever. But it's the privilege of a woman not to make sense. Men who expect women to be logical are likely to be failures in love.' She asks him if he does not remember what she said to him. Mr. Halton answers that he remembers every word and every syllable: 'You said, *You have gray eyes, brown hair. A charming smile, and great attraction.*' Maria explains her true feelings: 'And you still have. That's why I want you to go. Go. Please go. Every moment you are here, my home is in danger. Go, I beg you. I tell you.'

Mr. Barker is busy with work Mr. Barker is on the phone, dealing with his business, that is, political matters and duties. He says to Mr. Wilton that he is expecting a telephone call from Mr. Hamilton and that he should let him know immediately. Then he enters the room where Angel and Mr. Halton are.



Mr. Barker wants Mr. Halton to stay longer When Mr. Barker enters the room, Maria tells him that Mr. Halton will have to leave. She adds that she tried to persuade him to stay but that she was a complete failure. Mr. Barker is upset that his friend Anthony is about to leave. He asks Mr. Halton: 'Do you really have to go? How about another drink?' Mr. Halton is aware that Angel is trying to send him away, so he says—rather cleverly—that: 'Lady Barker, really, I had another engagement, but now I must stay, at least long enough to turn your failure into success.' Angel says she would like to have a drink too, just enough to drink to their friend Mr. Halton.



Mr. and Mrs. Barker insist that Mr. Halton describe Angel She tells her husband that Mr. Halton told her about everything that has happened to him in Paris: 'It is a thrilling story, and I listened to every word with great suspense. Mr. Halton, you described every detail with such love and care.' Later, she insists that he describe her appearance: 'You've roused our interest to such a degree, that Frederick and I are entitled to know a lot more about the lady.' Mr. Halton makes up a description and says: 'Her eyes were brown. And her hair was dark.' Then he says he wants to change the toast to the most charming hostess, Lady Barker. They raise a toast. After they finish their drinks, Mr. Halton says he must be going. Before he leaves, Angel says to him: 'Mr. Halton, since I've had the privilege of enjoying your confidence, may I indulge in a little advice?'

MEETING AT THE GRAND DUCHESS

Mr. Halton tells Angel he will be in Paris next Wednesday At that moment, Mr. Wilton comes in to inform Mr. Barker that Hamilton is on the telephone. As Mr. Barker goes to talk on the telephone, Angel and Mr. Halton are alone again for a few minutes. Mr. Halton asks: 'You wanted to give me some advice, Lady Barker?' Angel replies: 'I'm afraid Angel is far from blameless, but I think you should forget her. And perhaps, even forgive her.' Mr. Halton says: 'I've already forgiven her, but...I'll be in Paris next Wednesday. If there's a chance, one chance in a million. I'll be waiting for her at the Grand Duchess.' Angel cannot believe what he is planning to do and tells him: 'It'll be useless. You'll only be torturing yourself.' Mr. Halton is nonetheless determined about what he is going to do: 'I'll be there Wednesday at 5:00. I'll be there hours before 5:00.'



Angel is crushed that Mr. Barker chooses to go to Geneva instead of going to Vienna with her Next, we see Mr. Barker in his study room. He tells his assistant Mr. Greenwood that he is going to Geneva himself instead of Mr. Hamilton: 'I'm quite sure Mr. Hamilton would handle it very ably, but you know me, Greenwood. I'd be uncomfortable if I didn't go myself.' His assistant asks him about the other reservations. He seems to have forgotten all the other reservations for his trip with Lady Barker. At that moment, Angel comes in and asks whether he is working. She sees a brochure of a hotel in Vienna and seems very excited about their trip to Vienna: 'Darling, I can hardly wait.'



Let's have a glorious time. Let's be foolish again. Oh, I can't tell you how much...' However, she sees the expression on her husband's face and realizes that something is wrong: 'What's the matter? Don't tell me. Don't tell me we're not going. Don't tell me now.' After her husband starts speaking, she says: 'Don't explain. It's very clear. You have to do your duty. I know. I know very well. Too well. I can recite all the reasons. I know them by heart.' She is apparently very disappointed but has a stoic-looking face. Mr. Greenwood comes in to talk further about business and Angel leaves the room.

Mr. Barker finds out about Angel's secret trip to Paris After Angel has left the room, Mr. Greenwood talks to Mr. Barker about the reservations: 'The Geneva plane stops in Paris only 20 minutes. Now, I believe you'll require at least four hours in Paris.' Mr. Barker confirms that he has a good many things to discuss at the embassy. Mr. Greenwood replies: 'And in that case, the airways people suggest a private plane. They say they can put one of their newest machines at your disposal, in fact, the same plane that Lady Barker chartered last week.' Mr. Barker is completely surprised that Lady Barker chartered a plane last week. He later pretends to remember that she did charter a plane but it is all a facade to cover his surprise that his wife did not tell him about what she did. After Mr. Greenwood leaves, he calls Imperial Airways to enquire about the private plane and learns that it took her to Paris in one hour and forty minutes.

Angel wants Mr. Barker to drop her off in Paris on his way to Geneva After his telephone conversation with the Airways is over, he goes back to where Angel is. She asks him if he is finished with his work and further asks him when he is leaving for Geneva. Mr. Barker says: 'On Wednesday morning, by plane.' Angel further inquires: 'Doesn't the plane stop in Paris? I've been thinking, why couldn't you take me along as far as Paris and then pick me up on your way back? I really need some new clothes. I haven't done any shopping for quite a while.' He says, hiding that he knows the truth about her mysterious travels, that: 'That's an excellent idea. Besides, it will do you good to get away from London. Be a change for you...Well, then, I shall make arrangements for Wednesday.'

Mr. Barker hears Mr. Halton playing the same tune his wife had played Next, we see another telephone call. The servant says that it is Lord Davington's house: 'You wish to speak to Mr. Halton? Who's calling, please? Just one moment, Sir Frederick.' As the servant goes to inform Mr. Halton that Mr. Barker is phoning, the telephone is on and one can hear Mr. Halton playing the famous tune that Angel and he had listened to in Paris.

Mr. Barker arrives at the house of the Grand Duchess and investigates who Angel truly is We see Mr. Barker getting off a taxi in Paris, at the Grand Duchess' house. Mr. Barker enters the house and tells the servant that he would like to see the Grand Duchess. After they sit down, she asks him to what she owes the pleasure of his visit. Mr. Barker says: 'Well, at a party a few days ago, your name was mentioned, and the charm and glamor of your salon.' She says that he might find some very interesting people at the cocktail bar since it is after five o'clock. Seeing he is not interested, she suggests that she might arrange a dinner for him. Mr. Barker finally says: 'You're very kind, Your Highness. But you know, at this party, I just referred to, a certain young lady was mentioned, and her description roused my curiosity.' The Grand Duchess asks Mr. Barker to give her the lady's name: 'That's the difficulty. Her name seems to be rather a mystery. But I wonder if this might give you a clue. The person describing her referred to her as *Angel*.' The Grand Duchess seems to be at a complete loss which is of course part of her pretension. She says that's a strange, a rather charming name but she does not know who that person is: 'I have an excellent memory, but I don't seem to remember that name at all.' Mr. Barker suggests that he might refresh her memory or that he might make a contribution to any charitable institution she may like or he might even make the contribution at her disposal if she pleases. At that moment, a servant comes in and informs the Grand Duchess that Aunt Sonia has arrived. The Grand Duchess excuses herself and leaves Mr. Barker.



Angel and Mr. Barker meet, Angel is surprised that her husband missed the conference

After a few moments, Angel comes in and enters the room where Sir Frederick is in. They greet each other. Mr. Barker says: 'Strange place to meet you, isn't it?' Further into their conversation, she asks what he is doing there. Mr. Barker says: 'Curiosity. You see, the lady known as Angel caught my imagination.'

Angel is surprised: 'You mean you stayed in Paris? You actually missed a conference in Geneva?' Mr. Barker replies that he wished to merely find out if she is a brunette. Angel says she can hardly believe that he lets all of Europe wait just to find out if a woman is a brunette. Mr. Barker: 'Or a blonde.' At that moment, Angel starts describing the woman in perfect detail. She says that Mr. Halton had described Angel to her rather differently and that Angel has blonde hair, blue eyes, her figure, and a slight foreign accent. When Mr. Barker mentions that this sounds like a description of her, she says: 'It does, doesn't it? Well, it annoyed me that there should be another woman in this world who looks exactly like me. It disturbed my vanity. You know how women are. So, I came here to find out.' Mr. Barker asks if she has seen her. Angel replies she has and that she is in the next room. Mr. Barker further questions if she looks like her and she says: 'Exactly.'



Mr. Barker questions his wife and her double life as Angel

At this moment, Mr. Barker starts interrogating his wife: 'You were in Paris last Wednesday. Why didn't you tell me?' Angel replies: 'Did you ever ask me? Did you ever ask me what I do when you go to Geneva? When you go to Locarno? When you have your conferences, your committees, your subcommittees. Did you ever ask me anything?' Mr. Barker gets nervous and angry: 'How many times have you been here before? What kind of life have you been leading? What kind of woman are you?' Angel does not like the way she is being questioned by her husband: 'Does it really worry you? As much as Yugoslavia worries you?' He does not seem to be listening to what she is saying and continues: 'To think that my wife whom I trusted, whom I was proud of, to think that you would come to a place like this?... *Angel*. You are *Angel*.' She seems surprised to hear that. She asks why she would be *Angel*: 'Why should I be so foolish? Why should I do such a thing? Don't I have a lovely home, a celebrated husband, the best servants, every comfort, social position, is there anything more a woman could ask? Why should I be *Angel*? What reason could I have? Perhaps, you can think of one.'



Angel does not want Mr. Barker to go into the adjoining room

After this conversation, Mr. Barker starts to head towards the next room where supposedly Angel is. As his wife sees him, she says to him: 'Now, Frederick, if you go into that room. I'm afraid our marriage is over. If you find Angel in there, you'll be happy that I'm not Angel. And you'll want to continue our old life. That would not be satisfactory to me.' Sir Frederick asks what would happen if he does not find Angel. His wife responds: 'In that case, I think you'll want to see your lawyer as soon as possible.' She further adds: 'On the other hand, if you don't go in at all, you'll be a little uncertain, you won't be quite so sure of yourself, or of me. And that might be wonderful.' Mr. Barker hesitates for a moment, he opens the door nonetheless and finds himself in an empty room.



Mr. Halton and Angel meet Next, we see Mr. Halton coming into the room where Angel is. She asks him who told him that she came. Mr. Halton says: 'I understand Frederick's here.' Angel replies: 'He's in the other room, or maybe he's gone. I don't know. Anyway, it's all over. Silly how upsetting a little thing like saying goodbye to one's husband can be.' Mr. Halton holds Angel's hand and hands her fur scarf to her.



Mr. Barker comes back and offers his wife to go to Vienna At that moment, the door opens and Mr. Barker comes in. Mr. Barker and Mr. Halton greet each other. Mr. Barker speaks: 'You know, the...That story you told me about Angel, interested me so much, that I couldn't resist coming here. Well, I've met her.' Then he turns to Angel and says: 'You see, Maria, in the last few moments, I've thought more about our married life, than in all the years we've been together, and all I know is, the train to Vienna leaves at 10:00. I... I don't know how you feel about Vienna. You've plenty of time to think it over. Well, I say goodbye to Angel, and so must you, Maria, if you decide to meet me at the station.'



Maria's goodbye to Angel We see Mr. Barker leaving the room, going through the corridor, and after a few seconds, Maria joins him. And they leave the building together without looking back.



CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Maria, Lady Barker, Mrs. Barker, aka Mrs. Brown, aka Angel:

Mrs. Barker—or *Angel* as Mr. Halton calls her—is the main character of the film. She is the wife of Sir Frederick Barker or Mr. Barker, a top-level British diplomat. She has an air of mystery and nebulosity surrounding her. Despite being a beautiful woman and loving her husband, she is rather neglected by him. This neglect is the impetus to her secret travel to Paris and there she meets Mr. Halton.

Mysterious: *Angel* is a mysterious woman or she prefers to present herself as such, in particular to Mr. Halton. When she meets him, she does not prefer to give him her name or share any details about her life. She thinks that their perfect evening together would be spoiled by names and details about their respective lives. We can see that she also does not share a lot about her life with her friends either. When she comes to visit Anna Dmitrievna to take her advice, we find out that they haven't heard from each other for the last six years and *Angel* broke her engagement to an Italian man named Savoldi. When asked the reason for this, she says: 'Forgotten', meaning she does not want to give further details of her life or overshare even to her friends. One might say this enigma or mystery surrounding her as a person makes her even more radiant, exciting, and charming to Mr. Halton.

Beautiful: *Angel* is blonde, has blue eyes, and a slight foreign accent. She is a beautiful woman. She is not only beautiful but also takes care of herself extremely well as can be seen in her outfits and the way she presents herself to the outside world. Her beauty and loveliness are definitely the factors that attract Mr. Halton.

Neglected: Even though she is charming, beautiful, and a loving wife; she is rather neglected by her husband Mr. Barker. Mr. Barker cares more or is rather more passionate about politics and diplomacy than his marriage life. Despite living in the best circumstances, having a great social position and the best servants; at heart, she is not happy with her life. Because she feels unseen and neglected by her husband.

Responsible: Even though her liaison with Mr. Halton constitutes an important phase of her life process, she is nevertheless acutely aware of her duties as a wife and is a responsible person. That is the reason why she chooses to go with her husband instead of staying with Mr. Halton when confronted about her double life by Mr. Barker. Although she is deeply attracted to Mr. Halton and their tryst is probably something that she will never forget throughout her life, she is aware of the possible consequences of her actions and duties as a married woman. Therefore, she chooses to go with Mr. Barker over Mr. Halton.

Art-loving: Another quality of Angel is that she is an art-lover. We find out how much she loves opera as she prepares to go there and converses with her husband about it whom we find out, contrary to his wife, is not fond of opera at all.

Sir Frederick Barker, Mr. Barker:

Sir Frederick or Mr. Barker is a top-level British diplomat. He is a wealthy man and husband of Mrs. Maria Barker or *Angel*. Throughout the film, we see how dedicated he is to his political and diplomatic pursuits, even at times at the expense of his wife. He is a busy man who is willing to tackle international problems with ardor and eagerness. However, his life seems out of balance as he does not have any time to spend with his wife. His neglect of his wife ultimately initiates the series of events that lead to the liaison between Mr. Halton and Mrs. Barker.

Hardworking: Mr. Barker is a very hard-working man as can be seen from the first scene where we see him being photographed by the press and his name printed on the newspapers. We first find out about him that the League of Nations is adopting Mr. Barker's plan, suggesting to us the viewers that his perspectives and views are accepted by the communities he engages with. He is frequently on the telephone overseeing that everything is working smoothly. His hard work pays off as he leads a very wealthy life, however, he seems not to be aware of the fact that his wife is innately unhappy.

Narrow-minded: Mr. Barker can be said to be a narrow-minded man. First of all, he is so deeply focused on his own restricted specialty (politics), that he does not seem to be interested in or care about other types of pursuits such as opera as can be witnessed in his conversation with his wife. Moreover, when Mr. Halton shares with him the details of his love affair with Angel, he seems not to understand the depth and extent of Mr. Halton's emotions and feelings at all. Thus, it can be said that he is not willing to accept opinions, beliefs, and behaviors that are unusual or different from one's own and that he is a man that is rather set in his ways.

Loving: Despite being too focused on his work and business, Mr. Barker loves his wife. We can see how much he cares for her in his facial expressions and the way he treats her. He is always kind and respectful. However, because his priority is his work, he does not express his love for his wife as much as he could.

Anthony Tony Halton, Mr. Halton:

Mr. Halton is a friend of a man referred to as Captain Buckler. He comes to the salon of Anna Dmitrievna because he wishes to have an amusing time in Paris. At first sight, it appears that he is merely interested in having fun and entertainment and does not care much about deep feelings and emotions. However, things change their course when he encounters the mysterious woman whom he decides to call *Angel*. He feels that his *search* finally has come to an end since he has found the one woman whom he wishes to spend the rest of his life with. However, his aspirations are doomed to fail as the woman he is in love with is the wife of a prominent man who likewise loves her.

Adventurous: The characteristic of being adventurous can be said to be true of Mr. Halton as his very act of coming to the salon of Grand Duchess indicates that he is open to meeting new people, new experiences, and surprises. When Angel suggests to him important, historical places and buildings to visit; he has an amused look on his face as he is on the lookout not for historical monuments but romance.

Loving: Mr. Halton is a loving man. He adores Angel. He probably falls in love with her at first sight. His passion for her can be seen in the restaurant scene where he wishes to get to know more about her. Angel is a mystery to him and he wants to know who she truly is. His love for her makes him search for her in every corner of Paris after she suddenly disappears while he was buying her a bouquet of violets. It is his love once again that makes him not care whether Angel is married. He can do anything for her. In his words: 'I didn't care who you were. All I know is that I love you. And I'll never let you out of my life.'

Passionate: Mr. Halton's love and passion for Angel are intertwined. Passion refers to a strong and barely controllable emotion, or intense, driving, or overmastering feeling. As Mr. Halton falls head over heels for *Angel*, he is ready to do anything to win her.

Determined: His passionate and loving nature combine to make him a determined man, determined in the sense that he is ready to do whatever it takes to make *Angel* his lover. We can witness his determination as we find out that he has searched every corner of Paris to find the whereabouts of Angel. Moreover, when he finds her in the house of his old friend Mr. Barker; he does not hesitate to offer her to come to Paris the next week as Mr. Barker is on the phone. As he remarks: 'I'll be in Paris next Wednesday. If there's a chance, one chance in a million.' This shows us that he is clinging to every bit of hope that Angel might become his lover one day.

Grand Duchess Anna Dmitrievna:

Grand Duchess Anna Dmitrievna manages an escort business in her grand salon. We do not get to know the details about when Anna Dmitrievna met and became friends with Angel. But we do find out that they haven't seen each other in the past six years and that Angel used to be engaged to an Italian man called Savoldi and lived in Rome for some time the length of which is unknown.

Clever: Anne Dmitrievna is a clever woman. The way she handles her *customers* shows us that she pretends many a time not to know about a particular person when in fact she does indeed know about them. For instance, near the beginning of the film, she pretends not to know about the fact that there was a woman (Angel) in the room where Mr. Halton was. This means that she thinks it right to keep secrets regarding the privacy of her customers and friends. Only when Mr. Halton is about to leave her, does she reveal that she knows that a woman was there and asks him about why he is so interested in finding out her name. Likewise, when Mr. Barker comes to her to ask about who Angel is, she pretends not to have ever heard of the name. She mentions rather tactfully that it is a charming and strange name and that her memory is excellent, however, she makes clear that she does not know about her which is, of course, as we the viewers already know, a lie.

Well-mannered: Other than being clever, resourceful, and tactful; Anna Dmitrievna is also a well-mannered woman. She is always polite in her manners. She makes sure that her customers are entertained and provides an excellent atmosphere for them to be delighted. Even though she frequently lies strategically as a matter of protecting the privacy of her customers, she makes sure that her lies are delivered in the most respectable and well-mannered way possible. This shows us that she is sensible, shows skill and sensitivity in dealing with others, and has seen a lot of the world.

Christopher Wilton:

Mr. Wilton is the butler of the Barker family or the Barkers'. He is an experienced man, is dutiful, nevertheless gossipy too. He seems to be quite adept at taking care of the house and organizing the things in the house. He announces his engagement to the Barkers' and confesses to them that even though his fiancé didn't use to believe in the institution of marriage, his citing of the happy and successful marriage of the Barkers' made her change her mind.

Gossipy: Mr. Wilton is a gossipy man. Despite being very aware of his responsibilities and duties, we get a glimpse into his gossipy nature while he is preparing lunch for his masters and Mr. Halton. As another servant asks his opinion about Mr. Halton, he replies that he thinks Mr. Halton is a *trifle dull*, as 'he talks about Paris, Paris, Paris, and again *Paris*'. Moreover, he is also very knowledgeable about the details of the lives of various butlers, maids, and servants as he gives information about them to his fiancé while they are at the races. Thus, he might clearly be said to be an inquisitive man who is very much interested in people.

Dutiful: Mr. Wilton is first and foremost a dutiful butler. He is devoted, dedicated to his work, and responsible. He is always respectful towards his masters when engaging with them and seemingly, quite proud of serving them too.

THEMES

RELATIONSHIP

Marriage Marriage is an institution the value of which gets questioned in the film. We the viewers witness the stark contrast between passionate love versus a happy married life. Despite being a neglected wife, Mrs. Barker has the best comforts that a wealthy and aristocratic life can offer. Her husband loves her even though he does not always attend to her emotional needs. They can rarely find anything to quarrel about. Even their butler Mr. Wilton cites them as a most beautiful example of how happy married life can be. Therefore, we can say that generally speaking, the marriage of Mr.- and Mrs. Barker is a happy and successful one. Nevertheless, because of being neglected and being inwardly and subtly unhappy, Mrs. Barker feels the need to go to Paris to ask for some advice from her old friend Anna Dmitrievna. Her chancy encounter with Mr. Halton opens up for her a new experience that makes her question her married life. She becomes frightened of the possibility that she might betray her husband. The attraction between her and Mr. Halton builds a contrast to her monotonous marriage. At the end of the film, Mrs. Barker nevertheless chooses her marriage instead of passionate love and attraction, seeing her duty and responsibility as a wife as more important than a passionate affair. She chooses stability, security, comfort, and reliability over passionate love, attraction, and romance.

Friendship Mr. Barker and Mr. Halton turn out to be old friends from war times. It turns out that Mr. Barker used to spend his Paris leaves with Mr. Halton and a woman named Paulette Fouchardiere. Their friendship gets renewed as they encounter each other many years later at a luncheon. Mr. Halton comfortably shares his feelings about Angel with Mr. Barker, indicating that he trusts him. However, when Mr. Halton realizes that his wife is his Angel, everything gets changed. The love he feels for Angel is much more powerful than his friendship with Mr. Barker. Therefore, Mr. Halton does not shy away from addressing Mrs. Barker as Angel when they are alone and makes further romantic advances toward her. He even offers her to come to Paris once again. All these instances show us that the passionate love Mr. Halton feels for Angel overrides the importance of his old friend Frederick.

Loyalty/Betrayal It can be said that Mrs. Barker's travel to Paris and her acceptance to dine with Mr. Halton constitutes a betrayal. She hides information from her husband as to what she is doing. She agrees to dine with a man she recently met and spends a very romantic evening with him. Even though she later seems to regret her behavior and tryst— as can be seen when she goes away from the races because she spots Mr. Halton there—, this does not change the fact that she betrayed her husband.

When Mr. Barker forgets about their plans to visit Vienna and chooses to go to Geneva as part of his business, Mrs. Barker clearly tells him not to do that: 'What's the matter? Don't tell me. Don't tell me we're not going. Don't tell me now.' The fact that her husband once again chooses his work over her causes her to decide to go to Paris once again. She wishes her husband to drop her off with the excuse to go shopping. This is the second time she chooses to betray her husband and meet Mr. Halton once again. However, we must be not too quick to judge this action because, from her own point of view, her actions are justified as her husband has already chosen his work in Geneva over his wife.

At the end of the film, Mrs. Barker or Angel chooses her husband over Mr. Halton. This shows us that even though she has betrayed her husband twice, she knows that her marriage and home are nevertheless the most important things to her and family is her core value. Therefore, in the end, she chooses to be loyal to her husband as her husband has already forgiven her and offers her to come with him to Vienna.

Attraction Romantic attraction is the attraction that makes people desire romantic contact or interaction with another person. The attraction we see in the film is that between Angel and Mr. Halton. From the first moment they see each other, we can understand that they like being in the presence of each other. They first have a flirtatious conversation where Angel suggests various options for Mr. Halton to have an amusing time in Paris. Later, Mr. Halton invites her to dinner and she agrees to dine with him despite showing a bit of resistance at first. We can see how greatly they are attracted to each other in

various scenes such as at the restaurant, in the private dining room, and the park. However, this attraction between them turns out not to be sufficient to change the course of her marriage as at the end of the film, Mrs. Barker says, metaphorically, goodbye to Angel and leaves Mr. Halton in Paris to go with her husband to Vienna.

PSYCHOLOGY

Regret Regret refers to the state of feeling sad, repentant, or disappointed over something that one has done or failed to do. Regret is a feeling that can be seen in *Angel* as Mrs. Barker, aka Angel, is visibly repentant or conscience-stricken about her affair with Mr. Halton, in particular when she sees him come into her house as a guest. As she is confronted by Mr. Halton, she says to him: 'I told you in Paris, never to look for me. Never to recognize me whenever and wherever you find me. The whole thing must be forgotten.' From her remark that the whole thing must be forgotten, we can conclude that she does not want Mr. Halton in her life anymore. She never explicitly tells whether the tryst and liaison were more than an adventure to her. As mentioned before, she likes to keep things mysterious and ambiguous. Referring to whether everything was more than an adventure, she says: 'Maybe it was. Maybe the lady thought so too. But it's impossible for me to read the mind of a woman I never saw nor heard of.' The thing we can be sure of is that she does not want to see her home and thus her marriage life destroyed. From this, we can infer that her passion for Mr. Halton is not as powerful as Mr. Halton's passion for Angel.

An earlier scene when we see that she does not wish to meet or run into Mr. Halton is when she sees him with her binoculars at the races. She pretends to have a headache and gets away from the scene as soon as she can. This again suggests to us that she wants to forget about her liaison and this suggests to us that she is conscience-stricken or guilty-feeling about the whole affair.

Anger/Jealousy Anger and jealousy are emotions that can be seen as intertwined in several instances in the film. We see Mr. Halton, while he is dining with Angel, confessing that he is *terribly jealous* of whomever Angel is engaged to or married with. When Mr. Halton comes to the house of Angel to have lunch with his old friend Frederick or Mr. Barker, we can see in Mr. Halton's facial expressions his fury and anger regarding the fact that Angel pretends not to know him at all. He is angry about her pretension and incredibly jealous about the fact that she is married to Mr. Barker. However, he has to keep his facade too, and does so, even though his discomfort and tension become noticed by both Mr. and Mrs. Barker.

Another character in whom we witness anger is Mr. Barker when he finds out that Mrs. Barker chartered a plane without informing him and spent some time in Paris. He becomes—understandably—suspicious and tries to investigate who the mysterious Angel is. When he meets Mrs. Barker at the Grand Duchess' salon, he is incredibly jealous and simultaneously angry as he realizes that his wife has been leading a double life and as he questions her about how many times she has already been at the salon of the Grand Duchess.

Angel is also not without anger. She is righteously angry as she is investigated by her husband about what she has been doing in Paris, at the Grand Duchess' salon. She has her own reasons for becoming angry. Her husband has always been neglecting her and has never been particularly interested in what she has been up to, while he was away at his conferences. So, his sudden surge of interest in the details of his wife's life and quasi-interrogation drives her angry.

Fear Fear is an unpleasant emotion caused by the threat of danger, pain, or harm. Fear is an emotion that we prominently witness in Angel. First, she becomes frightened of herself and of what she is capable of doing that is, betraying her loving husband Mr. Barker. She is cold and frightened at the park while she is walking with Mr. Halton because she knows that she is greatly attracted to Mr. Halton and this is a great threat to her marriage. Another scene where we clearly become witness to her feeling fear is when Mr. Halton comes into her house as a guest. When they are alone, he addresses her as *Angel* and wants her to drop her mask off and stop pretending to not know him. This causes Mrs. Barker to be on edge. When Anthony plays the tune they heard in Paris on the piano, her face is covered in fear and apprehension. Mr. Halton even tells her not to be afraid, meaning that her fear is noticed by Mr. Halton. Angel tells Mr.

Halton: 'Go. Please go. Every moment you are here, my home is in danger. Go, I beg you. I tell you.' This shows us the severe degree of threat she feels and her fear that her home might soon be destroyed.

Loss Mr. Halton loses Angel as soon as he finds her. As he explains to Mr. Barker, his feelings for Angel are so great that he feels that his *search* for the love of his life has finally come to an end. He spends time with Angel as they dine and walk in the park. Because the time he spends with her is so limited, Mr. Halton starts measuring time not in terms of hours but seconds. After their romantic walk in the park, Angel mysteriously vanishes into thin air. Mr. Halton's loss of Angel makes him fall in love with her more deeply. He searches for her traces everywhere in Paris and is obsessed with her which he talks about in detail with his old friend Mr. Barker. He finds her again, in the very home of his friend, as his friend's wife. He cannot believe that as he refers to the whole event as a *dream*. He tries his chance once again and offers Angel to meet him at the Grand Duchess'. However, there the three characters all confront each other and Angel chooses stability, security, peace, and the comfort of married life instead of staying with the adventurous Mr. Halton. Thus, Mr. Halton loses Angel not only once but twice when she finally chooses Mr. Barker.

Boredom 'Boredom, ennui, or tedium is an emotional and psychological state experienced when an individual is left without anything in particular to do, is listless and dissatisfied due to a lack of occupation or excitement, is not interested in their surroundings, or feels that a day or period is dull or tedious.' We can see Angel experiencing boredom and boredom as one of the causes for her to go to Paris in the first place. Her husband Mr. Barker does not care to spend time with her and is solely focused on his diplomatic and political missions. Because of Mr. Barker's negligence, Angel stays at home by herself for long periods with nothing particularly enjoyable to do. She also does not have a particular professional occupation. Therefore, she decides to take a trip to Paris for a change and to see an old friend of hers, the Grand Duchess Anna in order to take some advice from her. As a result of his trip, she meets Mr. Halton and has an affair with him. It can thus be said that the initiator of the series of causal events is the boredom, discontentment, and dissatisfaction Angel experiences during the absence of her husband.

FLAW

Greed/Ambition Greed and ambition both refer to the intense desire for or to achieve something. We can say that it is in the character of Mr. Halton that we see greed and ambition embodied. His love for and adoration of Angel fuels his ambitions to win her. He searches for her everywhere in Paris after she disappears. Even after he finds out that she is happily married to his old friend Mr. Barker, his ambition to be with Angel propels him to secretly offer her to come to Paris so they can meet once again. Even though Mr. Halton is ready to do whatever it takes to be with Angel, his feelings are not entirely reciprocated as Angel chooses her husband over Mr. Halton in the end.

QUEST

Explore Mrs. Barker or *Mrs. Brown's* travel to Paris turns into an adventure. She explores the city and meets Mr. Halton in the salon of the Grand Duchess after which she becomes *Angel*. As she spends time with Mr. Halton, Angel explores a new person. So does Mr. Halton. It is curious to note that when Angel suggests to Mr. Halton various historical places to visit, he is not interested at all. We soon find out that Mr. Halton is not interested in exploring the city but rather exploring people and having new, romantic experiences. Mr. Barker also explores cities as he travels quite often for his business. He travels to Geneva for his committees. It can be said that he explores the world from a political perspective or side of things.

Investigation When Mr. Barker finds out that his wife chartered a plane to travel to Paris, he becomes suspicious as to why she never mentioned to him that she went to Paris. Later when he makes a phone call to Mr. Halton, he hears on the phone Mr. Halton playing the same tune that his wife had played near Mr. Barker which raises his suspicions. Therefore, he goes to the salon of Anna Dmitrievna to investigate who Angel truly is. When he asks Anna Dmitrievna about Angel, she does not want to tell him anything about her as she pretends not to have heard the name at all. Later, his wife Mrs. Barker comes into the room where Mr. Barker has been waiting and he questions her as to what kind of life she has been

leading all along. The investigation comes to an end when Mr. Barker opens the door of the adjoining room where his wife says Angel is and sees an empty room. The empty room indicates that Mrs. Barker is indeed Angel and Mr. Barker has to face the fact that her wife had an affair with Mr. Halton.

APPEARANCE

Secrets Secrets constitute a major part of the film. Angel does not tell his husband about her trip to Paris and naturally, her affair with Mr. Halton. However, this secret affair soon reveals itself when Mr. Barker finds out about how his wife had chartered a plane the week before to go to Paris. The reason Angel keeps her trip to Paris a secret is because she is feeling guilty about her behavior and her disloyalty to her husband. At the end of the film, all the secrets are revealed.

Dreams When Mr. Barker comes back home from his business trip, he finds her wife to be peacefully sleeping in her bed. When he mentions to her how she had the loveliest expression, she tells him that she has been dreaming. The dream that she talks about reveals much about her inner world and how she perceives things. In her dream, she dreams that her husband was a great success at the League of Nations. But he was talking so she could not get near him. She travels around the globe, goes to Egypt and China, and comes back to the League of Nations. But Frederick is still talking. So, she takes him to Paris. They walk in a park, sit on a bench. She is cold and frightened. At this point, she says she got mixed up. This was actually a dream that she had dreamt the other day. From this explanation, we can infer that she perceives her husband as someone who is always busy and has no time for her. He is always working and even if Maria travels around the globe to pass the time, her husband still has more work to do and cannot devote time to her. Then she starts talking about Mr. Halton as he was the one with whom she spent time in Paris. She talks about their walk in the park. Mr. Halton seems to represent for her a new possibility or an opportunity, someone who would gladly devote all his time to her. The dream Angel has thus reflects to us her inner feelings and perceptions.

PAST

Memory The time that Mr. Halton and Angel spend together in Paris very soon turns into a memory. They only spend a few hours together which when compared with the years Angel has spent with her husband becomes dwarfed. The moments that Mr. Halton and Angel spend together are at a rather earlier part of the film. Mr. Halton later talks to his old friend Mr. Barker about his memories with Angel which are destined to stay as mere memories. Both Angel and Mr. Halton play on their pianos the tune they had heard in Paris, thereby reminiscing about the beautiful time they spent together which they are unable to retrieve back. When Mr. Barker finally finds out that his wife is Angel, Angel is presented with a choice. She can rekindle the beautiful memories if she chooses to stay with Mr. Halton in Paris. However, she chooses to go to Vienna with her husband, thus making it certain that the memories will always stay as memories and will probably never be rekindled, as can be inferred from the last scene of the film where Maria and Mr. Barker walk out the salon of the Grand Duchess *without* looking back.

Transience The scenes where Angel and Mr. Halton are together have a dreamlike quality. The romantic yet short-lived affair they have seems to be a part of both their lives that will remain in their memories forever. When Mr. Halton finds his Angel in the house of his old friend, he tells her: 'It seems incredible. That I should find you here in this house. His wife. It's like a dream.' However, Mr. Halton does not yet realize that their memories and affair will never be rekindled again. Their affair shows us the *fragility* and *transience* of human relationships. In the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: 'Ships that pass in the night, and speak each other in passing, only a signal shown and a distant voice in the darkness; so on the ocean of life, we pass and speak one another, only a look and a voice, then darkness again and a silence.'