



# THE SILVER BOX

JOHN GALSWORTHY

**DR.S.VAHITHA**

**Assistant Professor of English**

**S.T.Hindu College**

**Nagercoil**

# JOHN GALSWORTHY

Birth --- 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1867    Death --- 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1933

Writing career --- 1895

Famous Plays --- *The Silver Box*

*Strife*

*Justice*

*The Skin Game*

*Loyalties* (and many other works)

# THE SILVER BOX

## CHARACTERS

### JOHN BARTHWICK

- **Bald headed, elderly person**
- **Member of Parliament**
- **Proclaims himself to be a Liberal**
- **Too serious**
- **Proud of his Rich status and respectability**
- **Hypocrite, selfish and self-centred**
- **Has no sympathy for the poor (but proclaims to be sympathetic)**



# MRS BARTHWICK

- Wife of Mr.Barthwick
- Grey-haired rich lady
- Narrow minded
- Has sheer contempt for lower classes
- Thinks poor people are not truthful
- Fond mother of Jack Barthwick – dotes her son and remains dumb to his failings



# JACK BARTHWICK

- Son of MR John Barthwick and Mrs Barthwick
- Pampered by his mother
- Addicted to drinks
- Gets heavily into debt
- A thoroughly spoilt young man
- Spends money lavishly



# MRS JONES

- char woman (servant) of the Barthwick household
- gentle, meek and modest
- endures sorrows and sufferings with utmost endurance
- suffers poverty without complaint or murmur.
- lacks firmness and boldness
- patient to her husband Jones' brutal and arrogant behavior
- faithful and dutiful wife
- innocent and simple



# MR JONES

- A drunkard
- Unemployed
- Violent when he is drunk and ill treats his wife
- Has grievance against civilized society
- He is unjustly treated as a social outcaste
- Gets deeply hurt when his children suffer hunger and poverty
- Blamed for a theft
- Unjustly treated throughout the trial at the court



# THE THEFT

- Jack Barthwick comes home drunk at midnight, stealing a lady's velvet reticule (a handbag) that contained a crimson silk purse (Jack had a quarrel with that lady in the bar)
- Jones accompanies Jack as he was severely intoxicated
- Jack invites Jones into his home, and offers him a drink.
- **Jones steals the Silver box from the table and the crimson silk purse (that was stolen by Jack)**



# IRRESPONSIBLE JACK

- Jack creates trouble by dishonouring a check worth 40 pounds
- The young lady who lost her crimson silk purse to Jack last night after a quarrel comes home demanding the money (seven pounds and twelve shillings) that she had in her bag
- Jack is questioned by his father to settle the affair, but he couldn't restore her purse
- Mr.Barthwick settles both the affairs and rebukes Jack



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# MISSING SILVER BOX

- Thomas Marlowe, Butler to Barthwick, found the silver box missing.
- He communicated the loss to Mr. Barthwick who sent him to the police station to lodge the report of the theft.
- Mr. Snow, a detective takes over the case



# MRS JONES SUSPECTED

- The police acted arrested Jones along with his innocent wife who was employed as a charwoman in the house of Mr. Barthwick.
- Jones became violent and resisted the police when they arrested his wife who did not commit any crime.
- Both MR and MRS Jones arrested



# AT THE COURT

- Jones was tried in the court of law for stealing the silver cigarette box and making an assault on the police.
- sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.
- He protested against this injustice, for Jack who committed the identical crime, was not punished.



# MRS JONES LOSES HER HOME AND JOB

- Mrs. Jones was also tried for stealing the silver box
- But the charges leveled against her could not be proved and she was acquitted.
- Mrs. Jones lost her job and had to vacate the house in which she lived with her three children.



# JUSTICE DENIED TO THE POOR

- Jack steals a woman's reticule – left without trial
- Jones stealing the reticule and silver box in a drunken fit of resentment is imprisoned
- Both Jack and Jones are not thieves, but does is accidentally
- Rich man (Jack) is acquitted
- Poor man (Jones) is condemned
- one law for the Rich and another for the poor



Thank  
you