

Lawrence Exeter fathers a son also named Lawrence in September 1903. Even though he is less than excited about his son's birth he buys him toys and baby supplies. The two Lawrences live with Senior's wife Addison for a few years but Lawrence Exeter Senior quickly gets bored with his life. He decides to send his son to boarding school. Feeling slightly guilty about this he buys his son a bike, but his guilt doesn't prevent Senior from sending his unwilling son to military school.

Senior's unhappiness spirals into an all-out mid-life crisis. He buys a sporty red Cadillac with the money meant for his wife's anniversary present. Thinking back on his youth and days at Stanford he decides to give a generous alumni contribution to his alma mater. At the college, while writing the personal check, he meets a young photography student, Daisy Windsor, and strikes up a conversation about their mutual love of photography.

They fall instantly in love and when she decides to study abroad he moves to France with her, paying for the boat ticket. He convinces his wife that he's on a job in France and frequently sends her flowers to stem her suspicion. Lawrence and Daisy love France so much that he decides to buy a beautiful chateau on the Riviera for them to share. She hires an interior decorator and creates a Chinese-inspired atmosphere.

Daisy, not knowing about Senior's marital status, repeatedly implores him to get married. They take a trip to Hawaii in 1926, where Senior organizes a fake commitment ceremony to pass off to Daisy as a real wedding. Junior, now graduated from military school, is in Hawaii on business at the same time and discovers his distanced father's affair. Desperate to keep his affair a secret, Lawrence Sr. Bribes Junior with \$200,000. Senior's legitimate wife dies. He sends a final bouquet to the mother of his son and then retires quietly to France.

In 1927 Junior becomes bewitched by Miss Flossie Wentworth. They get engaged. He satisfies her lavish desires with French dresses, jewels, lingerie and other luxuries. Junior becomes suspicious of Flossie's activities, believing that she has become involved with other rich men. He hires a private investigator but doesn't discover anything before their wedding. Flossie then discovers that Junior's father is a wealthy man and tries to make Junior sue his father for his money. They are successful in their suit and Junior gives some of their winnings to his grandmother.

A few years into the marriage the private investigator Tony Spagoni discovers Flossie's lucrative hobbies. While on vacation in Hollywood, Junior learns that she has become more involved with other men when she didn't receive much money from him. Angry and jealous, Junior threatens to divorce Flossie and tell her customers about her promiscuity. Flossie mortally wounds Junior with a stylish round-toed pump (with a strap across the front and a small button).

Junior is rushed to the hospital and his father is notified. Senior feels guilty about never seeing his son and agrees to pay the medical bills. He buries the son he never knew. Senior spends the rest of his life searching for Flossie.