

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
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The Ring (1927)

Alfred Hitchcock

OVERVIEW

Director Sir Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980) is perhaps the best-known British filmmaker and a household name. With over 50 films to his credit, Hitchcock helped to shape the modern understanding of the thriller genre. This film was his fourth feature length and, while it doesn't showcase his typical voyeuristic styling, highlights his expert understanding of staging, film structure, symbolism, and camera work. His most well-known films include *The Birds*, *Psycho*, *Vertigo*, and *Rear Window*, which have all 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 *The Ring* is a silent film and the first film which was both directed and written by Hitchcock. This film was also his first with British International Pictures. The 28-year-old director was frustrated by his work adapting stage plays for Gainsborough Pictures and used his frequent attendance of boxing matches as inspiration for a new drama. The thought struck him during one such outing as he observed the well-to-do gentlemen seated around the ring dressed mostly in white shirts and black coats. Thinking this would make an excellent background to shots of boxers fighting, he began writing a script. While the story is simple, it is surprisingly compelling: "One-round" Jack is a boxer who falls into an unfaithful marriage and must defeat his rival in the championship to win back the heart of his beloved.

Background Though considered a success by critics upon release, *The Ring's* initial release was a box-office failure. Hitchcock's peers at British International Pictures were impressed with his script which showed a fantastic understanding of the visual nature of silent film and provided a succinct and satisfying plot. As with all of his other scripts, Hitchcock did not complete writing *The Ring* without assistance. His co-worker from Gainsborough Pictures, Eliot Stannard, contributed to the script, continuing his involvement in Hitchcock's silent films. *The Ring* was the very first film released by British International Pictures.

CINEMATIC NARRATION

Because of the technological limitations of the time, this film does not feature Alfred Hitchcock's trademark camera stylings as *The Ring* features an entirely stationary camera (save a couple of shots from inside fair rides). We can see, however, the young director's strong sense of space and staging in outstanding shots. *The Ring* provides interesting cinematography from start to finish, holding the viewer's attention even when the action slows. A relative lack of title cards is compensated with clear shots of main characters' faces clearly speaking simple lines and responses. Other technical aspects present themselves to the observant viewer: Hitchcock used camera tricks such as the Schufftan process where mirrors are placed in front of the camera to make crowds look larger.

MAIN CHARACTERS

"One-Round" Jack Sander A young boxer, betrothed to Mabel, he works at in a boxing attraction.
Mabel She works as a ticket taker at the fair. Both Bob and Jack seek her affections.
Bob Corby The Australian heavyweight champion, Bob Corby is the antagonist of the story.
James Ware James is Bob's boxing promoter.
The Showman The Showman is Jack's boss at the fair and the best man at his wedding.
Jack's Trainer Jack's Trainer is the main comic relief of the film.

SYNOPSIS

The Ring is a simple and dramatic romance. "One-Round" Jack is an upstart boxer working at a seaside fair in a boxing attraction. His job involves roughing up willing contestants from the crowd in a show of impressive boxing skill. One day, a large, well-dressed man takes up the challenge and enters the ring. For the first time, One-Round is pushed by his opponent into a second round. It is revealed that the large contestant is actually Bob Corby, belt-holding Heavyweight Champion from Australia. After Jack joins Ware's boxing company, Mabel falls for Corby. Jack is angry and attempts to stop the affair. James Ware has other plans, using the infidelity to drive the young fighter to enter a boxing championship. One-Round has to win his way through a half-dozen fights before he can get into the ring with Corby. One by one, he beats each of his opponents until the day of the championship fight comes. In a stunning climax, Jack and Bob trade hits until both men fall from injury and exhaustion. Jack wins the day after his wife shows her true, faithful heart during his lowest point in the match.

PLOT

The Fairgrounds- The film's opening scene gives us a feeling for the setting in a montage of various fairground activities. We see a dunk tank (where the filmmaker makes one of his trademark cameos), various carnival rides, and a handful of classic carnival games. Among the crowd, the camera singles out a tall man and his companion who don't seem to be having much fun. These men are Bob Corby and his manager James Ware. Bob is distracted from the festivities by a beautiful young ticket taker near a boxing attraction. It doesn't take much to convince James to follow Bob to the crowd forming in front of a nearby circus tent.

The Boxing Competition- On a simple stage in front of a tent, a barker we come to know as The Showman gathers a crowd. He shows off a young man named Jack, an up-and-coming boxer with the nickname 'One-Round'. Despite The Showman's enrapturing speech, Bob finds himself locking eyes with the ticket taker. The girl, Mabel, meets his eyes as the crowd debates among themselves whether or not they could last a round in the ring with 'One-Round' Jack. As the show is set to begin, Mabel looks to Bob once more, silently encouraging him to enter the competition. He shakes his head, but she insists and he moves closer, striking up a conversation. Taking a chance to impress the young woman, Bob purchases a ticket for the boxing competition and enters the tent.

Inside the Tent- Mabel, finished selling tickets, turns her attention to a flap in the tent. Through this portal, we see a large crowd shrouded in shadow watching two figures fight in a small and brightly-lit boxing ring. A bell rings and the fight ends as Jack enters the ring and removes his coat. The crowd of well-dressed men watches as Jack's trainer prepares his first opponent, a large and drunken sailor. Jack dispenses with his opponent so quickly his trainer doesn't even have a chance to hang the sailor's coat. His next opponent is an oafish man who, intimidated by Jack's stare, trips into the ring and is counted out to the crowd's delight. Bob is singled out as Jack's next opponent and the large man practically jumps into the ring without goading.



Bob vs Jack- After taking one last look at Mabel through her little window, Bob enters the ring and dons his gloves without assistance. The bell rings and the first round begins. Jack's trainer pridefully prepares Bob's coat only to turn and see Jack on the defensive. Bob makes eyes at Mabel as he pins Jack to the ropes, punching Jack's back and ribs. Rightly shocked, Mabel gets The Showman's attention as 'One-Round' Jack enters the second round of his fight with Bob Corby. The Showman takes this chance to bolster ticket sales. Fair-goers rush from all around to see One-Round fight his new rival. After several rounds, Jack falls to the floor and Bob is proclaimed the victor.

Jack's Loss- After the fight, Jack is tended to by his trainer and assistants. The Showman makes a show of putting the prize money for defeating One-Round Jack in Bob Corby's hand. Mabel watches dejectedly as Jack recovers. She catches Bob's eye and he leaves the tent to speak with her. James Ware soon follows. The two men strike up a conversation. We're shown a title card which reads "We heard he was good, and now we know!". Mabel responds, "We were hoping to get married, and now you've probably lost him his job!" James Ware passes Mabel a business card bearing both his and Bob's names. Bob is a professional boxer, a Heavyweight Champion, and James is his manager and promoter. Despite her love for Jack, Mabel is obviously smitten with Bob and impressed by his boxing career. They share a longing look as James and Bob disappear into the crowd that swarms across the fairground.



Closing Time- The crowds begin to thin out as darkness falls. Later that night, in the empty fairgrounds we watch workers disassemble attractions and Jack tending to his wounds in the boxing tent. Mabel is helping him clean and dress his black eye when James Ware and Bob Corby enter the tent. Mabel nervously introduces the duo and passes Jack the card James gave her. It bears a message: "Don't fix any other job until I have seen you tonight." James and Jack leave to discuss the young boxer's future leaving Mabel and Bob alone. The two flirt with each other until Bob notices Jack's trainer and friends watching them. The boxer and Mabel leave the tent to find some privacy.

Outside the Fortune Teller's Wagon- In the dark of the fairgrounds, the amorous nature of Bob's flirtations with Mabel become obvious. For a moment, we see the interior of a horse-drawn caravan as an old woman enters and goes about her business. She is drawn to the window where she can clearly see Mabel and Bob talking. Standing close in the dark, Bob presents Mabel with a gift: A shiny bangle purchased with his winnings from the boxing competition. On the other side of her caravan, through the other window, she sees Jack and James discussing business. As they shake hands, the scene fades back to Bob and Mabel as the boxer slides the bangle onto the girl's arm. Mabel stands motionless for a moment before kissing Bob on the lips and embracing him passionately. Afterwards, they reunite with Jack and James. Jack tells Mabel the news about his new job opportunity as Mabel tries to hide the bangle from sight. The Men walk away after a short conversation leaving Mabel all by herself.

The Fortune Telling- Torn between her love for the up-and-coming Jack and her lust for the successful Bob, Mabel rushes to the fortune teller's caravan. Inside, enjoying her pipe, the fortune teller agrees to give Mabel a reading. She draws two notable cards: A king of diamonds and a king of hearts. Jack enters the caravan and joins the reading as Mabel hides the bangle once again. "The king of diamonds," he says, "now I'm going to make some real money!" The fortune teller shakes her head and points to the king of hearts.

The Next Morning- Jack kneels near a small pond, finishing shaving, as Mabel approaches from the caravan they presumably share. She tosses a stone into the pond and we watch the ripples become the young couple's reflection as they share a moment and a kiss. As Mabel leans into the kiss, the bangle slides off her arm and into the pond. Jack retrieves it, wondering what it is. The girl reveals that it is a gift from Bob and tries to deceive Jack by saying "it was really you who gave it to me." Jack smiles and replies "then I gave it to you for this," as he slides the bangle onto her finger like an engagement ring. Jack then promises that if he wins his trial fight, the couple will marry the next day. Mabel agrees but clutches the bangle, the symbol of her infidelity.



The Day of Jack's Fight and the Wedding- Mabel works at the ticket stand as she always does, waiting for a wire from Jack. As she waits, she imagines the fight, her thoughts of Jack's loss flashing across the screen. The Telegram arrives which she opens excitedly. The message reads "I've won shall see you church tomorrow morning arranged Jack." The next day we see the interior of a church as all of Jack and Mabel's fairground friends gather for the ceremony. The vicar is comically offended by the low-class carnies, but the ceremony goes off without too many hitches. After proudly leading the bride-to-be down the aisle, The Showman and Jack's Trainer make a show of dropping and finding the ring. As Jack slides the ring onto Mabel's hand, the bangle slides down her arm, reminding us of her romantic feelings for Bob.



The Reception- The crowd moves outdoors to celebrate the newlyweds with a feast. Ample food and flowing beer are enjoyed by all the guests, often comically. Bob Corby is present and makes a speech in which he says “I think the prize at the booth should have been this charming bride.” He ends his speech swearing vengeance against his new sparring partner. Jack stands against this threat, proudly proclaiming he'll be ready to fight for his wife. The two boxers square off across the picnic table as Jack's trainer stands and drunkenly attempts to stop a scuffle.

Sparring- Several women, including Mabel, watch as Jack and Bob trade blows in the boxing company gym. They finish their bout and tap gloves, retreating to opposite corners to rest and remove their sparring gear. Mabel watches Bob drop his towel and picks it up for him. He thanks her with a hand on her shoulder, but he doesn't remove it when he turns to talk to his entourage of excited female fans. An older woman on the bench notices this and asks “do please introduce me to your husband,” gesturing at Bob. Jack overhears this and approaches, incensed. Mabel looks between the two boxers while fiddling with her wedding ring, unable to choose. Sensing the tension rising, Jack's Trainer leads him away from the ring. He suggests the young boxer get some training with the speed bag. Jack envisions Bob's face on the bag as he begins to punch, quickly knocking the bag from the rope which secures it.

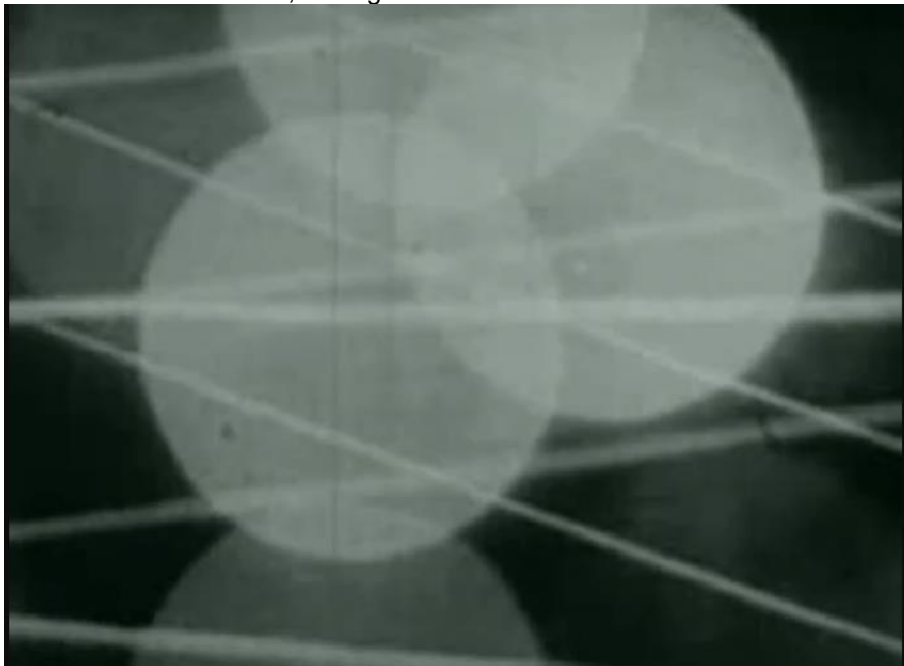


Jack Rises Through the Ranks- Jack sees Mabel acting flirtatiously with Bob and goes to James about the issue. James sees an opportunity to set the boy against Bob and drive up ticket sales, telling Jack that he must first fight through the ranks to earn a proper and legal fight with Bob. The next sequence is filled mostly with montages of fights and changing sign boards as Jack beats each of the fighters in the championship ranking. We're also shown glimpses of Bob's hedonistic lifestyle filled with eager dancing girls and champagne. Mabel spends a lot of time in Bob's entourage as Jack busies himself with fighting. At one point, James tries to convince Jack to leave Mabel at home as they must travel to the next fight. Jack responds "I'd be training for a divorce if I left her here" after envisioning Mabel with Bob.

"Just let me tell her the news."- After a raucous celebration with his trainer, assistants, and The Showman, Jack returns home to his apartment, hoping to tell Mabel the good news: He has won his way through the ranking to the Championship bout. Upon not finding her at home, he assumes that she will be back shortly and pours champagne to celebrate, insisting no one drink until she returns. Evening turns to night and the bubbly goes flat. Jack's friends seem tired of waiting; the trainer rifles through Jack's knick-knacks and the others lay around dejectedly. Jack's trainer repeatedly makes note of Mabel's framed picture of Bob resting on her piano. Jack's friends all leave, unwilling to wait any longer. When Mabel does finally return home, she is haughty and cold, assuming that Jack lost his fight. He reveals that he won and Mabel acts relieved, but they continue to fight. Unable to ignore his wife's continued infidelity, Jack leaves to find Bob. When he does, he punches Bob, telling him that he can have his revenge in the ring.



The Championship Fight- Massive crowds assemble in the auditorium where the fight will be held. Mabel wishes Bob good luck and takes her ringside seat. Jack is greeted by The Showman and his trainer. We see preparations being made including a camera crew setting up on a special scaffold to record the championship. The fight begins with the announcer introducing the referee and the fighters. Jack and Bob square off and begin trading hits. It's back and forth for a moment, but Bob gains the upper hand when he's pressed into the ropes. Over Bob's shoulder, Mabel stares up at Jack. Distracted, he has no defense ready when Bob makes a powerful jab at his head. The first round ends as Jack sways on his feet and falls to the floor, seeing stars.



Round 2- Jack barely has a chance to get to his feet before the count of ten. He is manhandled by his trainer and assistants to his stool where they desperately try to cool the young boxer, fanning him with towels. His trainer even goes so far as to pour the chilled victory champagne over Jack's head to help him come to. The boxers square off once more and, after trading a few blows, Jack falls once more. Jack finds his feet only to get clocked across the jaw and fall again. This time, however, Mabel calls out to him, cheering him on. Invigorated by his wife's confidence, Jack stands once more and delivers a barrage of hits to Bob's core. The second round ends and Mabel approaches Jack's corner, speaking with him for the first time since their fight. "Jack... I'm with you," she says, "in *your* corner." The third round begins and "One-Round" Jack comes out swinging. Unable to keep up with his rival's newfound energy, Bob collapses after several heavy jabs. The Australian Heavyweight Champion finds himself unable to get up before the count of ten. Jack is crowned champion and, in doing so, regains the faithful love of his wife.

THEMES

Infidelity- There are many themes throughout *The Ring*, but the most used and symbolically suggested is infidelity. The film begins with a small infidelity, though it will take some time for the viewer to realize it: Mabel encourages an attractive stranger to challenge her fiancé not knowing the tall man is a champion boxer. When Bob defeats Jack in the fairground boxing competition, Mabel is conflicted. She feels sympathy for her beloved, but also lust for the burly champion. The two quickly become flirtatious in Jack's absence. Bob even goes so far as to purchase expensive jewelry for the beautiful ticket taker. Not only does Mabel prove her infidelity by accepting such a gift, she kisses Bob multiple times and embraces him amorously. At first, Mabel is ashamed of her behavior and her lust, attempting to hide and dismiss the gift. We see the bangle come up again and again as a symbol of Mabel's infidelity, most prominently during the wedding when the bracelet slides down her arm as Jack places the wedding ring on her finger. Jack, blinded by his love for her, accepts Mabel's story of innocence until Bob makes it clear publicly that he is enamored with Mabel. Mabel then spends more time with the Australian boxer than she does her own husband.

Lust vs loyalty- In defense of their marriage, Jack insists on bringing Mabel to his fights on the road. She openly and resentfully states that she wishes she was with Bob. Mabel's infidelity comes to a head as the movie reaches its climax. We are shown the type of parties she goes to with Bob, where vigorous dancing, loud music, and heavy drinking lead to more-than-friendly embraces. She spends so long partying with Bob after Jack's semi-final fight that the young boxer confronts her about her infidelity. He has been embarrassed for the last time, his friends having left and the champagne going flat long before Mabel returned home. Here we see the symbolism behind Bob's picture on Mabel's piano most heavily. Jack throws the picture to the ground and leaves to confront Bob where he knocks the Australian boxer to the ground. When Jack returns, Mabel has left. We see her wish Bob good luck the day of the championship fight, suggesting that she spent the night with the Heavyweight Champion. Ultimately, denying her lust for Bob is what wins the day for Jack. She realizes only when she sees Bob winning the championship fight that she cares most deeply for Jack.

Jealousy- Another particularly strong theme in *The Ring* is jealousy. Bob and Jack's jealousy towards each other is at the center of the film's main conflict. The roots of his jealousy lie in the film's first moments: Before we are properly introduced, we see him notice and become enamored with Mabel. When he learns that the upstart Jack is engaged to the beautiful girl, we can see his jealousy take shape. Though by all appearances a charming sophisticate, he takes pride in beating Jack in the boxing competition, making eye contact with Mabel as he does so. Bob takes the winnings from that match and purchases the woman he barely knows a gift in the hopes of driving a wedge between her and her husband-to-be. The plot works extremely well as Mabel delivers a kiss which is the most passionate affection seen through the entire film.

Bob makes his jealousy publicly known after the wedding when he states that he will have his revenge against Jack for marrying Mabel. This brings forth Jack's jealousy which is integral to *The Ring's* rising action: Unable to assure his wife's fidelity, he is jealous to the point of paranoia. Hitchcock often shows us the imaginations of his characters through crossfades. When Jack thinks about Mabel, he sees her on Bob's lap, kissing and embracing. While his paranoia is well founded, his jealousy makes him controlling

which drives Mabel towards Bob. Without Jack's jealousy towards Bob, this film would have no climax. He only enters the championship in the hopes of publicly beating Bob and winning back his wife's affection.

Hope Hope is a more minor theme of *The Ring*, but it is a driving force for Jack at many points in the film. Hope proves to be a double-edged blade for Jack as well. The young boxer's hope drives him from his bride-to-be at the beginning of the film, allowing Bob to make his move. He gains something in his wife's loss of fidelity, a new position at a real boxing company and the title of a Heavyweight Champion's sparring partner. His youthful hope blinds him to his wife's infidelity originally. When it is revealed that the bangle is a gift from Bob, Jack reacts by pretending it is an engagement ring, symbolizing his hope for their marriage. In the film's climax, Mabel gives Jack hope by telling him that she is in his corner. The up-and-coming boxer is seemingly refueled by hope for his wife's newfound true heart and bludgeons Bob with a barrage of quick hits, winning the championship match.

Amorality Hitchcock seems to be teaching moral lessons in *The Ring*. Bob is portrayed as a charming gentleman, though his raucous parties seem to be filled with copious drinking, (for the time) amoral dancing, and attempts at bedding another man's wife, showing that he may not be all that he seems. James Ware too shows a lack of virtue when Jack comes to him with his issue of Bob's flirtatious attitude towards Mabel. Instead of intervening to end the conflict as a good manager should, he sees a chance to profit from the young man's resentment and convinces him to enter the upcoming championship. However, Mabel's lack of virtue is the main conflict of the film: It's fairly obvious that cheating on one's spouse is immoral and hurtful. Jack's trainer is portrayed as a trustworthy man and steadfast friend despite his love of drink and bumbling nature, showing that a lack of virtue or class doesn't inherently make a person without virtue. Jack seems to be the only character with solid virtue. Even in his anger and jealousy Jack is righteous. His strong emotions come from a marital betrayal and are sympathetic even if he does go too far on occasion such as publicly assaulting Bob.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Jack "One-Round" Sander Jack is the protagonist of *The Ring*. He is a young man engaged –and then married– to the beautiful ticket taker Mabel. He dreams of a boxing career, finding employment as the star of a boxing attraction at a fair. The conflict of the film starts when he realizes that Bob Corby wants Mabel for himself.

Headstrong Jack's headstrong nature can be easily seen in his nickname: "One-Round" is quite a claim to make for any boxer, let alone an upstart working at a seaside fair. When Bob enters the ring, we see how fragile the young boxer's nickname is. After the wedding when Bob makes his desire for Mabel known, Jack reacts by challenging the Champion boxer who is nearly twice his size saying "I will always be ready to fight for my wife!" We see more of his bullheadedness when he doesn't allow his guests to drink the already poured champagne until his wife returns home. When Mabel reveals that she has been partying with Bob, Jack snaps and searches the town for the heavyweight champion only in order to strike him. Even though his anger is understandable, it does drive him to rash action such as assaulting Bob and arguing with Mabel.

Innocent Unlike many other characters portrayed in *The Ring*, Jack is quite childlike in many of his actions and decisions. His playful demeanor shows in his first interactions with Mabel. Compared to the large and well-heeled Bob, he seems like an adolescent in puppy love. He either ignores or does not see the signs that Mabel is unfaithful because of his innocent trust in their love. When confronted by one such sign, the bangle, Jack simply makes believe it is an engagement ring. After his semi-final win, when he finds that Mabel isn't home, Jack states his hope that his wife has simply stepped out, but we soon learn that she is out partying with Bob Corby. His innocence is only overridden in the end when he finally stands up for himself in the ensuing argument.

Righteous Unlike other characters in this film, Jack lacks any notable immoral traits. Even his anger and jealousy are rooted in righteous feelings of betrayal: Mabel and Bob's clandestine affair drive him mad. Jack's victory is only possible because of the return of his wife's true affections, leading him to defeat Bob definitively in the ring in a righteous victory.

Mabel Mabel is the love interest and leading lady of *The Ring*. She works as a ticket taker at the fair and is engaged –and then married– to Jack Sander, though she begins an affair with Bob Corby. She and the Australian boxer share an instant attraction in the film’s first moments which leads her to many unfaithful actions both before and after her marriage to Jack.

Deceptive Mabel’s deception comes from her shame around her lust for Bob Corby. Before Jack discovers the bangle, a symbol of her infidelity, she covers it repeatedly in an attempt to hide the bracelet from her fiancé. She spends more time with Bob as Jack trains and fights his way up the championship rankings. We are repeatedly shown how the married woman caresses the Australian boxer and stays out late into the night dancing and drinking with him and his entourage. She even invites them to the apartment she shares with Jack while the up-and-coming boxer fights his way to the championship final. She continually denies the relationship between Bob and herself, even when confronted about the framed image of him she keeps on her piano.

Indecisive Throughout *The Ring*, Mabel seems to have trouble making decisions. Bob’s interest spurs her first bout of indecisiveness. She considers her desire for both men to the point that she forgets to pass along James Ware’s business card to Jack before their meeting that evening. The next time her indecision strikes, after her clandestine kiss with Bob, Mabel rushes to the fortune teller for a reading to help make her decision. The fortune teller saw the kiss and seems to use this knowledge during the reading, suggesting that Mabel choose the king of hearts which represents Jack. Her obvious indecision to correct an older woman who mistakes Bob for Mabel’s husband causes Jack to destroy a speed bag in his rage.

Willful Mabel’s strong will is obvious from her first appearance on screen. She commands Bob to try his luck in the boxing competition against her fiancé with a smile and a wave of her hand. Conversely, she shoves James Ware’s hands away when he makes an unwanted advance at the ticket stand while he talks to her after Jack’s loss. Outside of her initial deceptions to Jack, she is clear about her desires. She demands autonomy from Jack when he makes her travel with him and when he is upset about her staying out late with Bob’s entourage. She takes this autonomy to the next level when she apparently spends the night with Bob after her argument with Jack.

Bob Corby Bob is the antagonist of *The Ring*. The imposing Australian is the Heavyweight Champion. He and his manager James Ware investigate rumors of a skilled up-and-coming boxer working at a fair, looking for a new sparring partner for Bob. He falls for Mabel at first sight, sparking the main conflict of the film.

Headstrong Much like “One-Round” Jack, Bob is a headstrong individual, however, his bullheadedness is much less childlike. Though he acts like a well-reared gentleman, many of his actions run counter to this facade. Perhaps because he is so large he thinks no one can stop him when he makes it known that he loves a married woman at the couple’s reception and when he continues his affair with Mabel as Jack trains and fights through the championship. His headstrong attitude is his eventual undoing. Though Jack falls twice in the initial two rounds, by the third, Bob is slowing. His cocky attitude and sheer size aren’t enough to counter Jack’s reinigorated blows in the fight’s final match.

Charming Though his charm does seem like a bully’s disguise, Bob Corby appears the consummate gentleman. He is especially particular about his clothing as seen in his reluctance to give Jack’s trainer his jacket and hat. He is always well dressed, tucked and polished even when partying. Though his advances towards Mabel are quite ungentlemanly, his treatment of the lady is doting and charming. It is obvious that he is enamored with the young woman. Bob’s charm doesn’t drop for one second during his argument with Jack before their championship fight, even when Jack knocks him to the ground.

Hedonistic Bob’s biggest fault is his hedonism. He is portrayed as someone who spends every night drinking and dancing with whatever girls come his way unlike Jack who is seen training and fighting. Though his style of dress shows a certain amount of charm, it also shows how much money he spends on his appearance. He also displays this trait when he buys jewelry for Mabel in an attempt to woo her

and furthermore when he continues the affair after her marriage to Jack. These actions make him seem much more adult when compared to Jack but also mark him as the clear antagonist of the story.