

The Philadelphia Story Encyclopedia Article

The Philadelphia Story by Philip Barry

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The Philadelphia Story

In George Cukor's comedy *The Philadelphia Story* (1940), socialite Tracy Lord (Katherine Hepburn) is about to marry George Kittredge (John Howard) when her first husband, C. K. Dexter Haven (Cary Grant), arrives with two reporters from a gossip magazine (James Stewart and Ruth Hussey). Tracy suddenly cannot decide whether she should marry George, Dexter, or Mike Connor (Stewart). Donald Ogden Stewart's witty, Oscar-winning script, derived from a stage play by Philip Barry, satirizes the divisions between classes and argues that people should have sympathy for the flaws of others.

Further Reading:

Barry, Philip. *The Philadelphia Story: A Comedy in Three Acts*. New York, Coward-McCann, 1939.