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**D.H. Lawrence's *The Horse Dealer's Daughter***

Superficially, *The Horse Dealer's Daughter* tells a typical love story between a young girl and a young man: she tries to drown herself, he saves her, they fall in love, they marry. However, D.H. Lawrence saps this romantic view by revealing the psychology of his characters.

The young man is forced into loving the girl, by her supplications and his inaction:

“He looked down at the tangled wet hair, the wild, bare, animal shoulders. He was amazed, bewildered and afraid. He had never thought of loving her. He had never wanted to love her. When he rescued her and restored her, he was a doctor, and she was a patient. He had had no single personal thought of her. Nay, this introduction of the personal element was very distasteful to him, a violation of his professional honour. It was horrible to have her there embracing his knees. It was horrible. He revolted from it, violently. And yet - and yet - he had not the power to break away.

She looked at him again, with the same supplication of powerful love, and that same transcendent, frightening light of triumph. In view of the delicate flame which seemed to come from her face like a light, he was powerless. And yet he had never intended to love her. He had never intended. And something stubborn in him could not give way.”

Later, when he tells her that he loves her, still, in his interior, he resists: “Yes.’ The word cost him a painful effort. Not because it wasn't true. But because it was too newly true, the *saying* seemed to tear open again his newly-torn heart. And he hardly wanted it to be true, even now.” At the end, he wants to rush into marriage, in order to leave himself no time for reflecting on, and possibly retracting, his love.

I am reminded of the conversation between Marlow and Kurtz's Intended at the end of *Heart of Darkness*. In the same way that the Intended coerces Marlow into lying to her, the young girl coerces the young man into loving her.