

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Jason Zimmerman, MA

***The Pleasure Garden* (1925)**

Alfred Hitchcock

OVERVIEW

Director Sir Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980) is a household name and perhaps the best-known British filmmaker. With over 50 films to his credit, Hitchcock helped to shape the modern understanding of the thriller genre. His best-known films include *The Birds*, *Vertigo*, and *Psycho*, all of which have earned accolades, including preservation by the US Film Registry. In 1960, Hitchcock was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame with two stars for his work in both film and television. He was also the first recipient of the BAFTA Academy Fellowship Award.

Film Mostly shot in Italy and Germany during 1925, *The Pleasure Garden* was Hitchcock's directorial debut. Both lead actresses were American, making this the only British Hitchcock picture to feature leading American talent. While this is Hitchcock's debut, audiences in the UK didn't have a chance to see it until January of 1927, only a month before *The Lodger* was released to rave reviews.

Background Among the few surviving contemporaneous reviews of *The Pleasure Garden*, one American critic had this to say: "[*The Pleasure Garden*] is a sex picture whole unsuitable for the exhibitor who aims to show good clean entertainment." In the UK, the film was utterly overshadowed by the release of Hitchcock's third film, *The Lodger*, perhaps leading to the lack of surviving reviews. The British Film Institute restored the original reels in 2012, adding twenty minutes of missing footage to the new DVD release. They also commissioned a new score from Daniel Patrick Cohen who would perform live during a number of screenings across the world. *The Pleasure Garden* was the first Hitchcock film to leave copyright and enter the public domain in the US in 2021.

CINEMATIC NARRATION

The first moments in *The Pleasure Garden* are an excellent introduction to the many motifs and camera tricks Hitchcock would soon become famous for. The very first shot shows chorus girls descending a spiral staircase while the next shots show the various people in the crowd watching the dancers as the camera dollies past. The shot changes, showing us an amorous man's view of Patsy through his opera glasses. Patsy herself (while not naturally blonde) is portrayed at first as an aloof sex object before being revealed to be down-to-earth and multifaceted. These and other Hitchcockian motifs come up throughout the film. For a picture shot in 1925, *The Pleasure Garden* remains a surprisingly entertaining feature today, with dramatic elements of romance and betrayal.

SYNOPSIS

Young and inexperienced dancer Jill Cheyne arrives in London, hoping to make her dreams of stardom become a reality. With the help of experienced dance hall performer Patsy Brand, Jill quickly becomes a regular in the lineup of the Pleasure Garden Theater. The two women become fast friends, living together in the same modest flat. Jill's childhood sweetheart, Hugh Fielding, comes to visit before leaving to work on a plantation in Africa. He brings Mr. Levet, a co-worker, who strikes up a relationship with Patsy. Patsy quickly becomes Mrs. Levet, although on her honeymoon, she is disappointed to learn Mr. Levet isn't the man she believed him to be.

While the men are in Africa, Jill begins a relationship with a prince, forsaking her love for Hugh as she becomes accustomed to the rich lifestyle the prince can give her. At the same time, Mr. Levet begins a relationship with a native woman in Africa, sending Patsy letters claiming that he is sick and unable to

write regularly. After failing to get the funds from Jill for a boat ticket—in spite of her newfound wealth—Patsy's landlords lovingly give the girl their savings so she can go and be with her husband. In Africa, she discovers his treachery and begins to fall in love with Hugh. Mr. Levet responds by beating his wife. On one drunken bender, he attempts to kill her with a sword. Quick-thinking Hugh, however, arrives in the nick of time with help, shooting the abusive Levet before he can harm Patsy. They return to London together to begin their lives anew with each other.

CHARACTERS

Patsy Brand – An up-and-coming dancer at the Pleasure Garden

Jill Cheyne – A young woman who wishes to be a dancer, Hugh's childhood sweetheart and fiancé

Mr. Levet – Hugh's coworker, who marries Patsy

Hugh Fielding – Jill's childhood sweetheart, who plans to marry her after earning enough money in Africa

Prince Ivan – A rich man, who falls in love with Jill

Mr. Sidey – Patsy's landlord

Mrs. Sidey – Patsy's landlady

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Patsy Brand

Patsy is a popular chorus girl at the Pleasure Garden Theater. Despite her career choice and interactions with her fans, she is quite down-to-earth and even wholesome in private. Her kind heart and good intentions are misused by others, like Jill and Levet.

Honorable Patsy is an incredibly honorable woman. She sets out to be kind and understanding of others. While we see Jill and Levet take advantage of this attitude, we also see it as Patsy's greatest strength. Her moral compass never wavers, even when Levet is cheating on her. One might argue that her kissing Hugh during his fever dreams is an act of infidelity, but given that she planned on divorcing Levet after seeing him with the African woman and realizing his lies, it's a weak argument. Love, kindness, and honor lead Patsy to fall for Hugh, and in return, he realizes she was the girl for him all along.

Trusting Patsy trusts others, allowing Levet and Jill to take advantage of her kindness. Jill does this by skyrocketing to fame and forgetting about Patsy's friendship and support. Levet does this by marrying Patsy and immediately forsaking his vows upon arriving in Africa. Patsy doesn't realize she's been taken advantage of, believing Levet's letter when he says he is sick and cannot write regularly. Trusting her husband's word, she goes to Jill for financial assistance in traveling to Africa. Jill refuses to help, saying she's "spending all her money" on her marriage to the prince. Continuing her trusting behavior, she tells the news to her landlords, who are sympathetic and give her their savings so she can go to her husband. When Levet clearly betrays her trust, she simply abandons him, turning her attention to Hugh. While trusting, Patsy isn't stupid: She knows the betrayal isn't her fault and tries to move on with her life instead of dwelling on it.

Jill Cheyne

Jill was working for an old woman in the country and came to London in the hopes of becoming a dancer. With Patsy's help, she skyrockets to fame quickly. She forsakes her long-time relationship with Hugh for the rich prince.

Fickle Jill seems to have a hard time committing. She abandons a well-paying but dull job in the country in the hope of making a name for herself in the city. After having her money and letter of recommendation stolen, she moves in with Patsy, but she quickly forsakes Patsy and forgets this kindness, moving into an opulent apartment by herself. Similarly, while Hugh has been her betrothed for

some time, she gives him up the second the prince makes his interest in her known. In this way, she jumps from person to person, using them as long as she can before moving on to the next one.

Selfish Jill doesn't share much with others. Instead of helping to support or lift up Patsy, who saved her from poverty at the beginning of the film, Jill moves into an opulent apartment and begins filling it with fancy clothes and furniture. Likewise, she forsakes her long-time love, Hugh, for the rich prince. In this relationship she is cruel and aloof, taking pleasure in cowing the prince and withholding her affections. Her selfishness comes to a head when Patsy comes to ask for help paying for a ticket to Africa to tend to Levet during his supposed illness. Jill refuses her outright, unwilling to give up even the engagement ring Hugh gave her despite wanting to marry another man.

Hugh Fielding

Hugh is a young man looking to make his fortune overseas. He is in love with Jill, and he feels great pain when she forsakes him for the prince. After falling ill, he begins to fall in love with Patsy.

Kind Hugh is shown to be a kind man from his first appearance. While most characters ignore Patsy's dog, Cuddles, Hugh drops to his knees to wrestle with the dog when he shows a desire to play. He also talks very fondly and proudly of Jill, often stating his pride in her achievements since moving to London. When he learns that Jill has forsaken him, he doesn't have an unkind word for her despite his heartbreak. After learning that Patsy has been caring for him during his fever, he returns the kindness by saving her life, worried that Levet would try to hurt her after having his infidelity exposed.

Trusting Hugh, like Patsy, is incredibly trusting. He believes that Jill will wait for him while he labors in Africa. Even after learning about her impending marriage to the prince, Hugh still holds out hope that Jill will come for him, mistaking Patsy for Jill at first. Like many others in the film, Hugh misplaces his trust in Levet, not seeing the signs that he is unfaithful and a violent drunk until it is too late.

Mr. Levet

Levet is Hugh's colleague. Quickly after being introduced to Patsy, the two marry, but their marriage isn't a happy one. He takes a native lover in Africa and turns violent when Patsy travels to Africa to be with him through a supposed sickness, instead discovering his infidelity.

Untrustworthy Levet never keeps a single promise in the film. Upon arriving in Africa, he immediately takes an African mistress, spending more time lounging with her than he does working. He lies to Patsy, saying he hasn't written because he is ill. When Patsy arrives and finds him in the arms of the African woman, Levet begins to abuse the woman instead of taking the blame for his missteps. He even goes as far as murdering her and then turns a saber on his wife at the film's end.

Angry Levet has obvious anger issues. The first cracks in his polite facade show when he becomes angry that Patsy is enjoying herself during their Italian honeymoon. He also shows anger toward the local children who befriend Patsy and anger at Patsy for being "taken in" by the little "scam artists." His anger becomes violent when he is caught in the arms of his mistress by his wife. He even goes as far as drowning her in a warped act of revenge. He drinks in the hopes of calming himself down, but all this does is stoke the flames of his rage. Levet takes his anger out on Hugh, who has been made an invalid by his illness, claiming Hugh is trying to "steal" his wife. In reality, Levet cannot face the fact that his lies and infidelity have driven Patsy away.

THEMES

Love As a romance film, or (as described by some critics in the 1920s) as a "sex film," love is a central theme. This idea is embodied in Patsy and Hugh, who love openly and passionately. Their lovers, Levet and Jill, are similar in their lack of respect for their partners. Patsy and Hugh struggle with their love at first, both becoming jealous and depressed when they realize the person they love doesn't love them

back. As a contrast to Patsy and Hugh, Levet and Jill are uncaring, selfish, and ultimately cruel. We see true love blossom between Hugh and Patsy at the film's end when they return home after their shared experiences with lost love and Levet's murderous rage.

Marriage Marriage comes up quickly in *The Pleasure Garden*. Jill and Hugh are soon to be married, and Patsy falls quickly for Levet. Levet fails to meet Patsy's low expectations for a successful marriage, often mocking or dismissing her interests and desires. Likewise, Jill gives up on Hugh the first moment a rich man lays eyes on her. Levet has an affair with a native woman while in Africa, and when Patsy discovers this, he kills the woman and then tries to kill Patsy. Jill abandons Hugh before he even leaves for Africa, chasing the prince and his money. This attitude eventually spreads to Patsy as well, as Jill refuses to help her pay for passage to Africa to look after her sick husband. Despite cheating on her almost immediately after their honeymoon, Levet demands that Patsy stay with him because she is his wife, showing his patriarchal views on the institution: Patsy is his property, and her tenderness toward Hugh enrages him.

Appearance vs Reality Duplicity often comes up in the romantic aspects of the film. Both Levet and Jill forsake their lovers for another, hiding their infidelity from their partners. While Levet shows violent remorse for his infidelity, killing the African woman with whom he was cheating on Patsy, Jill shows no remorse for courting the rich prince and breaking Hugh's heart. Both Patsy and Hugh are taken in by their lover's lies, loving with a true heart. This results in great pain for both of them. Appearances mean a lot to Levet. He is so angered by Patsy leaving after she discovers him with the African woman that he threatens to kill Hugh, his friend and co-worker, for making Levet appear to be a cuckold. Desiring the appearance of being a good husband also drives him to kill the African woman.

Violence There is a shocking amount of violence in *The Pleasure Garden*. This theme comes into play during the later parts of the film. When Levet is caught with the African woman, he tries to pretend he didn't ask for the relationship, striking the African woman and pulling her hair. When the African woman realizes she's been rejected, she tries to drown herself in the sea. Levet rushes out to her, and she changes her mind, moving to meet him. Instead of saving her, however, he drowns her in a sadistic act of revenge. Levet then turns his violence on his wife, eventually succumbing to madness and threatening her with a saber in a warped attempt to clear his conscience. The final act of violence comes when the guide, at Hugh's behest, appears and shoots Levet just in the nick of time.

Kindness Kindness arises as a theme at many points in the film. We first see Patsy's kindness when she takes in Jill and speaks to her manager on her behalf to get her a dancing job. Hugh's kindness is highlighted in his first interactions with Patsy and her dog: the good-natured young man falls to his hands and knees to play with Cuddles, and he recovers quickly from his faux pas with Patsy when he accidentally trips her coming out of her bedroom, helping her up and laughing about the mistake. Patsy's kindness drives her to go to Levet in Africa when he claims to be sick. Jill shows marked unkindness when Patsy asks her for money to help pay for a ticket overseas, but Patsy's landlords show immense kindness to their tenant, offering up their savings to pay for her passage. After catching her husband with the native woman, Patsy begins tending to Hugh as he recovers from a jungle illness. Her kindness earns the ire of Levet, but Hugh repays her kindness, helping to save her life when Levet goes mad and tries to kill her. In the end, kindness brings Patsy and Hugh together.

Change Much changes throughout this short and simple romance film. It takes place in the confluence of several changes in the characters' lives. We begin with Jill, who arrives in London ready to change her life, seeking fame and fortune as a dancing girl. Patsy, seeing Jill in trouble after she loses her money and letter of recommendation, invites the young woman to live with her. This introduces her to Hugh and Levet, a pair of men amid their own changes, preparing to leave for Africa at the end of the month to earn their fortunes. Patsy falls for Levet, and they marry, but quickly, she learns he is not the man she thought he married. During their honeymoon, he changes, showing the impatient and uncaring sides of his personality. While the men are away, Jill forsakes her childhood sweetheart, Hugh, and pursues the affections of a rich prince. This changes her life when the rich man begins heaping money and gifts upon her, and she becomes greedy and stingy with Patsy. Fearful that her husband may be dying overseas, Patsy travels to Africa to tend to him, but finds Levet cheating on her with an African woman. She makes

it clear that she is no longer interested in a relationship with Levet and begins forming a relationship with Hugh. Levet changes, becoming violent. First, he kills the African woman and then tries to kill Patsy. Hugh, worried about Patsy, arrives with a guide, who shoots and kills Levet before he can harm Patsy. The two travel back to London and confirm their love for each other, the film's final change.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How does the story in *The Pleasure Garden* compare to portrayals of the same era in modern period dramas?

What are your thoughts on the depictions of race and gender in this film?

Were there any scenes or shots that stood out to you?

Although this is his first film, are there any elements that you recognize from Hitchcock's later works?

PLOT

Stage show- A troupe of chorus girls spill down a spiral staircase behind a stage. They bounce rhythmically in line as the lead dancer takes the stage, acting as a backdrop for her. A man waits in the wings, puffing on a cigar. The camera moves slowly along the edge of the stage, staring down at each of the people in the front row, mostly entranced men, until it stops on a woman, slumped over, asleep. It moves back to an older man with a monocle, who removes it before looking at a dancer's legs through a pair of opera glasses. He licks his lips and makes amorous faces at the young woman, who gives him a stern look. He moves from his seat to an usher and begins speaking before a title card appears: "The highly popular revues at the Pleasure Garden Theater are staged by Mr. Hamilton."



Patsy Brand- The man smoking on stage comes into view, a "smoking prohibited" sign hanging in the fumes from his cigar. This is Mr. Hamilton. The usher appears with the amorous man from the audience and the two chat for a moment. The man complements the chorus line, asking to meet a specific girl, and Mr. Hamilton waves her over. "Meet Patsy Brand," Mr. Hamilton says before leaving the chorus girl to talk with her fan. Patsy is amused by the man's nervous behavior before he speaks, saying her golden curls charmed him. Patsy smiles and plucks the curl from her head, saying, "Then I give it to you and hope you have a nice time." The man hands the curl back with a horrified look before Patsy retreats backstage, laughing at her interaction with the man.



Letter of recommendation- Outside the Pleasure Garden, a young woman walks along the street. Two men wait outside the door of the theater, sizing her up. As she enters, one of the men pilfers her purse, pocketing the contents before anyone notices with a smug grin on his face. The woman gets the ticket-seller's attention and introduces herself: "I'm Jill Cheyne, and I have a letter of introduction to Mr. Hamilton." The ticket-seller asks to see her letter, and Jill is shocked to find it missing along with her money. Backstage, Patsy and the other dancers dress in their street clothes. By the ticket booth, two young men coax Jill closer, trying to convince the desperate woman to come home with them. Emerging from the rear of the theater, Patsy steps in between them, offering to let Jill stay with her overnight before speaking to Mr. Hamilton on her behalf the next morning. Jill agrees, and the women leave together.



Patsy's apartment- Patsy turns on the lights in her apartment and is surprised to see her dog sitting in a pile that used to be one of her dance costumes. Jill and her landlady enter after her. A porter enters, followed by the landlord, carrying Jill's luggage into Patsy's bedroom. Jill stands awkwardly in the corner while the chaos plays out before she and Patsy are left alone. They chat for a moment, Patsy reassuring Jill that she isn't being a bother.



Bedtime- Later that evening, Patsy kicks her dog off of her bed before she begins to dress for the night's sleep. Jill soon joins her, showing Patsy a picture of her fiancé, Hugh. They yawn and talk while undressing and pulling on their nightclothes. "I was getting nowhere," Jill says through a title card, "keeping company to an old lady out in the country. I went to the theater straight from the station." Patsy laughs from the bed: "Did you expect him to hire you just like that, with the cab waiting?" Jill mentions her stolen letter of recommendation, and Patsy promises to take care of her. Jill sits on the other side of the bed, shooting back up when she realizes she's sat on the dog's slobbery bone. She throws it to the ground, and the dog scrambles into the shot to grab it before dashing away. The two young women settle into the bed before wishing each other good night and turning off the lights.



Rehearsal- A letter with instructions about rehearsal for the Pleasure Garden's dancing girls appears on-screen before we see Jill seated on a wicker basket in the entryway of the theater. Patsy pokes her head around the corner and clearly mouths, "Oh, Jill. Come here!" A bit nervous, Jill follows her to the stage where the chorus girls mill around, practicing cues and preparing for the new revue. Sensing Jill's apprehension, Patsy leads her by the hand to the stage before dashing to talk to one of the producers. She hastily makes introductions before running back to the stage to join the chorus line. The producer doesn't seem impressed with Jill and walks away, waving his hand dismissively. Practice begins, and Mr. Hamilton can be seen puffing on his cigar as he walks toward the stage.



"Take a chance"- Mr. Hamilton begins chiding the lead dancer about her choreography, and Jill watches from the wings, sensing an opportunity. Coyly, she taps Mr. Hamilton's shoulder and introduces herself before saying, "Take a chance, Mr. Hamilton, and I'll show you some real hot steps!" Mr. Hamilton seems amused by the statement, and even more so when Jill admits she's never danced professionally. Trying to humiliate her, Mr. Hamilton stops the rehearsal and introduces Jill, saying, "Folks, I have a great artist here, who has never been on stage in her life but is sure she can show us how to dance." The chorus girls laugh while Mr. Hamilton leads Jill to center stage, instructing the band to play "anything in the Charleston line."



She's hired-Jill rises to the challenge, crossing the stage and removing her hat and coat before returning to center stage and dancing her heart out. Mr. Hamilton and his producers watch, trying to contain their shock, while the chorus girls sulk. It appears Jill does have some raw talent. "I hate to admit it, but you're pretty good," Mr. Hamilton says. "How's five pounds a week?" Jill grins and says she'll accept no less than twenty pounds before she and Mr. Hamilton shake hands.



Jill's fiancé- Patsy removes her stockings in her bedroom when her landlady enters. "Patsy," she says, "Miss Jill's fiancé is here." Waiting for Patsy, Hugh notices the dog looking at him patiently and stoops to play with him. Patsy scrambles to dress presentably before emerging from her bedroom, only to trip over Hugh, who plays with the dog on all fours. The two look at each other and smile. After exchanging apologies, Hugh speaks, saying, "You must be the roommate, Patsy! Jill was [sic] written me how nice you've been to her. I'm Hugh Fielding." Patsy tells him that Jill is out fitting for a new costume, but she should return soon.



Hamilton's apartment- A title card appears, reading "Hamilton's Apartment." Jill stands on a small platform in an ornate costume with a large hat, modeling. A seamstress looks her up and down, noting any need for alterations, as Jill walks toward Mr. Hamilton seated on a couch nearby. We jump to Patsy's apartment for a moment to see Patsy and Hugh sit down at the table before Jill mirrors the action with Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton leans in with a strange look on his face. "Let's not have any suggestions like that..." Jill says, "... until I have my own place I could invite you to!" Mr. Hamilton smiles and waggles his eyebrows. Back at Patsy's apartment, Hugh explains his situation over tea and scones: "My company is sending me to the plantation overseas for two years – but after that I'll have enough to marry, and Jill has promised to wait."



Mr. Levet- Another man enters Patsy's apartment and Hugh stands to greet him excitedly. "Patsy," Hugh says, "I asked Mr. Levet to pick me up here. We work for the same outfit. We'll be working on the same plantation." Mr. Levet addresses Patsy, saying, "You have no idea how empty and lonely life is out there." The three talk for a moment before Jill enters, crossing the room to Hugh who takes her into his arms and kisses her on the cheek. Watching the couple with Patsy, Levet asks her, "Do you believe in love?" Patsy turns around, looking somewhat shocked.



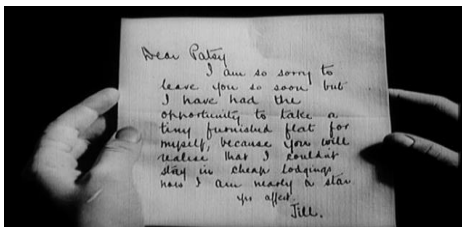
Jill's performance- The scene fades into Hugh and Mr. Levet seated in the audience of the Pleasure Garden. "Her number's coming up next!" Hugh says excitedly before Jill takes the stage, dressed in her ornate costume. From a box, a rich man watches. Mr. Hamilton stands behind him, whispering something. "I'm so lucky to have a terrific girl for a fiancée!" Hugh says to Levet. Levet doesn't seem to hear him, ogling Patsy in the chorus line.



A Toast- Sometime later, Jill sits at a table with several people raising their champagne glasses in a toast. Patsy, Hugh and Levet all complement her performance before drinking. Mr. Hamilton whispers something to the rich man from the box across the room. Together, they approach Jill and Patsy's table. "This is Prince Ivan, Jill," Mr. Hamilton says. "He wants to congratulate you in person." Jill reacts happily to the prince kissing her hand before he says, "It is a rare pleasure to watch you perform, and I intend to indulge myself often." Hugh stands aside, looking dejected. The band strikes up, and Levet asks Jill for a dance. The two go spinning away, leaving Patsy and Hugh to speak in private. "I know how you feel, Hugh," Patsy says, "but I'll steer her away from these stage-door tomcats if I can." Levet and Jill return, and Patsy takes Jill's place on the dance floor with Levet. "I'm afraid poor Hugh has a rather dewy-eyed conception of his childhood sweetheart," Levet says as they dance.



Jill's step up- A title card appears: "Soon after Hugh's departure overseas, Jill took a step up in the theatrical world." Patsy sits glumly on her bed before looking down at a letter from Jill. "I am so sorry to leave you so soon," it reads, "but I have had the opportunity to take a tiny furnished flat for myself, because you will realize that I couldn't stay in cheap lodgings now I am nearly a star." Another title card appears: "Mindful of her promise to Hugh, Patsy makes a last attempt to straighten out Jill." Sometime after a rehearsal, Patsy enters Jill's dressing room, where a serving girl helps her into a lavish dress and cloak. Patsy asks for privacy, and after the girl leaves, she asks Jill, "Aren't you afraid of your reputation as a kept woman? I cannot stand by and watch you throw yourself away like this." Jill reacts angrily, while Patsy fingers the fine fabric of Jill's cloak and dress. Jill storms off in a huff. Downstairs, Patsy watches Jill walk away, arm in arm with the prince.



“Phony prince”- Outside, Patsy kicks something down the street, knowing she’s failed in her promise to Hugh. Levet approaches from behind her, frightening her when he grabs her shoulders. After a couple of breaths, Jill says to him, “I’m worried about Jill, Mr. Levet. I promised to keep her out of danger, and now she’s fooling around with that phony prince.” “I wouldn’t worry, Patsy,” he replies, “that girl knows exactly what she’s doing – and she likes it.” Levet takes her by the arm when she looks solemnly toward the theater, inviting her to join him for a walk. In a restaurant somewhere, Jill and the prince sit, ordering a meal. A bit of comedy ensues as a gaggle of waiters repeats the prince’s order and mannerisms one by one, taking the order in triplicate.



Affection denied- Back at Patsy’s apartment, Patsy and Levet enter. Patsy’s dog begins barking at Levet, and she remarks how the dog never did that to Hugh. “Maybe because he had no reason to be jealous of Hugh!” Levet says before leaning in and trying to kiss Patsy. She jumps back, looking at him with surprise. Back at the restaurant, Mr. Hamilton watches the prince and Jill from another table, laughing to his friend while saying, “I’ve got to hand it to Jill. She’ll make that fool marry her yet, I bet!” In Patsy’s apartment, Levet grabs Patsy gently by the shoulders, asking, “I only have a short time here – can’t we share our loneliness together?” Patsy leans in and kisses him tentatively, the dog still barking.



An unfair proposal- “There’s a month left before I have to go back out there for two years,” Says Levet to Patsy. “What do you say?” Laying her head on his chest, Patsy replies, “If you are proposing, then my answer is yes. I have come to love you in the last few weeks.” Crossing to the mantle, Levet says, “I’d like to, Patsy, but it really wouldn’t be fair to you. My position with the firm is not such that they’d let me take a wife out there.” Patsy walks to him and places a hand on his face, saying, “I’ll be glad to keep working and wait – as Mrs. Levet! And I know you’ll work your way up so you can send for me very soon.” They kiss.



Rude farewell- In Jill's spacious "tiny furnished flat," she smokes a cigarette with a long holder while the prince tries to kiss her. Again and again, she moves to make such an action inconvenient. After grabbing his hat and cane, she eventually offers the prince her hand to kiss. The prince accepts this, his frustration showing through his gentlemanly facade. He leaves in a huff, and Jill laughs, blowing cigarette smoke in his direction.



Sharing the good news- Patsy rushes into her landlords' apartment to tell them of her impending marriage to Levett. "And he fixed it up so we can get married the day after tomorrow!" a title card says before Patsy leans against the table where her landlady sits. "For a honeymoon," she continues, "he's taking me to Italy!" Her landlord looks up from his paper with a joyous expression and crosses the room to join the ladies at the table. He gives Patsy a hearty slap on the back before she hugs her landlady. "I'm so happy!" Patsy says. Her dog cocks his head in confusion as the landlady begins to cry tears of joy.



The day of the wedding- A title card tells us that it is the day of the wedding. Rain pours outside a window. Patsy's landlord shakes his head at the downpour and checks his watch. In Patsy's apartment, she and her landlady gush over each other's beautiful dress clothes. Patsy moves to look out the window and she droops as she sees the rain still coming down. She perks back up when she sees Levett coming down the road. He soon enters her apartment and Patsy rushes to embrace him, despite his soaking-wet raincoat. Moving to her landlord's apartment, Patsy kneels to pet her dog, saying, "Sorry, Cuddles – I can't take you with me, but I'll be back in a month." The betrothed and Patsy's landlords all leave together soon after.



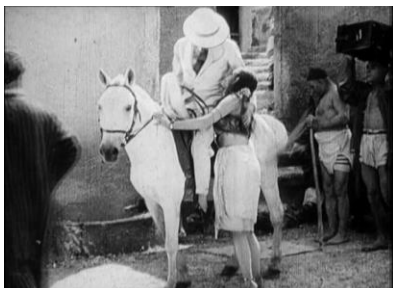
Honeymoon- "Honeymooning at Lake Como," says a title card. A boat drifts lazily across the lake before we see Patsy and Levet kiss passionately. Patsy rushes off, and Levet lights himself a cigarette, leaning against a pillar. Sometime later, Levet awakes Patsy with breakfast in bed, kissing her all over her face to rouse her. Later, Patsy stands looking at an old fountain while Levet lounges in the grass by the lake. He shouts to her after he realizes she's not beside him, and she comes. After pointing to the fountain, Patsy says, "I asked God to grant us a happy life together." Levet yawns in response, laying his head against her lap and dozing off.



Local children- Patsy stands on a street talking to a woman about her baby. A little girl walks up and tugs her dress, trying to get her attention. From a nearby quay, Levet sees the exchange and impatiently calls for Patsy to join him. The little girl follows, and Levet shoos her away. "Don't let these thieving little brats make a fool of you!" he says to Patsy. Patsy says something, and after listening for a moment, Levet tosses the flower pinned to his lapel into the nearby water. "You threw away the rose I gave you," Patsy says sadly. "Had to," responds Levet. "It had wilted." The next several shots are a sort of montage: Patsy waves to a departing ocean liner, while Levet sits on deck, reading a newspaper.



Overseas- Patsy's waving is mirrored by a native girl in Africa. She waves to Levet who rides up to her on horseback. They embrace before exiting the town together. Soon they arrive at the thatched hut that will be Levet's home near the plantation. The servants who accompanied Levet unpack his luggage while Levet settles in. After a few moments, he takes the African girl into his arms and begins kissing her passionately. She smiles and returns his advances. After the display of affection, she begins serving Levet drinks. Hugh arrives soon thereafter, saying something to Levet, who seems to dismiss him, thinking it's a servant. When he looks up to see Hugh, Levet stands to greet him. Hugh asks him about Jill, and Levet responds, "Sorry but, to tell you the truth, I didn't see her since she moved to her own place." Hugh looks dejected and walks back outside.



First letter- A title card reads, "Still working at the Pleasure Garden, Patsy now lives for but one thing ... the first letter from her husband." Patsy sits before her hearth, sewing. In Africa, Hugh hands a stack of mail to Levet, who—after quickly leafing through the envelopes—shoves them into his pocket unread. Among Hugh's stack of mail is a page from a newspaper. He is shocked to see Jill's picture next to the prince's in the society column. He crumples up the newspaper angrily. "Stop worrying so much," Levet says to him, "you can find a girl just as good or better anywhere." Later, Patsy's landlords search around her living room for a place to hide her first letter from Levet. They place it on the mantle and stand in front of it. Soon, Patsy enters glumly, but her mood shifts when she sees her landlords' silly behavior. They step apart, revealing the letter. Patsy rushes to read it. Her mood changes again: Levet claims to have trouble writing because of an illness. "I must go to him," Patsy says. The screen fades to black as Patsy's landlady comforts her.



A favor from Jill- A flamboyant servant models clothing for Jill in her opulent apartment, holding dresses up to his frame and making inquisitive faces. Jill is uninterested in all of them, waving him away from her seat on a chaise lounge. Another servant approaches to tell Jill a visitor has arrived. Patsy enters and crosses the room to Jill. She asks to speak privately, and Jill follows her into the bedroom reluctantly. Patsy shows Jill the letter from Levet and asks her for money to pay for passage to Africa. "Can't do, Patsy," Jill responds. "I'm spending everything on my trousseau. The Prince and I will be married soon." Jill asks if she can pawn Hugh's engagement ring to pay for her ticket, but Jill refuses. She then walks away from Patsy, telling a servant girl to see her former friend out. Jill turns to make one last plea before leaving, but she decides to leave instead.



Caring landlords- In their apartment, Patsy's landlords go about their daily routine, the wife cooking at the hearth and the husband listening to a radio program with some headphones. Patsy enters, looking dejected. "She's marrying the prince, and wouldn't lend me a penny!" She says to her landlords. In his rush to console the young woman, the landlord stands and knocks his radio to the floor. Patsy sobs at their table, and the landlady reaches out to grab her husband's hand. He thinks for a moment before whispering something to his wife. With her help, he climbs on top of a nearby cupboard and retrieves a dusty old coffee tin. He smiles as he empties the contents, a collection of bills and coins, in front of Patsy. The landlords offer their savings to Patsy so she may go care for her infirm husband. Tears in her eyes, Patsy thanks them.



An inopportune arrival- Patsy makes her way to Levet's shack in Africa. When she arrives, the African woman is busy caressing her husband. This is what Patsy sees when she enters the home. Levet reacts by pretending the young native woman took him by surprise, yelling at her, pulling her hair, and striking her. She cowers in the corner of the room. "You must be crazy if you think I could ever stay with you after this! You filthy animal!" Patsy shouts, a look of contempt on her face. Levet chases her outside as she turns to leave, grappling with her. "You're my wife," he shouts, "So you've got to stay with me!" Patsy manages to get away and begs her guide to take her away: "This man's crazy!" Levet squares up to the guide, but finds his size intimidating. Instead of fighting for his wife, he returns to the hut and begins drinking. Walking away from Levet's accommodations, the guide says to Patsy, "Maybe you can help nurse his friend, who's down with the fever, until you have to catch your next boat." Back inside Levet's shack, he continues his abuse of the African woman, now drunk.



"Poor Hugh"- The guide shows Patsy to the place where Hugh is resting, stricken with some jungle illness. He writhes in his sleep. "Poor Hugh," Patsy says, sitting at his side, "I'll stay with you until you get well!" She strokes his clammy face while he continues thrashing in his fever dreams. At Levet's shack, the African woman dramatically wades out into the water, looking to drown herself in shame. Levet sees her and rushes out to meet her. She smiles and reaches out to him, but instead of pulling her back to shore, Levet tries to drown her, forcing her head underwater. Back at Hugh's house, Hugh begins to stir. "Jill, my darling," he says, looking up at Patsy, "so good of you to come!"



A kiss- Smoking a cigarette with a shaky hand, Levet sits next to a bottle of liquor, presumably having killed the African woman. He stands and shouts suddenly, and an African man enters to see what the trouble is. He leaves soon as Levet seems inconsolably drunk. At Hugh's house, Patsy continues tending to the infirm man. He murmurs something in his delirium: "How about a kiss, sweetheart?" Levet walks up and sees Patsy kissing Hugh. He rushes toward them as Hugh realizes that she is not Jill. "That's my wife you're fooling around with, Hugh," Levet shouts, "and you'll pay for it!" Hugh reaches out to stop the drunken man, but he shoves him back down. "You'd better come back," Levet says to Patsy, "unless you want to see him with his head bashed in!" Reluctantly, Patsy leaves with her husband, promising to return.



Madness- Later that night, Patsy lights a lantern. The light rouses Levet who stands. He sees the ghost of the native woman appear in the mosquito netting that surrounds his bed, and he cowers, grasping at Patsy. "Get away from me," he shouts at the apparition. "My wife's here now. I don't need you anymore!" Patsy shoves Levet away and rushes into a nearby room, shutting the door. The ghost advances, stopping to point at one of the swords hanging on the wall. Levet thinks for a moment before looking at Patsy with wide eyes: "She wants me to use the sword. She won't let me rest until I've killed you, too!" He grabs a saber and advances on Patsy, forcing his way into the small storage room where she cowers.



A savior- Levet advances, holding the saber above his head. Suddenly, a gun goes off. Someone has arrived just in the nick of time to save Patsy. Levet stumbles into the room, eventually dying from the gunshot. Patsy looks up to see the guide from earlier. He holsters his weapon and approaches her. "Hugh told me what happened," he says. "I'm having him brought in." Outside, two African men carry Hugh on a makeshift stretcher. Patsy rushes to embrace him. "Don't thank me, Patsy," he says. "Just seeing you saved my life, and I'm simply paying you back." Patsy holds his hand against her face before saying, "I'm sorry that Jill's turned out no good – I hope you'll get over her, as I must try to get over this." "You're the only woman for me now, Patsy," Hugh replies. "I was blind not to see it before!" Patsy nods as the screen fades to black.



Homecoming- A telegram appears on screen reading simply, "Coming Home Patsy." Cuddles the dog waits impatiently by the door. Patsy rushes into her landlords' apartment and embraces her landlady happily. The landlord shakes Hugh's hand happily while Cuddles jumps and spins, trying to get Hugh's attention. "How do you like that -" Patsy says, smiling, "Cuddles knew all the time!" The landlord sits and fumbles with his radio, wanting Hugh to hear a radio program that has just come on. The others watch and laugh as Cuddles chews on the antenna wire trailing along the ground, interfering with the radio's reception. The screen fades to black.

