

= Her Battle for Existence =

Her Battle for Existence is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The fictional drama follows Susan Dale , a young woman used to luxury . She chooses between two suitors , but her fiancé breaks the engagement off after Susan 's father loses his money and life . Susan now tries to support herself , but fails in the role and decides to kill herself . Her other suitor rushes in and stops her suicide and they get married . Little is known about the production of the film , but it was released as a split reel with Sand Man 's Cure on April 22 , 1910 . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

An official synopsis was published in the The Moving Picture World . It states , " Susan Dale has been brought up in luxury . She has two suitors , Will Emory and Jim Briggs . She chooses Will , and at the opening of the picture informs Jim of her choice . But a change comes to the fortunes of Susan 's father : an unlucky speculation claims his wealth and his life . When Will discovers that his fiancé is penniless his love cools ; he breaks the engagement and goes to Europe to avoid the girl . Susan , friendless , starts out to earn her own living . She applies for a job in a lawyer 's office , but leaves when the man insults her . She secures a place in a department store , but is discharged because , fatigued after an arduous day at the counter , she took a seat while on duty . She applies for work in a factory , but is rejected , owing to lack of experience . Finally , in desperation , she takes a place as maid in the home of Mrs. Gray . There Burg , the offensive lawyer , meets her , and in a spirit of revenge , denounces her as a thief . The mistress discharges her and Susan decides to end her life . Fortunately for Susan , Burg meets Jim Briggs , the rejected suitor , on the street and laughingly tells him how he brought about Susan 's discharge . Jim knocks the wretch down and rushes to Mrs. Gray 's residence . He arrives in time to dissuade Susan from her purpose , and all ends happily to the peal of wedding chimes . "

= = Production = =

The director of the film is not known , but two Thanhouser directors are possible . Barry O 'Neil was the stage name of Thomas J. McCarthy , who would direct many important Thanhouser pictures , including its first two @-@ reeler , Romeo and Juliet . Lloyd B. Carleton was the stage name of Carleton B. Little , a director who would stay with the Thanhouser Company for a short time , moving to Biograph Company by the summer of 1910 . Film historian Q. David Bowers does not attribute either as the director for this particular production nor does Bowers credit a cameraman . Blair Smith was the first cameraman of the Thanhouser company , but he was soon joined by Carl Louis Gregory who had years of experience as a still and motion picture photographer . The role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions . Bowers does not indicate any cast roles or provides any further information into the production of this work .

= = Release and reception = =

The film was released on April 22 , 1910 . The production was a split reel , containing both Her Battle for Existence and Sand Man 's Cure , with an estimated length of 1000 feet . The American Film Institute refers more specifically to the entire reel being 998 feet in length , but does not distinguish between the lengths of the productions . A Thanhouser Filmography Analysis , provided by Thanhouser Company Film Preservation , lists the film as comprising three quarters of a reel - approximately 750 feet . The reasoning is not provided , but the previous release and the next to follow were split reels of similar lengths . Billboard would not identify the film as a split release or give the length for this and the other Thanhouser split reel that followed . The film had advertisements for theaters across the United States , locations included Missouri , Arizona , New York , Wisconsin , Vermont , and California .

The film received mixed reviews by film critics . The first review of the film in the The Moving Picture World found no fault with the acting and photography , but did not believe the ending was believable . The second review was more favorable , but again noted the scenario is a cautionary one for women without aid or occupation to support themselves in life . The New York Dramatic Mirror stated , " A number of overdrawn and inconsistent incidents in this film story do not rob it of its interesting strength . The acting is good and the scenic backgrounds appropriate . " However , the reviewer makes references to the plot that are not consistent with the official synopsis . The film is presumed lost .