

## = The Ways of Fate =

The Ways of Fate is a 1913 American silent short romance film produced by the American Film Manufacturing Company . The film 's directorial and producer roles have been both attributed to Allan Dwan , but other sources point to Wallace Reid as director . The film 's fictional plot is centered on Jim Conway , who grew up wanting to avenge his father 's death and headed West to seek his father 's killer . Lost in the mountains , he is saved by a young woman and the two fall in love . After a few weeks with her , Conway reveals the reason he came west and the young woman 's father overhears it . The old man confesses to killing Conway 's father , over a game of cards , and bares his chest . Conway refuses to take revenge , because love had diminished such feelings . The film was released on April 19 , 1913 and it had a widespread national release . The survival status of the film is unknown , but it is presumed lost .

## = = Plot = =

A surviving description of this lost film was published in the The Moving Picture World . It states : " Two men playing cards , the argument , flash of a revolver , and one lay dead . The murderer homeward fled , hurried his little girl baby into a west @-@ bound train and was heard of no more . The years passed and boyish Jim Conway grew to manhood with the sole purpose of seeking out his father 's murderer to deal justice to him . He went West and was one day lost in the mountains . He called for help and help came in the form of a sweet @-@ faced woman who led him to her home . He spent the flying weeks with her and the aged father , learned to love the mountain nymph for her beauty of soul and fair face . One day she asked him his reasons for being in the hill country , and he , lover @-@ like , confided his secret . Behind the door , sat the white @-@ haired father . He rose , shook himself like a leaf as he invited the young man into the house . And there he confessed the deed , baring his chest for the expected blow . But none fell for love had sweetened the poison of his thought . " This summary of the film was provided by the American Film Manufacturing Company .

## = = Cast = =

Wallace Reid as Jim Conway

Vivian Rich

Murdock MacQuarrie

A single line in The Motion Picture Story Magazine notes that " Vivian Rich played opposite Wallace Reid in " The Ways of Fate . " According to E. J. Fleming , author of Wallace Reid : The Life and Death of a Hollywood Idol , the cast marks the debut of Lon Chaney , but this is unsupported and disputed . Fleming also credits Pauline Bush in a role , but this is also disputed .

## = = Production and release = =

The Illustrated Guide to Film Directors credits Allan Dwan for directing the film and Sweethearts of the Sage attribute Wallace Reid . Wallace Reid : The Life and Death of a Hollywood Idol credits Dwan as the producer and Reid as the director , but gives an incorrect release date . Fleming states that the film was made on December 26 ? 27 , 1912 , that Reid was injured the next day when his horse fell and that he could not work until mid @-@ January .

On April 13 , 1913 , an announcement was made that Allan Dwan has been fired from the American Film Manufacturing Company . The dismissal came as a shock to Dwan and stemmed from a personal dispute with J. Warren Kerrigan . Frederic Lombardi , author of Allan Dwan and the Rise and Decline of the Hollywood Studios , suggests that Dwan learned of his firing on April 12 , 1913 , based on a telegram Dwan sent to the Selig Polyscope Company on April 12 inquiring about employment opportunities . A newspaper article tried to dispel rumors about Dwan 's dismissal , termed " retirement , " having resulted in much dissatisfaction within the company . On April 20 ,

there was an announcement that Pauline Bush and Jessalyn Van Trump were also leaving the company . Lombardi says the two actresses may have had a personal reason to follow Dwan 's departure . In May , there was an announcement that Dwan , Bush and Van Trump had joined Universal Film Manufacturing Company .

The film was released on April 19 , 1913 , by the American Film Manufacturing Company , also known as " The Flying A " or " American . " The company described the film as a " half @-@ social , half @-@ western " film .

= = Release and legacy = =

The film saw widespread release in the United States . Advertising theaters were included in Washington D.C. , Utah , Pennsylvania , Texas , Kansas , North Carolina , and Missouri . The film was also released internationally with advertisements in Manitoba , Canada and in London , United Kingdom .

Fleming 's book credits *The Ways of Fate* as the debut of Lon Chaney , but this has been disputed . The documentary *Lon Chaney : A Thousand Faces* states that his film debut occurred after his wife 's suicide attempt in April 1913 and " his earliest films were made at the first studio to open in Hollywood , Nestor . " Jon C. Mirsalis notes in his website that the film " almost certainly [ did not feature ] Chaney , although it was directed by Allan Dwan . Wouldn 't it be interesting if Chaney worked at a studio other than Universal in 1913 ! " \ Michael Blake , a Lon Chaney historian and author of several books on Lon Chaney 's life and work , notes that the possibility exists that Chaney performed in a role during a period of unemployment in 1912 . Blake notes that this would have occurred before Lon Chaney rejoined Clarence Kolb and Max Dill 's company in San Francisco , California in September 1912 . Furthermore , the *Encyclopedia of Early Cinema* states that the American Film Manufacturing Company had moved to its Santa Barbara , California location in the summer of 1912 and that Dwan , who would later work with Chaney , left the company after a dispute with J. Warren Kerrigan in 1913 . Chaney 's appearance in the film is not cited by any Chaney historians . The film 's survival status is unknown , but presumed lost .