

SYNOPSIS OF THE DRAMA

The play is set in 1903, starting off at a doctor's surgery in Richmond, England. The main character of the play is Dr Ridgeon. He has just received a knighthood for his medical discovery to cure consumption. Some of his friends call in to congratulate him. While Ridgeon's friends are visiting a woman arrives to ask for help regarding her husband, Louis. He is suffering from consumption and wants the help of Ridgeon. It is unfortunate that one of Ridgeon's old colleagues, Blenkinsop, is also suffering from consumption.

The conflict is that Ridgeon has limited resources to treat people and can only take on one extra person. He has to decide which one he wants to treat. The conflicts that occur are external, between the characters, and internal, as a result of Ridgeon's views. Ridgeon recognises the talent of Louis, but disagrees with his views about society. Ridgeon also has desires for Louis' wife, Jennifer, and that causes him internal conflicts.

The play follows through the conversations, arguments actions that influence Ridgeon while Ridgeon makes his decision. The climax of the play is Ridgeon's internal conflict. He has to decide which one is the most deserved to be saved, whether it's the great artist Louis Dubedat or the ordinary doctor, Blenkinsop.

He decides to treat Blenkinsop and pass Louis to one of his colleagues, who is not familiar with his new cure. The result of this decision is that Blenkinsop survives,

while Louis dies. There is a twist in the play though. The reason for the decision is unveiled to be not due to the abilities of Louis or the character of Blenkinsop, but the feelings of Ridgeon towards Jennifer, despite this being against the ethics of the medical profession.