

Idiomes

Washington Square

by Henry James

A very famous doctor, called Austin Sloper, get married with Catherine, and they have a son, died at three years old. Two years later, they had a daughter they also called Catherine but her mother died only one week later.

Doctor Sloper has two sisters, one of them Mrs. Lavinia Penniman, a widow, and he decides to invite her to live with them. Dr Sloper does not expect nothing from his daughter because she is unlike her mother, so Mrs. Penniman decides to become Catherine's teacher.

The other sister of Dr. Sloper is Mrs. Almond, who has a big family and whose her younger daughter, Marian, has become engaged to Arthur Townsend, so they invite Catherine to the party. At the party, Marian tells Catherine that Morris, the cousin of Arthur, wanted to meet her. Morris spoke with Catherine during a half an hour.

Along the next days Mr. Townsend paid a visit to Catherine's house a few times, so he seemed interested in meeting her. But as his father does not like him, he decided to ask Mrs. Almond about Morris. One day the doctor invited Mr. Townsend to have dinner with them, but he can not trust him. He believes Morris only being interested for Catherine by his money.

In the evening Morris and Catherine meet in a park where he starts to kiss her, as they are in love, so they decide to talk with Dr Sloper. They go together at home and first Catherine tells him she is engaged to Morris. Dr Sloper dislikes the idea but he speaks Morris kindly, although Dr Sloper accuses the young man to engaging Catherine because she is a weak woman with a big fortune while Morris is a man without work and without money and it is not the kind of man for her. Morris argues he was very

immature few years ago and he spent all his money but he has changed and that does not mean he will do the same with Catherine's fortune.

Dr Sloper forbids Catherine to meet Morris again, but she and her aunt write some letters to him, in one of this Mrs. Penniman tells Morris that she wants he can get married with Catherine without Dr Sloper's consent.

Knowing that, Catherine gets very angry but she decides to talk with her father to ask him for his consent but Dr Sloper refuses and Catherine leaves the house crying. Dr. Sloper says Mrs Penniman does not want she or Catherine see Morris again. Catherine explain it to Morris by letter and he goes to the house to ask her if she wants to be marry next week but Dr Sloper plans a Europe trip with Catherine and they leave New York.

Dr Sloper believes Catherine will forget Morris but after a long time in Europe he asks her: "You will to give him up?" and she says no, so that very same night they go back to New York.

The day after Morris visits Catherine's house but she tells him her father has not changed his mind so he decides to give she up, but he can not do it and finally he tells Catherine he must leave for business and she will never see him again.

Catherine does not see Morris for some years. In the meantime she receives a few offers of marriage but she refuses all of them. One day Dr. Sloper demands Catherine she will never marry Morris, but she can not promise it. A year after her father dies.

Mrs Penniman tells Catherine Morris wants to see her as friends. One day, he comes to pay her a visit and confess never having Catherine forgotten, but she does not say the same, because she forgot him years ago and they can not be but friends. Mr Morris leaves the house for ever and they never see each other again.

