

PLOT – The Dear Departed

The play 'The Dear Departed' presents an interesting situation that has tragically become a common place in the world of today. The scene of the play is set in the sitting room of a small house in a lower middle-class district of a town. The setting of the play reveals that Mrs Slater, a plump and active lady is in mourning and she is getting ready to receive some guests.

It is revealed that Victoria's grandfather has passed away and the Slater family is getting ready to receive Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle Ben. Victoria expresses surprise at this news because her aunt and uncle had not paid a visit for years all together. Mrs. Slater reveals that they are coming over to talk about grandfather's affairs, on hearing of his death.

Everyone starts blaming the old man for not paying his premium. Victoria is instructed to go over to grandpa's room to get the receipt of the premium. But, she entered looking dazed. She gives the shocking news that Grandpa was active and moving around.

After sometime, Mr Abel enters and is surprised to see all his people gathered. He is curious to know why they are wearing mourning dresses. He reveals that he was well and just had a slight headache. Perhaps, his rest must have been mistaken as 'death' by his people. Mrs Jordan makes up some story to pacify him. The husbands join their wives in hurling (throw) accusations at each other.

Abel discovers the greed that his daughters have, and declares that he was going to change his will and all the money will go to the one, in whose house he dies. Both daughters fight with each other to keep their father.

Abel candidly watching all the fun and makes an announcement which shocks everyone. On Monday, he would go to the lawyer and alter his will, and then he would go to the insurance office and pay his premium. After that he would go to the church and get married to Mrs Shorrock.