

Laura (1944 film)

Laura is a 1944 American [film noir](#) produced and directed by [Otto Preminger](#). It stars [Gene Tierney](#) and [Dana Andrews](#), along with [Clifton Webb](#), [Vincent Price](#), and [Judith Anderson](#). [...]

In 1999, *Laura* was selected for preservation in the United States [National Film Registry](#) by the [Library of Congress](#) as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant". The American Film Institute named it one of the [10 best mystery films](#) of all time [...].



The words in bold are defined below.

The **Plot**: [New York City Police Department](#) Detective Mark McPherson investigates the murder of young, beautiful, successful advertising executive Laura Hunt, killed by a shotgun blast to the face just inside her apartment doorway. He first interviews **worldly** newspaper columnist Waldo Lydecker, an imperious, **effete** older man who relates how he met Laura and became her mentor. She became his **platonic friend** and steady companion; wishing more, he used his considerable fame, influence, and connections to advance her career.

Mark also questions Laura's parasitic playboy fiancé, Shelby Carpenter, a "**kept man**" **tethered** to Laura's wealthy **socialite** aunt, Ann Treadwell...

Plot: the story, intrigue; **worldly**: experienced, mature; **effete**: extremely refined, self-indulgent, snobbish; "kept man": someone who is financially dependent; tethered: attached; **socialite**: a socially prominent person.



Watch the [trailer](#), and watch out for these expressions:

- I was *groping* [fumbling, looking] for some way to keep Laura's name out of it...
- Laura had *innate breeding* [she was naturally refined]
- I taught her what clothes were more becoming to her [what clothes suited her better]

-Men admired her, women envied her.

-You have rarely met a girl like Laura. Few women have been so beautiful, so exotic, so dangerous to know [such language is very dated today, and largely unacceptable].

-It was as natural for her to be picked out among thousands of alluring [attractive] girls, as it was for her to be surrounded by luxury, mystery, and scheming [devious, calculating] men.

-she would never throw her life away on a male beauty in distress [an inversion of traditional roles, when women were sometimes described as "beauties in distress"].