

Review #30 : *It Happened One Night* (1934)

Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable

TRAILER

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kClrT23Hef8>

This film rightly earns its place as one of the greatest romantic comedies in film history.

A pioneer of the screwball comedy genre, it holds up very well 80 years after it was made.



It's a classic tale of the battle of sexes – something that is still so relevant today. We follow the story of spoiled heiress Ellie Andrews (Claudette Colbert) who jumps ship from her father's yacht in Florida after an argument over her marrying wealthy playboy **King Westley** without her father's consent. Ellie wants to get to New York to King Westley. *But how will she do it ?*



That's how journalist **Peter Warne** – played by delightfully charming Clark Gable – comes into the story. Recently fired from his newspaper job, Peter meets Ellie on the Night Bus to New York, and, realizing who she is – Her story is all over the news, after all ! –, offers to help her get there if she gives him an exclusive story – to win him back his job. And so the fun begins...

In the beginning, she treats him like a servant, but he never knuckles under to this behaviour. The interaction between these two is very romantic and humorous. He takes care of her without taking advantage of her – but makes her realize that her wealthy background cannot carry her through : she has to earn his respect by treating him with respect.

Colbert and Gable have great chemistry as the mismatched couple thrown together after a series of unusual circumstances. The trip isn't a smooth one – and we are taken on a wild ride with Peter and Ellie, which gives us great scenes where the humour is still fresh and fast-paced such as the **Walls of Jericho...**



Here is the classic **hitchhiking scene**...



...and I cannot forget the hilarious '*no undershirt scene*' where Gable sexily gives Colbert a lesson on how a man undresses. You have incredible supporting characters, particularly the scene-stealing Oscar Shapeley, a dubious black-mailer who has decided to make the best of his meeting Ellie on the bus – but of course Clark Gable intervenes with honourable chivalry and rescues the proud damsel in distress.

The film won 5 Oscars : Best Picture, Best Director **Frank Capra**, Best Actress and Actor and Best Adaptation. It deserved all of them. *A classic, a must-see, a great movie +++*



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aASicbo3u6E>