JAVA HEAD

Novel by
JOSEPH HERGESHEIMER

The Players

William Ammidon - RALPH RICHARDSON
Jeremy Ammidon - EDMUND GWENN
Gerrit Ammidon - JOHN LODER
Taou Yuen - ANNA MAY WONG
Nettie Vollar - ELIZABETH ALLAN
Barzil Dunsack - HERBERT LOMAS
Edward Dunsack - GEORGE CURZON
John Stone - JOHN MARRINER
Roger Brevard - GRAY BLAKE
Broadrick - ROY EMERTON
Rhoda - AMY BRANDON THOMAS
Kate - FRANCES CARSON

Directed by J. WALTER RUBEN

Screen Adaptation by MARTIN BROWN and GORDON WELLESLEY
Music arranged by ERNEST IRVING Photographed by ROBERT G. MARTIN
Art Direction by EDWARD CARRICK Still Photography by CYRIL LEESTON

Recorded on R.C.A. Photophone System

A BASIL DEAN PRODUCTION

Made and Recorded at the A.T.P. Studios, Ealing, London

RENOWN PICTURES CORPORATION LIMITED

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The Story

"JAVA HEAD" is the home built by old Jeremy Ammidon, founder of the firm of Ammonid & Sons, shipowners, of the port of Bristol.

William, his eldest son, is the business head of the firm; his other son, Gerrit, is master of the "Nautilus," finest of the Ammonid ships.

Gerrit is warned of his friendship with Nettie Vollar, a local beauty, by her grandfather Barzil Dunack. Gerrit, furious, sails without seeing Nettie again. The story follows the "Nautilus" to the Port of Shanghai.

Nearly a year after Gerrit’s departure, Jeremy hears that Nettie’s uncle, Edward Dunack, has returned from Shanghai with news showing the "Nautilus" to be much overdue. He visits Barzil, attempting to end a stupid quarrel of twenty years’ standing. The old fanatic is little changed and the estrangement is renewed when Barzil says he has "saved" Nettie from Gerrit.

Anxiety is relieved when Gerrit’s ship returns safely with a rich cargo.

Gerrit astounds all by introducing to them Taou Yuen, a Manchu lady of high rank, whom he has made his wife. The family receive Taou Yuen with proper courtesy. As Taou Yuen’s charm and poise assert themselves the Manchu girl becomes a definite success, but William and Gerrit become estranged.

To Nettie, the news of Gerrit’s wife is an almost stunning shock. During Bristol’s celebration of Queen Victoria’s birthday, the Ammonid family encounter Nettie and she is included in the party; afterward Gerrit takes her home. Gerrit returning to Taou, feels for the first time her strangeness. Taou is secretly dismayed. William places important orders for the new type ships and Jeremy, the father, looks through the estimates. His inspection is stopped by the accidental discovery of a paper showing that William has engaged the firm secretly with the opium trade for some years. The shock of this kills him. The brothers are finally estranged. Gerrit resigns from the firm.

Nettie is knocked down by a carriage and seriously hurt and asks for Gerrit. Gerrit goes off at once to her. Edward Dunack insists to Taou that Gerrit and Nettie love each other.

Gerrit finds that Nettie is glad to see him, though she did not send for him. The knowledge that Gerrit is to sail as soon as his ship is ready drives them to confess their love for each other.

Gerrit goes back to Taou and makes plans for their life somewhere in the Far East. But Taou goes herself to see the girl whom she now realises Gerrit loves. Nettie tells Taou she need have no fear; Gerrit will never be untrue to her. Taou looks at her with pity. She whispers “So long as you are here he will be in danger”—and is tempted to kill the girl.

But Edward Dunack intervenes. Taou perceives a better way to ensure Gerrit’s happiness. Edward Dunack holds her in his arms to find that Taou Yuen is dead.

Gerrit sails at last with Nettie, in happiness made possible by Taou’s renunciation.

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