

Tawfik Al-Hakim

Fate of a Cockroach

Summary

In the first act, a self-proclaimed king of the cockroaches squabbles with his consort while seeking a solution to the predatory ant problem.

In the second and the third acts, the gender struggle has evolved to the human level: Adil, a young, middle-class, henpecked husband, becomes fascinated with the epic, ill-fated struggle of a cockroach to climb out of the bathtub. He delays his wife's routine and annoys her seriously enough that she calls a doctor.¹

Character List

Ants

Cockroaches:

King

Queen

Minister

Savant

Priest

A subject cockroach

Cockroach scholar

Human Characters:

Adil: the distraught husband

Samia: his pushy wife

Adil and Samia's servant

Doctor

¹ William Maynard Hutchins, *Tawfik Al-Hakim: A Reader's Guide* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2003): 81.