

SYNOPSIS

THE TAILOR FROM TAEGU AND MRS. ABERNETHY by Ruby Akin

New York City's Lower East Side, 1945. Korean-American struggling jazz musician, Kim Lee, is forced to give up his fledgling music career when he inherits the family tailoring business following his father's death. Kim runs the business with his kind but overbearing traditional mother. His ambitions dim until he meets seductive white war widow, Libby Abernethy. The intense chemistry between them leads to an illicit love affair, inspiring Kim to play his music again and contemplate a future that's more his own. When racist meddling neighbor, Michael Corwin, uncovers their affair, and Kim's mother learns about her son's secret life, tensions mount in Kim's home.

The couple's relationship continues unabated until Libby's shell-shocked and dangerous brother-in-law, Frank Abernethy, returns home from the war. Frank has inherited his brother's home where Libby resides with her five year-old daughter. Believing Libby to be his only chance at salvaging his fractured family, Frank quickly moves into the house determined to pressure Libby into a loveless marriage. With a small child and nowhere to go, Libby carefully keeps her relationship with Kim, hidden from Frank, while secretly searching for a way out of her tense living situation.

Committed to making a life with Libby, and freeing her from Frank's grip, Kim asks Libby to marry him. She accepts and they quickly arrange to leave the city, but before they can make their escape, Michael reveals their secret to Frank. The shocking news fuels Frank's fatal obsession for Libby. A deadly cocktail of passion, racism, and mortal terror erupts into a physical confrontation between Frank, Libby and Kim. During the violent struggle, shots are fired and Frank is killed. Kim is immediately arrested and held without bail. He stands accused of murder in a high profile criminal trial and faces the electric chair if convicted. Meanwhile, Michael and his timid wife, Elaine, are named star witnesses for the prosecution.

The D.A. accuses Kim of hatching a plan with Libby to kill Frank over the family inheritance. Evidence is convincingly stacked against Kim when it's revealed that the murder weapon belongs to him. The trial takes a surprising turn when the last witness, Elaine, takes the stand. Visibly distraught, she's unable to testify and asks to be excused. The judge agrees to postpone her testimony for 24 hours.??

In a race against time, Libby shows up to the Corwin's home and desperately pleads with Elaine to tell the true account of the struggle on the night of Frank's death. She reminds Elaine that an innocent man's life hangs in the balance and his fate depends on her courage. Elaine is moved to tears by Libby's plea and expresses genuine remorse for Kim, yet she refuses to help for fear of her vindictive husband. Michael walks in and finds Libby in his home. He throws a fit and Libby quickly leaves. Michael assaults his wife, coercing her to support his version of events in court. Terrified, she agrees to testify against Kim. Elaine then comes across a powerfully touching personal note that Kim had written to her prior to the incident. Overcome by her conscience, and fed up with her husband's relentless cruelty, Elaine is compelled to tell the truth on the stand. Michael explodes in the courtroom, exposing his ugly prejudices while reinforcing Elaine's credibility to the jury. The jury exonerates Kim. After tremendous suffering, the two lovers are finally reunited and free to make their lives together in an uncertain future.