

save him. Fay, lies bravely to save his life and denies she loves Pierpont. Mortimer saves him. Later she confesses the lie but promises to send Pierpont away and they keep their promise. A year later Pierpont again meets Fay in Venice and learning that Dr. Mortimer was killed when the Arab troops attacked the caravan, all obstacles to their marriage is removed as Pierpont has explained that the appearance of Fay in his apartment was a frame-up on her part for revenge.

"The Lady Who Lied"

Stone, Valli and Naldi in Colorful First National Adaptation of Typical Robert Hichens Story

Reviewed by C. S. Sewell

Those familiar with the novels of Robert Hichens will recognize as typical of his style the story that is unfolded in First National's "The Lady Who Lied" adapted from his novel "Snake-Bite." There is the atmosphere of the Sahara Desert although in this instance it is Algiers and not Egypt that serves as the locale of most of the action, and, as in some of his other stories the feminine element of the romantic triangle is a married woman.

Opening in Venice during a carnival, switching to a small North African town and then to scenes on the desert including a tent that is gorgeous enough for a prince and finally introducing an attack of the native tribesmen on the caravan, the production is colorful.

The plot moves forward smoothly but too much detail and deliberateness of tempo causes the interest to lag at times and the film could stand cutting to considerably less than its present length.

All of the leading roles are well handled. Most of the action falls on Virginia Valli as the wife, and Lewis Stone as the "other man" while Edward Earle as the husband is of scarcely less prominence. Nita Naldi's work is effective as an adventuress described in the subtitle as "a woman of the night" but she appears only in a few scenes. It is a polite type of domestic problem story with practically no vigorous drama until the big situation is reached. Then the story becomes melodramatic when the other man is bitten by a snake just as the doctor husband is about to "have it out with him" and he refuses to use his professional skill unless the wife assures him there is nothing between them. Here is where the title comes in for she lies to save him.

While there is no hint of unfaithfulness on the part of the wife, this is not the type of story that will appeal to certain classes of patrons, for Lewis Stone who really has the leading "heroic" role is pictured as deliberately plotting to win the wife away from her husband. This alienates sympathy for him; nor is there any strong appeal in the unhappy wife's plight for the husband is not a bad sort of fellow after all.

Cast

Horace Pierpont.....Lewis Stone
Fay Kennion.....Virginia Valli
Sir Henry Kennion.....Louis Payne
Phil.....Nita Naldi
Alan Mortimer.....Edward Earle
Merton.....Leo White
Adapted from Robert Hichens's Novel "Snake-Bite."

Directed by Edwin Carewe.

Length, 7,111 feet.

Story

Horace Pierpont, a very wealthy American traveler, during a carnival in Venice wins the love of Fay Kennion, but when she sees another woman in his apartment she abruptly breaks the engagement and marries her former sweetheart Dr. Mortimer, stationed at a small town in Algiers. Pierpont learning where Fay has gone, follows and arranges a trip over the desert taking Dr. Mortimer along as his physician. Dr. Mortimer finally becomes suspicious and when a poisonous snake bites Pierpont refuses to