

L12758

Jesse L. Lasky

Presents

LILA LEE

in

"THE CRUISE OF THE MAKE-BELIEVES"

©CIL 12758

By Tom Gallon

Scenario by Edith Kennedy

Directed by George Melford

A Paramount Picture

"THE CRUISE OF THE MAKE-BELIEVES"

The Cast

Bessie Meggison, a Poor Girl.....Lila Lee
Gilbert Byfield, a Wealthy Author.....Harrison Ford
Daniel Meggison, Bessie's Father.....Raymond Hatton
Aubrey Meggison, Bessie's Brother.....Wm. Brunton
Jordan Tant.....Parks Jones
Simon Quarle.....Spottiswoode Aitken
Uncle Ed.....Bud Duncan
Aunt Julia.....Eunice Moore
Mrs. Ewart Crane.....Maym Kelso
Enid Crane, her Daughter.....Nina Byron
Friend of Saloon.....William McLaughlin
Byfield's Landlady.....Jane Wolff
Butler of Dream Valley.....John McKinnon

The Story

Bessie Meggison, sixteen years old, pretty and vivacious, lives with her father, Daniel Meggison, who is a shiftless and lazy man addicted to drink, and her brother, Aubrey, a ne'er-do-well, in a poor section of New York. She takes in roomers, scrubs the floors and works hard to keep up her home. In the backyard of her humble home, Bessie has rigged up an odd ship of make believe, provided with old chairs, bits of canvas and spare pieces of lumber. The wheel of the ship is taken from a child's discarded express wagon.

It is Bessie's custom to make fanciful voyages to distant and beautiful countries in this ship, whenever she feels the necessity of escaping from the rather drab existence which is her daily lot, and when things go unpleasantly at home, which is rather frequently. She is assisted in these whimsical voyages by Gilbert Byfield, a wealthy young man who is living in the slums while he is writing a book on social conditions. He seeks to make Bessie happy, and believing him to be the poor young man he represents himself to be, Bessie falls in love with him, especially as he is given to the habit of treating her to fifty cent table d'hote dinners after the completion of their periodical voyages on the ship of make believes.

AUG 20 1918

15 reels

Byfield is trying to lift Bessie's father and brother out of their environment and he makes a secret bargain with Meggison to take Bessie and Aubrey to the beautiful Byfield country home in Dream Valley for a vacation, the agreement being that Bessie must not know that Byfield is connected with the transaction in any way. He supplies Meggison with money and the latter announces to Bessie that he has made a large sum of money through judicious investments and that he has bought a beautiful country home. Bessie is charmed and after she has given up all her furniture to the landlord in payment of back rent, she and her father and brother start for Dream Valley.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Ewart Crane and her daughter Enid, have set their caps for Byfield and when they hear of Byfield's project to give the Meggisons a vacation, they start for Dream Valley to investigate. As the vacation month is drawing to a close, Byfield goes to the valley and Bessie, who is in complete ignorance of his ownership of the place, shows him about the grounds. Byfield learns from her that her father has completed all his arrangements to make the valley his permanent residence, and while Byfield smiles, he nevertheless demands an explanation from Meggison, who has invited people of his own set to visit him at the Byfield home, and who are drinking up his most expensive wines.

Meggison shrewdly guesses that Byfield loves Bessie, and he points out that the girl, who has developed into a real beauty, will become miserable if she learns of the deception practiced upon her, and that if she is compelled to return to the slums, she will die. Byfield realizes that Meggison is a rascal, though a good natured one, and he decides to keep up the deception awhile longer.

Byfield has a talk with Bessie and soon discovers that she loves him and when she tells him that love is better than all the money in the world, he leaves her reflectively. Mrs. Crane and her daughter arrive after Byfield leaves and they cruelly disillusion Bessie. When she realizes the truth, she weeps bitterly and returns to the slums. There is a "To Let" sign on the door of her home, and she steals into the back yard where the ship of make believes is lying in a state of almost hopeless collapse. She climbs aboard, but she cannot reconstruct her dreams and she falls sobbing to the floor.

Then Byfield, who has learned everything and followed her, comes through a hole in the fence and tiptoes to the ship. He stoops over Bessie and finally takes her in his arms. She sees a look in his face that reveals the story of his love to her and she nestles in his embrace, happy and contented.

This document is from the Library of Congress
“Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection,
1912-1977”

Collections Summary:

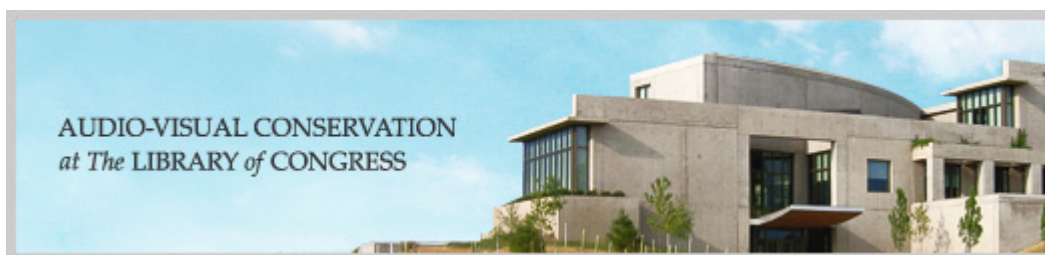
The Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection, Class L and Class M, consists of forms, abstracts, plot summaries, dialogue and continuity scripts, press kits, publicity and other material, submitted for the purpose of enabling descriptive cataloging for motion picture photoplays registered with the United States Copyright Office under Class L and Class M from 1912-1977.

Class L Finding Aid:

<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi020004>

Class M Finding Aid:

<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi021002>



National Audio-Visual Conservation Center
The Library of Congress