

Caught (1949)

Max Ophüls (1902-1957)

OVERVIEW

Auteur: Maximillian Oppenheimer, known as Max Ophüls, was a German-born film director. He was born in Saarbrücken, the son of Leopold Oppenheimer, a Jewish textile manufacturer, and his wife Helene Oppenheimer (née Bamberger). He took the pseudonym Ophüls during the early part of his theatrical career so that, should he fail, it wouldn't embarrass his father. Initially envisioning an acting career, he started as a stage actor in 1919. He became creative director of the Burgtheater in Vienna in 1926. He turned to film production in 1929. He worked in Germany (1931–1933), France (1933–1940 and 1950–1957), and the United States (1947–1950). He made nearly 30 films, with the most notable ones being: *La Ronde* (1950), *Le Plaisir* (1952), *The Earrings of Madame de...* (1953), and *Lola Montès* (1955). Ophüls died from rheumatic heart disease on 26 March 1957 in Hamburg, while shooting interiors on *The Lovers of Montparnasse*, and was buried in Paris. The annual film festival Max Ophüls Preis in Saarbrücken is named after him.

Film: *Caught* is a 1949 American film noir. It stars James Mason, Barbara Bel Geddes, and Robert Ryan. *Caught* was based on the novel *Wild Calendar* by Libbie Block. The screenplay is by Arthur Laurents. The cinematography is by Lee Garmes. The music is by Frederick Hollander. *Caught* was produced by Wolfgang Reinhardt. Modern appraisals of the film are positive. J. Hoberman of The New York Times wrote: 'The filmmaking is brilliant in part because, like Bel Geddes's deceptively modest performance, it is so apparently unassuming.' Ignatiy Vishnevetsky of The AV Club called it 'Ophüls' best non-period film'. Chuck Bowen of Slant Magazine wrote that it is not as good as Ophüls' later masterpieces, but it is 'an intense corrective to the clichés of the American noir, particularly the perception of a woman as a predatory other who pulls all the strings' and 'offers a damning portrait of middle-class American society as a large and merciless snare.'

Historical background: *Caught* was based on a novel by Libbie Block. Libbie Block (1910 – 1972) was an American writer. She wrote over 250 short stories and novels. In 1944, her short story *Imagine Us!* was made into the film *Pin Up Girl*, starring Betty Grable while her novel *Wild Calendar* (1946) was made into the film *Caught*. *Wild Calendar* is a psychological melodrama of prewar marital discontent. Contemporary reviews of Ophüls' *Caught* were negative and most criticism went toward the script. Harrison's Reports wrote (page 31, February 19, 1949): 'Handsome production values have been wasted on a complicated, unpleasant story that is a curious hodgepodge of romance and psychological melodrama... It is an odd picture, impressive in many respects and corny in others, but on the whole too contrived and implausible.'

CHARACTERS

Leonora Eames: The protagonist who's always wanted to have a rich life and marries the multi-millionaire.
Smith Ohrlig: A multi-millionaire; Leonora's husband; a deranged, greedy, abusive man
Dr. Larry Quinada: A hard-working pediatrician, partner with Dr. Hoffman who falls in love with Leonora
Dr. Hoffman: An obstetrician, partner with Dr. Quinada
Franzi Kartos: Attendant of Smith Ohrlig who does his part in abusing Leonora
Dorothy Dale: Head of the Charm School
Psychiatrist: Smith Ohrlig's psychiatrist, a psychoanalyst, predicts the failure of Smith Ohrlig's marriage
Maxine: Leonora's friend, her roommate, her colleague as a dress model

SYNOPSIS

Leonora Eames is a Charm school graduate, and model who has always dreamed of being rich. She marries a wealthy but deranged man named Smith Ohlrig. Ohlrig's marriage is an act of defiance against his psychiatrist's prediction that he wouldn't marry anyone. Ohlrig abuses Leonora mentally by isolating her, exhibiting extreme jealousy, and expecting her to be at his beck and call. His attendant, Franzi Kartos, also participates in this. Leonora leaves him and finds work with two doctors: an obstetrician, Dr. Hoffman, and a pediatrician, Dr. Larry Quinada, who have a partnership in a poor neighborhood. After criticism from Dr. Quinada, Leonora learns to do a good job at typewriting. Ohlrig arrives at Leonora's apartment and offers her a fresh beginning, the romantic getaway they never got to experience. The following morning, she learns that his long-planned trip is for business. Seeing through him, she returns to work at the Doctor's office. She finds out from Dr. Hoffman that she's become pregnant during reconciliation with Ohlrig. She makes Dr. Hoffman promise not to tell Quinada about her pregnancy. Quinada proposes to her after they go out on a date. She accepts but says she needs to straighten things out. Later, Quinada finds her in Ohlrig's house. She explains to him that she is pregnant and came back to Ohlrig to give the child the security that only money can bring. Ohlrig threatens to take the child, suing for divorce, naming Quinada as co-respondent, and reveals he never loved Leonora. The rest of the story follows Leonora's struggles during pregnancy. Ohlrig has a nervous attack and Leonora refuses to help him. Thinking she has caused his death, she calls Quinada for help. As the medical personnel is tending to Ohlrig, Leonora collapses. Quinada rushes her to the hospital. Dr. Hoffman delivers the baby, which is too premature to survive. Leonora is well, and Ohlrig no longer holds any power over her.

SCENES

Leonora plans to go to Charm School of Dorothy Dale

Maude and Maxine are looking at dresses and jewelry in a magazine. Maude says she'd like to have mink. Maxine says if Maude doesn't go to the cinema and spends not much on lunches, she can go to the school she wants. While putting her swelling feet in the water, Maude says she doubts whether the school is worth it. Maxine ironically asks her if she wants to spend the rest of her life as a car hop. Maude reads from the brochure of Charm School and talks about how she'd love to go to Denver with a mink coat someday. Her dream is to work in the modeling store and meet a handsome young millionaire. Maude gets up to dry the dishes while reading: *'A Charm School girl's future is unlimited. Once she leaves our doors she is ready to meet anyone socially and ready to hit her jackpot.'*



Leonora has trouble paying the school tuition Maude is at the Dorothy Dale School of Charm. The secretary at the desk tells her that each week must be paid in advance. Maude takes out some money from her bag and asks the secretary whether she can give half of the tuition next Thursday. She also says she changed her name to Leonora. The secretary says it is a charming name.



Dorothy Dale's charm class In class, Dorothy Dale teaches about proper greeting forms and pronunciation. Dorothy Dale wants Leonora to have more confidence and speak out in full tones. She takes her to the stage and asks her what her favorite fur is. Leonora says it is mink. Then she gives her a mink coat to wear.



Leonora works as a dress model and gets an invitation to a yacht party

We see Leonora in an elevator, wearing a mink coat. Leonora is now a dress model. Ladies examine her fur with curiosity. Next, a man comes up and says he's giving a lovely party on the weekend, on a yacht. Leonora rejects his invitation, yet the man insists as the yacht belongs to his business associate. He gives her a card on which is written: *Franzi Kartos: personal representative for Smith Ohlrig*. After the man leaves, her colleague Maxine tells Leonora she must be out of her mind if she doesn't go. According to Maxine, this is the only way poor girls like them meet guys like Ohlrig.



Leonora does not want to go to the yacht party

Leonora thinks she looks terrible in her new dress and doesn't want to go anywhere. She believes that any man who goes to a party like that has just one idea on his mind. Maxine, on the other hand, thinks the party is an investment and money is security. Velma knocks on the door. She has fur and gloves in case the girls need them. Maxine quickly gives thanks to Velma and sends her away. Leonora resents the whole setup and feels cheap from the way Franzi approached her. Maxine says girls like them cannot pick the way they meet men like Smith Ohlrig and Leonora should be grateful for the occasion as she finally has a chance to meet decent men.



Leonora meets Smith Ohlrig

Leonora waits on the dock by herself while the party on the yacht is going on. A boat approaches the dock. Leonora gets up, thinking the boat has come for her. However, the man who came says he is not there to pick her up and has some business to take care of. He adds that it is a rather dull party. Leonora says she's got to get there. The man responds that if she can wait until he finishes his business, he can take her out. He asks Leonora to come to the office with him. Leonora goes with him after first hesitating. She introduces herself. The man says his name is Smith Ohlrig.



Leonora and Smith go for a car ride

Leonora and Ohlrig pay a visit to where Ohlrig has his business. Afterwards, he asks Leonora whether they should visit the town instead of going to the boat. As they drive, Leonora talks about Dorothy Dale School of Charm and how they try to walk with a book on their heads which makes Ohlrig laugh. Ohlrig asks questions about where she is from, whether her family is poor, how long she's been in Los Angeles, how many yachting trips she's been on, and what she knows about him. Leonora knows he is from the East, internationally famous, very rich, and that he's never been married before. At that point, Ohlrig says that he is not going to be married at all. They arrive at Ohlrig's house. Leonora does not want to go into his house. She wants him to take her home. Then he takes her home.



Ohlrig visits his psychiatrist

Ohlrig talks to his psychiatrist about how he went out with Leonora three or four times without her wanting to enter his house. He thinks she is after his money. The psychiatrist says maybe she thinks he wants to play around with her. Ohlrig says she's right if she does. He also mentions how he recently had a heart attack because of work. The psychiatrist thinks his condition is a nervous reaction through which Ohlrig shows he's weak and wants everyone to take pity on him, so they give him what he wants. The psychiatrist's other theories are that Ohlrig must destroy everyone he can't own, he's afraid all anyone wants is his money, and he'll never marry because he'd only be married for his money. At this point, Ohlrig says he's going to get married to Leonora. The psychiatrist thinks Ohlrig's only angry



at the psychiatrist and wants to marry to prove him wrong and to prove no one has authority over him. The psychiatrist predicts a marriage like this will only ruin both of them.

Leonora and Ohlrig hit the headlines A couple of newspaper articles talk about the marriage of Smith Ohlrig and Leonora. Some of the headings say: 'Smith Ohlrig weds former car-hop', 'International Tycoon marries penniless Cinderella', 'Mother says: 'I always knew my daughter would be a success'', 'Yuma Elopement culminates in strange romance', 'Couple will remain in Beverly Hills for ten days before heading East'.



Leonora and Maxine converse about Leonora's marriage Leonora and Maxine are in Ohlrig's California home. A servant notifies them that luncheon is ready. Leonora says her husband doesn't come home until midnight and she picks him up at whatever office he's at. Then they drive to the beach or some little joint. Maxine thinks Leonora is lucky to have both money and romance. Leonora looks discontent and unhappy. She thinks Smith wishes he hadn't married her. Maxine thinks she's being neurotic and tells her to enjoy being rich. Leonora is sure he thinks she's married her for his money. However, she says she could never do anything like that as she loves him. Maxine wants her to lay aside her thoughts and look at the beautiful house she has.



Leonora cannot stand Franzi's playing the piano Franzi plays the piano and sings. Leonora wishes him to stop. She wishes she could go to bed as it is almost 3 o'clock. Franzi tells her to take a pill. But Leonora's lived on pills since she came east ten months ago. When Franzi tells her to play with the necklace Ohlrig gave her for their anniversary, Leonora becomes sad thinking about how Ohlrig never took her on a honeymoon or how they never spent time together. Franzi asks why she'd marry a madman like Ohlrig. Leonora says he wasn't mad like that before they were married. When Franzi tells her to buy herself a new hat, Leonora gets angry and shouts at him to stop playing the piano. Franzi says she is greedy. Out of anger, Leonora slaps him, but immediately apologizes. She closes the fallboard on the piano. At that moment, a car honk is heard. It is Ohlrig.



Ohlrig becomes jealous of Leonora Ohlrig has many men accompanying him. They want to watch a movie about his new project. Seeing the men near Ohlrig, Leonora goes up the stairs to rest in her room. Ohlrig stops her and asks her where she thinks she's going. He demands her to be with them as she is the hostess in the house. She unwillingly accepts. As they watch the film, Leonora laughs with a man. Ohlrig immediately wants the lights turned on. He asks Leonora what she laughed at. Leonora tells him that she wasn't laughing at him or the picture. Mr. Gentry near Leonora apologizes and says it was something he said which made Leonora laugh. Ohlrig immediately wants Mr. Gentry to leave his house. After the picture starts, he says to Leonora he sees now why they install love seats in movie balconies. Leonora leaves the room. Ohlrig shouts at her, sends all the men away, and throws the glass in his hand to the ground. Ohlrig demands that Leonora come back to the projection room. When she comes, she shouts at him: 'Shall I call your friends back so you can insult me again in front of an audience?' Ohlrig thinks she got what she deserved. Leonora says she wasn't doing anything. She adds that he doesn't want her, he just wants her to want him. Leonora asks if he wants a divorce. Ohlrig tells her that she wanted to marry rich and she did. Leonora claims she loved him. She thought he loved her too and that they could be happy. Ohlrig says she thought if she had enough money she'd have everything. According to Ohlrig, Leonora is better paid than any of his staff and she should know her



place. But Leonora wants more of Ohlrig. Smith tells her to take a trip. Leonora agrees and says she'll find a job. Ohlrig thinks she'll soon be back.

Ohlrig has one of his nervous reactions After Leonora goes away, Ohlrig feels sick. He seems to have a nervous reaction or another of his heart attacks. He searches for and quickly takes a pill and is soon well again.



Leonora applies to become a receptionist Leonora waits at the doctor's office to apply for the job of receptionist. The nurse tells her that she hopes she's looking for a job, not for a husband, and that they had to fire the other receptionist because of this issue the other day. The waiting room is busy with people. Soon, the nurse knocks on Dr. Quinada's door to ask him if he'll see Miss Eames. Dr. Quinada comes out of his room and tells Leonora to come in.



Leonora's job interview is successful Leonora will be the receptionist for Dr. Hoffman, an obstetrician, and Dr. Quinada, a pediatrician. Dr. Quinada asks Leonora about her work experience. Leonora says she was trained to be a receptionist in Los Angeles. He further asks her how long she's been in New York. Leonora answers she's been in New York for less than a year and has been living on Long Island. Dr. Quinada says that the job only pays 25 a week. He also adds he's seen her somewhere but can't remember where. He asks if she can type and take dictation. She says she could brush up on it. Dr. Quinada doesn't think she could brush up on typing on 25 a week and doesn't want to give her the job. Leonora insists that she can answer telephones, keep records, and will practice typing. She is also good with children. Dr. Quinada decides to give her a try.



Dr. Quinada criticizes Leonora Leonora is busy answering phones. Dr. Quinada asks her to come to his room. He asks if she suggested to Mrs. Rudecki that she give Lorraine elocution lessons. Leonora says she did. It turns out that she said that because if Lorraine learns to speak well and walk well, she'd end up marrying well, and that's the most important thing in a girl's life. Dr. Quinada says her beliefs are her business until she starts pumping them into his patients. He asks her where she gets these ideas anyway: 'Is it your burning ambition to marry rich?' Leonora doesn't answer. He asks her if she wants the job permanently. Leonora says yes. Dr. Quinada says her typing and desk work haven't improved in the last two weeks. Leonora says that if everything she does is wrong, she might as well quit, and leaves the room crying.



Dr. Quinada talks to Dr. Hoffman about Leonora Dr. Quinada goes to Dr. Hoffman's office. He tells him he criticized Leonora's work, so she got mad and quit. He also says that although her work isn't good she isn't stupid: 'She could be quite good if she wanted to be.' Dr. Hoffman tells him to put the ad in the paper again unless he wants to ask her to come back. Dr. Quinada emphasizes that he didn't fire her, but she quit.



Ohlrig visits Leonora to tell her to come back Ohlrig comes to Leonora's apartment. Leonora is surprised to see him and asks how he knew she was there. Ohlrig admits he had her watched from the day she left. He missed her more than he thought he'd miss anyone. He asks Leonora about Dr. Quinada and talks about how hard he makes her work. Leonora says it is not as hard as he works himself. She's glad to see Ohlrig and wishes she weren't. But she doesn't want to go back to the way it was. Ohlrig admits he was wrong. He promises her a fresh start. He says he missed all the things they ought to have done: being together, and having a honeymoon. He wants them to start all over again. He wants them to take a drive. He promises to bring her back the moment she asks. Leonora puts on her mink coat. They go out.



Leonora sees through Ohlrig Leonora is back at Ohlrig's house. Franzi comes to her bedroom to serve her breakfast. He says Smith told him to wake her up which surprises Leonora. Franzi says all of them have to leave in an hour to go on a tour of every Ohlrig plant in the country. It is a publicity tour. Leonora asks Franzi when Smith decided to make this trip. He says it was the day before yesterday. She got back just in time. As Franzi takes out Leonora's mink coat, Leonora says she's through with that coat. She phones Dr. Quinada's office. She says to Dr. Quinada that she'd like to come back to work very much.



Leonora is working hard We see Leonora working on typewriting, reading books related to medicine, and brushing up on her skills. One evening at the office, Dr. Hoffman tells her to go home, but she prefers to work more. Leonora answers a phone call from Mrs. Rudecki. Soon, Dr. Quinada arrives. He asks her if staying overtime is becoming a habit of hers. Leonora tells him that Mrs. Rudecki phoned for him to come over. Mrs. Rudecki also claims her daughter is seeing double. When Dr. Quinada hears this, he gets worried. He asks Leonora to go to the City Drugstore and meet him at the Rudecki's.



Dr. Quinada treats Lorraine Dr. Quinada and Leonora attend to Lorraine, Mrs. Rudecki's daughter. Dr. Quinada tells Lorraine's family that Lorraine suffers from botulism, a kind of food poisoning. He thinks she will get all right. It appears that the canned meat she had in the morning is the cause of her trouble. When he and Leonora go to the kitchen to examine the canned meat, he looks worried because he slipped up: Lorraine always had stomach trouble, so he assumed that's what it was this time. He thinks a doctor has no right to assume. Dr. Quinada says to Leonora she might as well go home as it is after 1 a.m. Leonora prefers to stay.

Dr. Quinada wants to buy a coat for Leonora Leonora and Dr. Quinada leave Rudecki's apartment. Dr. Quinada asks Leonora if she is feeling sleepy. Leonora says she is used to staying up all night. He tells her that if she waits until 9 a.m., it will catch up on her. He wonders if she isn't cold and why she is wearing a raincoat. She says she thought it was going to rain yesterday. Dr. Quinada asks how much it would cost to buy her a warm coat. Leonora refuses his offer. Dr. Quinada tells her to go home and get some sleep. Leonora says she will take a bath. But she'll come back to work.

Leonora goes to Dr. Hoffman because she suspects she is pregnant Leonora comes to the office early in the morning. Soon, Dr. Hoffman arrives. She knocks on his door in order to be examined by him. After examination, he says it is too early to be sure. Leonora asks how long the lab report will take. He says they will probably let her know first thing tomorrow morning. Leonora doesn't want Dr. Hoffman to say anything to Dr. Quinada. He says it is none of his business but wonders whether she doesn't think



she should. Leonora says she couldn't because it is too much of a mess. She gives thanks to Dr. Hoffman and leaves his room.

Dr. Quinada presents a warm coat to Leonora Dr. Quinada arrives in the office. Leonora leaves the office to get some sleep. She gets out of the office. Dr. Quinada catches up with her and gives her the warm coat he bought. As he helps her put it on, Leonora starts to cry. She gives thanks to Dr. Quinada. Dr. Quinada asks her if they still have a date that night. She nods.



Leonora and Dr. Quinada's date night It is Leonora and Dr. Quinada's date night. While they are sitting by a bar, he says he was mad at her the day he criticized her. He asks if he ever apologized for bawling out. Leonora asks if that was because of the way she talked about marrying rich. He says it always makes him see red when people talk that way. His parents made themselves miserable by having an exaggerated idea about the importance of money. Dr. Quinada then talks about how he cares more about doing the kind of work that interests him than money. He wishes he could remember where he saw her before. He asks her what she was doing on Long Island. Leonora replies she was the paid companion to someone very rich.



Dr. Quinada proposes to Leonora They go to dance. They have a fun time dancing. He asks why they don't go out again on Saturday, and spend Sunday together. He says it'd be much simpler if they were married. He says he is proposing. Leonora replies that she wants to marry him more than anything in the world, but there's something she has to straighten out first.



Dr. Quinada talks to Dr. Hoffman about Leonora In the office, Dr. Hoffman talks about how he brought in a nine-pound boy in the afternoon. Dr. Quinada congratulates him. He says there's no news from Leonora. Dr. Hoffman thinks she'll be back tomorrow. Dr. Quinada says he dropped by her place, but she's moved. The landlady said she went to Long Island. He explains that he proposed to Leonora the other night. Yet all he could get out of her was she was a paid companion to somebody rich. Dr. Hoffman suggests he forget her.

Dr. Quinada comes to Ohlrig's house to see Leonora

While Ohlrig is doing business with several men, Franzi tells him Dr. Quinada is calling to see Miss Eames. Ohlrig tells Franzi to send him in. Later, he makes his men write that if they want him to invest one penny, they'll do it his way or not at all. Then he sends the men away. Dr. Quinada enters the room where Ohlrig is. He asks if Leonora is there. Ohlrig says she'll soon be down. He says Leonora was very impressed with him. Dr. Quinada says he was very impressed with her because she started from scratch and learned to do a good job quickly. Ohlrig says he's glad Dr. Quinada and Leonora are hitting it off so well together: 'There's nothing like a little extracurricular romance after office hours, is there, Doctor?' Dr. Quinada says this is hardly any business of his. Ohlrig explains he and Leonora are still married. Dr. Quinada says he's always had a curious feeling of seeing Leonora before. Now he knows he saw them in the newspapers right after their wedding. He says he made a mistake and leaves the room.



Dr. Quinada and Leonora's secret meeting As Dr. Quinada is about to leave, Leonora appears and tells him to meet her outside. They secretly meet in the garage. Dr. Quinada asks why she ran away without saying anything to him. She says she just couldn't. She had to go back to Ohlrig. She confesses that she is going to have a baby. Dr. Quinada is surprised to hear this but tells her she can't stay with Ohlrig. He says he was with Ohlrig for three minutes. But he knows he's dangerous. He asks her if she'll let him destroy her and her child. Leonora says she knows what happens to a child whose parents haven't got anything. She wants security. Dr. Quinada thinks she wants money. That is why she married him. Leonora says she thought she loved him. Dr. Quinada believes she made herself think that: 'You still got those ridiculous ideas, marry rich, live rich [...] Money alone isn't security'.



Ohlrig confronts Leonora and Dr. Quinada Ohlrig enters the garage. Dr. Quinada says the only one who can settle everything is Leonora. He tells Ohlrig that he told Leonora he loves her and wants to marry her. Ohlrig asks Leonora if she bothered to tell him about the child. Dr. Quinada says she did and that he warned her that Ohlrig will ruin it. Dr. Quinada doesn't want Leonora until she decides how important money is to her. Leonora looks nervous and doesn't say a thing. Dr. Quinada finally tells her that she can always call him if she makes up her mind. Then he leaves.



Ohlrig shows his true face and feelings to Leonora As Leonora goes up the stairs, Ohlrig wants her to come down. He says she wanted to divorce him and live happily ever after with Dr. Quinada on his money. Leonora says she doesn't want his money and that their marriage has been a mistake from the beginning. Ohlrig agrees to divorce on the condition that the child stays with him. Ohlrig says he can get custody of the child anytime he wants. He will sue Leonora for divorce and name Dr. Quinada correspondent. He confesses he hated himself for marrying her. He never wanted her in the first place. The more she fought him, the more he began to dislike her. All he now cares about is breaking her and he will use the child to do it if needed. Then he shuts the door loudly and angrily. Leonora runs after him and begs him to let her have her baby.



Newspapers talk about Ohlrig and Leonora's marriage We see newspapers talking about Smith Ohlrig and Leonora's marriage. A newspaper dated April 5, 1948, writes: 'The happy couple is going in for parenthood.' Another newspaper dated July 20, writes that Leonora has been keeping herself locked up tight in their Long Island mansion: 'Poor girl no doubt has her reasons...Ohlrig always was a handful...' Now is October 7, year 1948. Franzi reads to Ohlrig another newspaper article about him and Leonora.



Ohlrig won't let Leonora sleep At home, Ohlrig tells Franzi to tell Leonora he wants to see her. It is 3.10 a.m. Leonora has pulled out the phone cables so as not to be disturbed, as she frequently is by Ohlrig. Franzi goes to Leonora's room. Leonora is still struggling to sleep. Franzi knocks on the door and tells Leonora that Ohlrig is in a rage. Leonora is in a terrible state and tries to tell Franzi that the doctor told Ohlrig he mustn't call her and wake her and take her out of the house at all hours. When she goes to bed, she starts to cry that they won't let her sleep and that she needs Larry (Dr. Quinada).



Franzi quits his job Franz tells Ohlrig that Leonora is very sick. He feels sorry for her. Ohlrig asks if she is coming down. Ohlrig calls Franz a dirty little parasite and insists that he bring Leonora down. Franz says he'd rather be a headwaiter again: 'You know, you're a big man but not big enough to destroy that girl.'



Ohlrig has one of his nervous attacks, and Leonora doesn't help him Leonora wakes up because of a loud noise and Ohlrig's calling her name. She comes downstairs and sees Ohlrig fallen to the ground, having one of his nervous attacks. Ohlrig asks for some water. Leonora doesn't help him and leaves the room.



Leonora's delirium Medical professionals attend to Ohlrig. His blood pressure and EKG are normal. Dr. Quinada arrives at the Ohlrig mansion. He goes to Leonora's room. Leonora seems to be in a delirium and repeats to herself that she killed Ohlrig. Dr. Quinada makes her drink some water. He assures Leonora that he is with her and she is going to be safe. Suddenly, Leonora starts to have a belly ache.



Dr. Quinada takes Leonora to hospital Dr. Quinada makes a phone call. He takes Leonora to a hospital. On their way to the hospital, he assures her that Ohlrig won't die and she didn't kill him. He says to her that her child might die, and it is a terrible thing. But she'll be free to start living. Ohlrig won't want to hold her anymore: 'All he wanted was to dominate you and kick you around like everybody else... But now you'll be free. Free to start living, free to be happy...'



Leonora's baby dies, but she is okay Dr. Hoffman talks to Dr. Quinada. He says the baby died because of premature birth, but Leonora is okay. We see Leonora smiling in her bed. Dr. Quinada goes to Leonora's room to see her. A nurse brings Leonora's mink coat. Dr. Hoffman says Leonora can't be disturbed. Moreover, if his diagnosis is correct, she won't want that anyway.



CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Leonora Eames

Leonora is the protagonist of the film. Her real name is Maude but she changes it to Leonora when she goes to Dorothy Dale's School of Charm. She is someone who has always wanted to have a rich life and marries the multi-millionaire Smith Ohlrig. However, things do not go as she expects.

Greedy: Leonora is a greedy character. In the first scene, we see her and Maxine avariciously looking at jewelry and mink coats. She admits that her dream is to meet a handsome young *millionaire* in the modeling store. She achieves her goals by marrying Ohlrig. Yet suffering psychological abuse at Ohlrig's hands makes her question her values.

Materialistic: Excessively concerned with material possessions, and money-oriented; Leonora gets everything she wants by marrying Ohlrig: big houses, pools, cars, mink coats, and much more. Her materialistic attitude continues even as she suffers from her husband's psychological abuse. Because

she wants her child to be and live rich, she decides to stay with Ohlrig even though she loves Dr. Quinada.

Hardworking: Leonora goes through character development throughout the film. At first, she does not take her job as a receptionist seriously. After Dr. Quinada's harsh criticism and finally seeing through Ohlrig's true intentions, she starts working hard and becomes a disciplined receptionist. Thus, she gains more independence as a woman and learns to live without relying on her husband.

Smith Ohlrig

Smith Ohlrig is the second main character. He is a multi-millionaire from New York who has never been married. One of the theories of his psychiatrist is that Ohlrig will never marry anyone because he'd only be married for his money. As a reaction to this, Ohlrig gets married to Leonora. He wants to prove the psychiatrist wrong and show no one has authority over him.

Abusive: Ohlrig is abusive toward everyone, in particular Leonora. He isolates her, exhibits extreme jealousy, and expects her to be at his beck and call. He does not seem to show any remorse for his behavior either. Even when Leonora is pregnant, he is not considerate toward her and wakes her up at all hours.

Ambitious: Ohlrig is power-hungry and determined to succeed. He is very ambitious both about his work and his relations with people. Because he wants to prove his psychiatrist's idea wrong, he marries Leonora. Thus, his marriage is not a result of a loving relationship but that of ambition and anger toward his psychiatrist.

Domineering: One of the theories of Ohlrig's psychiatrist is that Ohlrig must destroy everyone he can't own. Throughout the film, we witness the truth of this claim. Leonora fights back against Ohlrig and does not accept being dominated by him. Therefore, Ohlrig does everything he can to destroy her by abusing her even in her most vulnerable condition. He thus asserts his will over everyone else.

Dr. Larry Quinada

Dr. Quinada is a hard-working pediatrician. He works in the same office as Dr. Hoffman. He is the interviewer of Leonora when she applies for the job of receptionist. Further in the film, he falls in love with Leonora and proposes to marry her. He is a caring and kind individual.

Hardworking: Dr. Quinada is a conscientious doctor. When he learns from Leonora that Lorraine sees double, he immediately goes to her house to cure her botulism. Later in the kitchen scene, he blames and criticizes himself for having assumed things about Lorraine's condition. Thus, he is a conscientious individual.

Caring: Dr. Quinada cares about his patients. Furthermore, he cares the most about Leonora. When he sees after they leave Rudecki's house that Leonora only has a raincoat on, he asks her how much it would cost to buy her a warm coat. The next day, he gives her a warm coat as a present. Dr. Quinada also goes to Ohlrig's house to speak with Leonora and learn why she ran away and quit her job without saying anything to him. So, he deeply cares about her well-being and happiness.

Courageous: Dr. Quinada is courageous as he does not shy away from confronting Ohlrig and telling him that he loves Leonora and wants to marry her. He is also brave enough to tell Leonora that he doesn't want her until she decides how important money is to her. So, he wants Leonora to stand on her feet and make her own decisions.

Dr. Hoffman

Dr. Hoffman is one of the minor characters in the film. He works with Dr. Quinada, is an obstetrician, and brings children into the world. His most significant scene is when he examines Leonora because of her

suspected pregnancy. Leonora makes him promise that he won't say anything to Dr. Quinada about her pregnancy.

Carefree: Dr. Hoffman is carefree and collected. When Dr. Quinada tells him that he criticized Leonora and she quit the job, Dr. Hoffman tells him to put the ad in the paper again unless he wants to ask her to come back in the most relaxed and calm manner. When Dr. Quinada tells Dr. Hoffman that Leonora seems to have moved to Long Island after the night he proposed to her, he calmly tells him to forget about Leonora. He thus has a carefree attitude.

Franzi Kartos

Franzi Kartos is Smith Ohlrig's personal representative. He participates in Ohlrig's abuse toward Leonora by staying with her all the time and disturbing her at all hours when Ohlrig demands so. However, in the end, he realizes how much Ohlrig abuses Leonora, even in her most vulnerable condition of pregnancy, and quits his job.

Manipulable: Franzi is manipulable, in particular by his strict boss, Smith Ohlrig. He acts according to his demands and orders, even if they mean that he will participate in the abuse of Leonora. He even wakes her up at 3 a.m. while she is pregnant because Ohlrig demands so. Yet, finally, he shows self-determination and decides not to take part in Ohlrig's mental abuse anymore.

Psychiatrist

Ohlrig's psychiatrist knows about Ohlrig's psyche or innermost self. His theories about his behavior all turn out to be true. In particular, he predicts that Ohlrig's marriage to Leonora will ruin both. Ohlrig does not take his warning seriously and wants to prove him wrong by deliberately marrying Leonora even though he does not love her.

Wise: The psychiatrist is wise. His characterization of Ohlrig's mind and his theories about him are correct. The psychiatrist thinks Ohlrig must destroy everyone he can't own and that he's afraid everyone wants his money. Ohlrig attempts to destroy Leonora because he cannot own her and direct her however he wants. He also believes that Leonora is only after his money. Moreover, Ohlrig's marriage to Leonora indeed ruins them both. So, the theories and predictions of the psychiatrist turn out to be true which proves his wisdom.

Maxine

Maxine is Leonora's flatmate, friend, and colleague as a dress model. Like Leonora, she is greedy for money and wealth. Maxine is also after superficial, material possessions. In the first scene, she looks with Leonora at dresses and jewelry. She talks to Leonora about how money is security and how out of her mind Leonora must be if she doesn't go to Ohlrig's yacht party.

Greedy: Maxine is superficial and greedy. She values money and wealth above all else. When she visits Leonora in Ohlrig's California house and sees Leonora unhappy, Maxine tells her to enjoy being rich. When Leonora says she thinks Smith wishes he hadn't married her, Maxine says she's being neurotic. She wants Leonora to look at the beautiful house she possesses. Her inability to see her friend's unhappiness is because of her sole focus on wealth.

THEMES

RELATIONSHIP

Marriage Marriage is the legally or formally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal relationship. It is a recognized institution throughout the world. Leonora and Ohlrig's marriage starts as a fairy tale where the newspapers talk about an 'International Tycoon marrying penniless Cinderella' and 'Cinderella getting her man'. However, things do not go as hopefully expected. Ohlrig does not love Leonora and hates himself for having married her. He wishes he hadn't married her and thinks Leonora is only after his money. Therefore, he applies several strategies to mentally and psychologically abuse her. He isolates her from other people, exhibits extreme and unwarranted jealousy, and expects her to be at his beck and call at all hours. He does not let her sleep and expects her to be awake to greet him whenever he comes home. Even while she is pregnant, he phones and wakes her up at all hours. Thus, what is supposed to be a happy married life turns into psychological torture for Leonora. Caught underlines that one indeed has to be careful about what one wishes for because it may not exactly turn out to be in the way one hoped for. We therefore see from Leonora and Ohlrig's marriage what a marriage shouldn't be like.

Friendship Maxine and Leonora (or Maude) have a friendship. They are flatmates and later also become colleagues. However, Maxine does not have a good influence on Leonora. Maxine is a superficial and greedy person who aims to raise her social status by marrying the rich. Her motto is 'money is security'. She thinks Leonora should be happy only because she is rich and has a lot of material possessions because of her husband Ohlrig. Thus, she does not understand her friend's feelings and unhappiness. Or she chooses to ignore that. Another friendship is that between Leonora and Dr. Quinada. Even though Dr. Quinada is Leonora's boss, they become good friends. Their friendship soon turns into love when they have a date night and Dr. Quinada proposes to her. We can say Dr. Quinada cares more about Leonora's true well-being and happiness than Maxine does because he does not have ambitions or greed about money which could have blinded him from seeing the plain truth that Leonora is not happy with Ohlrig.

Caring The most caring character in the film is Dr. Quinada. He is a kind individual who does everything he can for the well-being of his patients, as can be seen in the case of Lorraine when he cures her botulism. Besides caring for his patients as part of his duty as a doctor, Dr. Quinada cares the most about Leonora. For instance, he offers to buy her a warm coat when he sees that Leonora only has a raincoat. Even though Leonora does not accept the offer, he presents his gift to Leonora the next day. After Leonora leaves her apartment and Dr. Quinada cannot see her, he decides to visit Long Island which again shows us how much he cares about Leonora. He tries to convince her that she won't be happy with Ohlrig and that Ohlrig is a dangerous man who will harm her and her child. If Dr. Quinada hadn't cared about Leonora, he wouldn't have given her such wise advice. However, he also wants her to make her own choices and stand on her feet as he leaves the final decision for her to make. He finally tells her she can call him anytime when she decides how important money is to her. Thus, he also gives her the freedom to choose. These instances underline how much he both cares about and respects her.

PSYCHOLOGY

Sadness We witness sadness in several scenes of the film. When Maxine visits Leonora in her California home, Maxine thinks Leonora is lucky to be so rich, yet Leonora looks discontent. It is because she thinks Smith wishes he hadn't married her and that he thinks she's married her for his money. This scene is one where we can see Leonora's sadness despite being wealthy. Another scene of sadness is when Franzi plays the piano and sings. Leonora cannot stand him playing and wishes she could go to bed as it is almost 3 a.m., yet she has to wait because Ohlrig demands so. When Franzi tells her to play with the necklace Ohlrig gave her for their anniversary, Leonora becomes sad thinking about how Ohlrig never took her on a honeymoon or how they never spent time together. This is another example of money not being enough for happiness or peace in a person's life. A third scene of sadness, or rather despair is when Ohlrig shows his true feelings and intentions to Leonora. Ohlrig threatens her with divorce and says he can get custody of the child anytime. He confesses he hated himself for marrying her and that he never wanted her in the first place. He voices he will use the child to break her. This confession scene indeed breaks Leonora's heart. She runs after Ohlrig and begs him to let her have her baby, crying for some answer. Thus, this third scene is another example of Ohlrig's mental/psychological abuse of

Leonora, and the despair and sadness Leonora experiences despite having achieved her dream of becoming rich.

Regret Regret refers to feeling sad, repentant, or disappointed over something one has done or failed to do. Leonora and Ohlrig both regret their marriage. In the scene where Ohlrig confesses his true feelings and intentions, Leonora says she doesn't want his money and that their marriage has been a mistake. This reflects her regret about having married Ohlrig. Ohlrig also confesses he hated himself for marrying her. The more she fought or disobeyed him, the more he disliked her. This shows us that Ohlrig, likewise, regrets Leonora for having married him. Another scene of regret is when Franzl tells Ohlrig that he feels sorry for Leonora's vulnerable and sick condition. Ohlrig calls Franzl a dirty little parasite and demands that he bring Leonora near him. Franzl tells him he'd rather be a headwaiter again: 'You know, you're a big man but not big enough to destroy that girl.' This scene underlines Franzl's regret for having participated in Ohlrig's psychological abuse of Leonora. Thereafter, he quits his job, showing his determination not to be his puppet anymore.

Anger The angriest character in the film is Ohlrig. He gets angry when things don't go according to his wishes or he can't get what he wants. One of the scenes where we see his anger displayed is when he and his staff watch a film related to work, and Leonora laughs with a man. Ohlrig immediately gets jealous and asks Leonora what she laughed at. When Mr. Gentry apologizes and says it was something he said that made Leonora laugh, Ohlrig immediately wants Mr. Gentry to leave his house. Afterwards, Leonora also leaves the room. Ohlrig shouts at her angrily, sends all the men away, and throws the glass in his hand to the ground. Thus, this scene exemplifies how much Ohlrig suffers from emotions such as anger and how he has no control over his extreme emotions. His greed, ambitions, and possessiveness blind and turn him into a monstrous figure. After this incident, Leonora gets rightfully angry, too. When she confronts Ohlrig, she shouts at him: 'Shall I call your friends back so you can insult me again in front of an audience?' Leonora knows she wasn't doing anything when she laughed at something Mr. Gentry said, and Ohlrig made a mountain out of a molehill. Therefore, her anger is justified, unlike that of Ohlrig which stems from feelings of paranoia, possessiveness, and jealousy.

Isolation Leonora is isolated from the outside world. When she applies to be a receptionist at the doctor's office, Leonora tells Dr. Quinada that she's been in New York for less than a year and has been living on Long Island. All this time, she's been living isolated from other people and had to act according to Ohlrig's demands. She can therefore be likened to a pet bird in a cage who has restricted and limited life and freedom. After finding out about her pregnancy, she decides to stay with Ohlrig for her child's security, because, according to Leonora, 'money is security'. During her pregnancy, many newspapers write about her. For instance, a newspaper writes that Leonora has been keeping herself locked up tight in the Long Island mansion: 'Poor girl no doubt has her reasons...' So, Leonora isolates herself a lot because of Ohlrig's demands. This isolation badly affects Leonora's mental health. She is particularly ill in a scene when Franzl goes to Leonora's room at 3.10 a.m., and Leonora still struggles to sleep. In her terrible state, she tries to tell Franzl that the doctor told Ohlrig he mustn't wake her and take her out of the house at all hours. When she goes to bed, she starts to cry that they won't let her sleep. In a later scene, Leonora deliriously thinks she has killed Ohlrig by refusing to help him during his nervous attack. In reality, Ohlrig's heart condition is just fine. Thus, we can say that Leonora's long-lasting isolation even causes her to lose touch with reality.

Jealousy Ohlrig exhibits extreme jealousy toward Leonora. When Ohlrig and his men watch a movie about his new project, and Leonora laughs, Ohlrig immediately wants the lights turned on. Leonora explains she wasn't laughing at him or the picture. Mr. Gentry apologizes and says it was something he said that made Leonora laugh. Yet, Ohlrig's jealousy gets out of proportion. He immediately sends Mr. Gentry away. After the picture restarts, Ohlrig tells Leonora he now sees why they install love seats in movie balconies. When Leonora leaves the room, Ohlrig shouts at her, sends all the men away, and throws the glass in his hand to the ground. Here, we can see how Ohlrig's anger, greed, ambitions, and possessiveness become mixed with jealousy of Leonora. Another scene of Ohlrig's jealousy subtly shown is when Dr. Quinada comes to his mansion to see Leonora. Ohlrig tells Dr. Quinada he's glad he and Leonora are hitting it off so well together: 'There's nothing like a little extracurricular romance after office hours, is there, Doctor?' Thus, Ohlrig knows all about their date night. However, this time, he does not

exhibit extreme anger because he has other plans about suing Leonora for divorce, taking custody of the child by naming Dr. Quinada as a correspondent, and so on.

Loss Leonora experiences the loss of her baby. While the death of her baby is a terrible thing for her to experience, it also symbolizes her freedom from Ohlrig. Ohlrig does not hold any control or power over her anymore. As Dr. Quinada tells Leonora on their way to the hospital: 'All [Ohlrig] wanted was to dominate you and kick you around like everybody else... But now you'll be free. Free to start living, free to be happy...' The end of the film is open to interpretation. We see Leonora smiling in bed, ready to embrace a new future full of beautiful opportunities. Dr. Quinada enters her room to tend to her. Dr. Hoffman stops the nurse from bringing her mink coat to the room, saying she won't want it anymore. Thus, Leonora will not return and be with Ohlrig. With high probability, she will start a new life with Dr. Quinada. They will build a family together. Therefore, we can say that the loss of her baby is the signifier of a new beginning for Leonora and a symbol of personal freedom and independence from Ohlrig.

Psychosis Psychosis is when people lose *some* contact with reality. It might involve seeing or hearing things that other people cannot see or hear (*hallucinations*), and believing things that are not true (*delusions*). Leonora has a short-lived delusion nearing the end when she thinks she caused Ohlrig's death because she didn't help him during one of his nervous attacks. In truth, Ohlrig's heart condition and blood pressure are fine, and he possibly had a psychosomatic attack. But Leonora believes that because she wanted to kill him, she indeed did so. With this temporary delusion, she loses her rational thinking abilities and loses contact with reality as it is. However, Dr. Quinada helps her. And she soon comes back to her rational self. After delivering her premature baby, who is born dead, we see her smiling in the bed because she knows she has left all the troublesome things and events related to Ohlrig behind. Overall, Leonora's temporary psychosis results from her long-lasting isolation, lack of sleep, and troubled mental state.

FLAW

Greed/Ambition

Greed is the flaw exhibited by several characters in *Caught*. Leonora is greedy for money and wealth from the very beginning. She even confesses her dream is to work in a store where one day, a handsome young millionaire steps in, and they fall in love. She aims to raise her social status and leave behind her poor background. She wishes to return to her hometown, Denver, with a mink coat which symbolizes her power, and wealth and signifies that she has achieved her ambition of becoming rich. Her greed leads her to marry Smith Ohlrig and she convinces herself that she loves him. However, as Dr. Quinada tells her in his confrontation with her, it is more plausible that she made herself believe that she loved Ohlrig whereas in truth, she only loved his money and wealth. Ohlrig, likewise, is a greedy and ambitious character who is ready to do whatever he can to increase his wealth and power. He is very ambitious regarding his work and his relationships. He wants to own everything and everyone. If he cannot own someone, he wishes to destroy that person. In *Caught*, Ohlrig cannot make Leonora obey everything he demands of her. Because she disobeys and fights him, he does all he can to further abuse and destroy her. However, he cannot achieve his goals as Leonora becomes free when she loses her baby. With the death of her baby, Leonora gains her independence from Ohlrig because he has no more power or control over her. All in all, their marriage is built on greed, and ruins them both. But Leonora saves herself after all.

QUEST

Explore Leonora experiences various environments. She goes to Dorothy Dale's School where she learns proper manners and etiquette. Later, Leonora works as a dress model. So, she experiences a new work environment. After she meets Ohlrig and marries him, she learns what it is to be wealthy. She lives on Long Island for almost a year, isolated from people like a pet bird in a golden cage. Later on, she leaves behind her rich life and starts working as a receptionist. Working as a receptionist brings discipline to her life. She meets Dr. Quinada and Dr. Hoffman. Soon, she falls in love with Dr. Quinada. Thus, she experiences a wide array of environments, meets people from different backgrounds, and increases her wisdom in ways that teach her various life lessons.

APPEARANCE

Secrets Leonora hides the fact that she is pregnant from Dr. Quinada. After Dr. Hoffman examines her, she makes him promise that he won't tell anything to Dr. Quinada about her suspected pregnancy. Dr. Quinada also doesn't know that Leonora is married to Smith Ohlrig. Even during their date night, Leonora does not say anything to him. When he asks her what she was doing on Long Island, Leonora replies she was the paid companion to someone very rich. Thus, she cannot explain the truth about her life. However, her secrets are revealed soon when Dr. Quinada goes to her mansion on Long Island and confronts her about why she ran away like a child without saying anything to him. Dr. Quinada understands that she went back to Ohlrig because she wants her child to live a rich life and still believes: 'money is security'.

Self-delusion Leonora deludes herself by making herself believe that she loves Ohlrig. Dr. Quinada recognizes that she is deceiving herself. When Leonora says she wants security for her child, she wants money. That is the reason why she married Ohlrig. Leonora says to Dr. Quinada that she thought she loved him. Dr. Quinada explains that she made herself think that way: 'You still got those ridiculous ideas, marry rich, live rich [...] Money alone isn't security'. Afterward, Ohlrig also tells her that he never loved her and even hated himself for marrying her. This revelation is the end of Leonora's self-delusion. In her confrontation with Ohlrig, she admits their marriage has been a mistake from the beginning. Thus, she no longer deceives herself. Yet, despite finding out about Ohlrig's true feelings and intentions, Leonora decides to stay with him for the sake of her child. She knows what happens to a child whose parents haven't got anything. Finally, the death of her child symbolizes her regained independence and freedom from Ohlrig.