

A baby is born to Hollywood movie star Lawrence Exeter and his wife, also a movie star, on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1903. They name him Lawrence Exeter Jr. Soon after the family doctor, Dr. David M. McCoy discovers that the baby has leukemia and although the parents are able to take him home, multiple visits are made to their home for the first few weeks of his life.

By the time he is three months old, the signs of leukemia have disappeared and he goes into remission. The parents are delighted at this unusual happening. His parents spoil him exceedingly, showering him with toys from the California Toy Co. His father is especially indulgent. At age six his parents enroll him in the Palisades School for Boys. His personality, being self-centered, allows him no friends and to add to the problem, his father indulges him a great deal more.

His mother dies and as a hurting child he starts to act up, so his father sends him to Columbia Military Academy when he is twelve years old. Many years pass and the academy shapes his character to be less selfish. For his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, he receives a Cadillac from his father, but four days later gets into an auto accident. Not learning his lesson, his father convinces him to take a few classes at Stanford University. He doesn't do well at the school even after his father pays for a private tutor.

At 19 years of age, he decides that he needs some time away from home. He persuades his father to send him to study abroad in France. It works out to be a perfect situation for both parties involved because his father joins a florist club to pursue his

long-time hidden hobby of working in some form of botany, and Lawrence Jr. meets a Parisian belle whom he gets engaged to at age 23. Again his generous father pays for all the expenses, including the wedding ring, the land to build a home on, the furnishings for the house, and a honeymoon to Hawaii. In addition, he gives them a wedding present of \$200,000. They move back to the United States after their honeymoon.

In the first few months after they are married, Lawrence Jr. finds that the signs of leukemia are recurring and he begins to feel ill more often. As for their relationship, Lawrence finds that the more candies, expensive gowns from Paris, and other accessories made in France that he buys his wife, the more unhappy and unsatisfied with her new home she becomes. She develops into a real nuisance, never happy with anything and always wanting more material items.

Concluding that his wife is turning into a nut case, he brings her to one psychologist after another. He finally finds one that seems to help her recover. Once his wife has her senses back, she sees how sick her husband is becoming because of the leukemia and decides to file for divorce. Through all the legal mess that follows, their only child, Marie, is disputed over and ends up in her mother's hands. They decide that Marie's father will only be able to see her on weekends.

With all the overwhelming occurrences in his heartbreaking life, he decides that he is going crazy and decides to make a visit to the family psychologist. His leukemia worsens to the point that he has weeks if not days to live. Soon he is in full time nursing at the hospital where he was born, with his family doctor, who has

considerably aged since his birth. With his father at his side, in July of 1931, at the age of 27, he dies. So concludes the tragic story of Lawrence Exeter Jr.