APPENDIX

THE SUMMARY OF JENNIE GERHARDT

The story begins with the searching of a job by Mrs. Gerhardt and her daughter, Jennie, in a big hotel in town. The Gerhardt’s family is very poor that Mr. Gerhardt cannot afford to support the family. Mrs. Gerhardt thinks that it is better for her to find a job of two or three dollars a week in order to help her husband in financial problems. She gets the job in the cleaning service with the wages of three dollars a week. She is helped by her oldest daughter. After three weeks in the hotel, her oldest son, Sebastian (Bass) suggests her get a washing service for the guests of the hotel. Fortunately, the manager of the hotel agrees to the idea.

One of the honorable guests of the hotel is George Syvester Brander, a notable senator of the country. He becomes one of Mrs. Gerhardt’s customers in doing the laundry. Usually, Jennie is the person who takes the clothes to be washed. Brander feels sympathy with Jennie who is so beautiful and young. It seems as Jennie also likes Brander who is rich and famous besides his old age. But Brander is very kind toward Jennie and her family. He feels sorry for their poverty.

He usually gives some money and presents. For the time being, Mr. Gerhardt does not know about Brander and his relationship with Jennie, until one time his neighbor tells him that Jennie is used to going a ride with an old gentleman. Gerhardt feels angry because he does not want his daughter to get a long with an old man.
especially after dark. He is religious man. One time Sebastian is caught by the police because he is stealing the coal from the train. He is doing this because he wants to help his family. Gerhardt and the members of the family become panic. They do not know how to solve the problem, because the police say that Sebastian will free if they pay the government ten dollars. Jennie then goes to Brander to ask for help. Brander is willing to help bass get free from the jail, but the consequence of this deed is that Jennie has lost her virginity.

When Jennie’s father knows it, he instantly orders Jennie to leave the house for good. Jennie and her mother are so upset, but they do not know what to do. Meanwhile, Sebastian is preparing to leave their town, Colombus and moves to Claveland. He believes that he will succeed in finding a good life in that town. After a few months in Claveland, Sebastian writes to his mother asking her and her family to move to Claveland. The important one is getting jobs and everything will be all right. Meanwhile, Jennie has been pregnant for six months. So, this is a good chance for her to leave the town, so that nobody will ask her who the father of the baby is.

The Gerhardt’s family is in Claveland, except Gerhardt himself who is still working as porter in a certain factory in Colombus. Sebastian works at a vigar store, Jennie works for Mrs. Bracebridge, a wealthy woam in Claveland, a servant girl. After a few months in Mrs. Bracebridge’s house, Jennie has got some experience in handling the house. She gets four dollars a week and by this some of money she can save a few dollars a month for her family. Meanwhile, her girl baby was born when she still lived in Colombus. Now, her daughter, Vesta, is at home with her
grandmother. The father or her child, George Sylvester Brander, has died and they never got married. That is why Gerhardt feels upset about this.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Bracebridge has a friend, Mr. Kane, who owns a big company is very rich. He has two sons, Robert and Lester. The latter is visiting Mrs. Bracebridge’s house and meets Jennie. He is astonished to see Jennie who is so beautiful and attractive. He falls in love with Jennie for the first sight. Jennie actually likes him but she cannot show her feeling, since she is only a servant and has a daughter. Lester tries to seduce Jennie and promises to help her financially because he knows that Jennie is poor. First, Jennie refuses his love since she is afraid if the same problem will happen to her again. But Jennie is a great trouble because accidentally her father has an accident. She has to accept Lester’s offer to help her and agrees to go New York with Lester for a couple of weeks.

Lester loves Jennie very much but he does not want to marry her since she is not a rich woman. Moreover, his family is very strict with their tradition. So, it is impossible for Lester to marry her because of this social level. They only live together in Chicago by renting an apartment, without being married. Lester’s parents seem not to approve of this unmarried couple. Moreover, the high-class society in Chicago feels that it is not good for a successful businessman like Lester to live with a woman without getting married. But Lester does not care all this criticism. He enjoys his way of life and he is very happy with Jennie beside him. Meanwhile, Jennie herself never mentions to Lester about her daughter, Vesta, because from the first time Lester says that he does not like children. She puts Vesta in the boarding
house, but finally Lester knows that Jennie has a daughter. He gets angry because Jennie never tells him about it. But, later on, he agrees to let Vesta live with them.

Lester is still doubtful if he should marry Jennie or not. This is due to his father’s will which states that his father will give or bequeath him one-fourth of the wealth if he leaves Jennie or gives him ten thousand dollars a year for three years only if he marries her. Lester seems to ignore all these things. He does not care all of them. The important one is getting align with Jennie without being married. Jennie herself does not feel secure in her life because she is not Lester’s wife. But at least her family can be saved financially.

One time, Lester’s sister comes to visit Lester and finds out that Lester lives with a lower-class woman in the same house without being married. She despises Jennie as a concubine (she is a concubine!). Jennie feels embarrassed and writes a letter to Lester while he is away. She says that she is going to leave Lester for the sake of his happiness. Lester comes home before Jennie leaves the house and he forbids her to leave him because he loves her very much. He suggests her to move to South Hyde and rent a big house for them. They rent a big house which consists of eleven rooms. They have wealthy neighbors now. Meanwhile, most of her brothers and sisters move to another town get jobs because their mother has died. Now, her father Gerhardt lives by himself. Jennie asks her father to live with her. First, he refuses to live with her since he is suspicious about her marriage. But she says that she is a married woman now. Lester himself says that they are married. Gerhardt then moves to Jennie’s house. Meanwhile, Mrs. Kane, Lester’s mother dies. Robert, his only brother is handling the company now because his father believes that Robert
is more faithful and reliable than Lester, especially in handling the company. Lester seems not to care about this wealth because what he needs in his life is peacefulness. What his father has told him about the will comes true. His father dies and the wealth of the Kane is divided equally among the members of the family, except Lester Kane. His father’s will state that he will bequeath one fourth of the wealth to Lester on the condition as has been stated above. Lester is very upset to hear this, but he does not care. He comes home to Jennie and asks her to go abroad.

Lester and Jennie go to Europe and North Africa. In Europe they meet Letty Pace, not a widow under the name of Mrs. Gerhardt. She was Lester’s lover when they were in Cincinati. Letty is now in Europe as a very wealthy widow. She still loves Lester and Lester also still loves her. Their meeting in Europe makes them intimate again. She tells Lester that she is going to America and lives there. Lester is very happy to hear it, although he still loves Jennie and tells everybody that Jennie is his wife. Actually, Letty is an appropriate wife for him because they have the same level in the society, unlike Jennie who is from the lower class society. It is by chance that Letty and Lester and Jennie will be in the same ship to America. This will intimate their ‘friendship’ as ever.

After Lester and Jennie arrive in Chicago, Lester tries to invest his some of money in the small company in northern Indiana which build wagons and carriages. But he later realizes that he will not be able to compete with his brother’s big company. He then invests his money in the real-estate business in Chicago. But again, he fails as does not grow Southward but Northward. His real-estate is in south of Chicago. Letty Pace persuades him to leave Jennie in order to inherit hundred
millions of dollars from his late father. She also induces Lester to marry her because she knows that he still loves her. They can combine their wealth to create a bright future for Lester and herself. Lester seems to agree to what Letty Pace has proposed to him. But he still needs time to tell his plan to Jennie. Moreover, he is still doubtful about leaving Jennie or not. Meanwhile, Robert, Lester’s brother, feels that it is time to make a decision about his father’s will because the three-year period as promised in the will has nearly come to an end. He then sends his lawyer to Jennie to ask her opinion about the will. She is rather shocked when the lawyer tells her that it depends on her whether she will leave Lester alone or not. Is she leave Lester, she will be given thousands of dollars in the form of trust for her whole life. She never thinks of money. What she is thinking is that she loves him very much, but she must leave him in order to give Lester a chance to be a rich man. Moreover, she also realizes that Letty will be an appropriate wife for Lester because they have the same level in the high-class society. Lester had better marry Letty in order to get rich and powerful in business.

In the mean time, Gerhardt is sick because he is very old now. Jennie loves her father very much and she takes care of him seriously. Vesta also loves her grandfather very much. But they both know that Gerhardt is too weak and old to stand the illness. The doctor himself says that he is not able to help Gerhardt who finally dies. Jennie is so sad because she now does not have anyone, except Vesta, to consult to. Her brothers and sisters are far away and they seem not to care for her and their father. Meanwhile, her relationship with Lester finally breaks off. She moves to a small cottage near Chicago with Vesta and Lester moves to commercial center of
the town. By this separation, Lester gets his share from the wealth of his father and
now becomes a director of the company. The little town of Sanwood is a pleasant
place for Jennie and her daughter. Although Jennie is so depressed by the fact that
she must be separated from Lester, the man whom she loves very much, she feels all
right. This is because she knows that fate has determined her to belike that.

Having separated from Jennie, Lester feels sorry that for what he has done to
her. He still loves her and feels that nobody can replace Jennie in his heart. But his
acquaintance with Letty Pace becomes closer and closer. They finally agree to get
married. The news of their marriage has terribly shocked Jennie. But what can she
do? She is very weak and helpless that she just stays calm and reposed. Her suffering
is unbearable in addition to Vesta’s sickness. She is panic now because Vesta is the
only person she depends on now. The doctors try to help Vesta but finally they fail.
Vesta finally dies. Jennie is so desperate and helpless. Lester, despite his glamour
and happiness as a millionaire, still thinks of Jennie. He can not forget her although
he now has a wife who loves him. Upon the news of Vesta’s death, he comes to
Jennie and soothes her. He suggests her to ask her younger brother, William, to
come and stay with her. But she does not know his address now. Finally they come
to a conclusion that Jennie will adopt a child to accompany her in her old life. She
then adopts a girl and then a boy of four.

Due to his busy days, drinking alcohol, traveling in luxurious ease and taking
no physical exercises, Lester becomes fat, slow moving and easily ill. His kidney,
liver, spleen and pancreas are easily attacked by diseases. He now becomes seriously
ill and lays on bad weakly. The doctors are pessimistic about curing his illness.
Lester has someone send letters to his wife who is now in Europe. He also asks his lawyer to fetch Jennie to come to him. Jennie is shocked to hear Lester’s illness. She immediately comes to Lester’s place. She soothes him, serves him and sits beside him faithfully. Finally, Lester dies without his wife in his side but Jennie.