

Fame hungry Roxie Hart (Renée Zellweger) dreams of a life on the vaudeville stage, and spends her nights jazzing it up in the bright lights of Chicago, continually hoping that she'll find her lucky break, and be shot into 1920's stardom, so able to flee her boring husband Amos (John C. Reilly). In awe of seductive club singer Velma Kelly (Catherine Zeta-Jones) (who is subsequently arrested for the murder of her husband and sister - after discovering their affair), Roxie meets Fred Casely (Dominic West), a man who convinces her he can "make her showbiz career take off". However, after Roxie has undergone the "casting couch" treatment, and Fred has had his wicked way with her, he reveals that he has no more connections in show business than she does. This is the final straw for Roxie, and her constant anger at rejection explodes. She shoots Fred Casely and kills him. Upon discovering her infidelity, Roxie's husband Amos refuses to take the blame for the murder and Roxie is sent to jail, pending hanging. In jail, she finally meets tabloid darling Velma Kelly, currently receiving huge media attention for the double murder she committed earlier in the tale. Sharing the clink with Velma, are a collection of other sly females, all awaiting trial for the murders of their own partners. Velma is aloof to Roxie, however, the prison Warden, Matron Mama Morton (Queen Latifah), offers Roxie the opportunity of representation by slick Chicago lawyer Billy Flynn (Richard Gere). Billy is more a showbiz public relations agent than a legal lawyer, and manipulates the tabloids into thinking Roxie is no more than an innocent "good time girl" who took the wrong path, than a scheming murderess. The tabloids go crazy for the new girl on the cell block, and Roxie finally becomes a star. However, due to Roxie's new found fame, Velma is forgotten about. She is forced to approach Roxie with an offer of a part in her vaudeville act (filling the gap left by her murdered sister), but Roxie turns down her offer flat, thinking she needs no support in topping the bill. However, just as Velma's star fell, so does Roxie's, when Go-to-hell Kitty Baxter (Lucy Liu) arrives at the jail on a multiple murder charge, the press forgets Roxie and now she and Velma are in the same boat. With one more trick up her sleeve, Roxie manages to bring the media attention back onto her, and her day in court arrives. Billy is now ready to play the ultimate showman.

Velma Kelly (Catherine Zeta-Jones) is the sexy vaudeville star who murders her husband and sister after finding them in bed together. Roxie Hart (Renée Zellweger) is the wannabe vaudeville star who kills her lover after finding out he was never going to make her famous. Enter Billy Flynn (Richard Gere), the greasy lawyer whose goal is not only to have his clients acquitted, but to make them legal legends. Billy, who apparently likes Roxie's angle (he tried to kill me) better than Velma's (I blacked out and can't remember a thing). With help from Matron Mama Morton (Queen Latifah), both women vie for the spot as Illinois' most famed murderess, but there's only room for one legend. "That's Chicago".

Find words or phrases in the text to go with these definitions.

- Become famous (2 phrases): _____ _____
- Abandon: _____
- Having sex in exchange for a favour or reward: _____
- The last in a series of bad things that happen to make someone very upset: _____
- Assume responsibility: _____
- Unfriendly: _____
- Performing skillfully and effectively: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- Making clever, secret plans, often to deceive others: _____
- Refuse unconditionally: _____
- Being the most important or most successful: _____
- In a similar condition: _____
- Insincerely polite: _____
- Freed from a criminal charge by a verdict of not guilty: _____
- Compete with other people to achieve something: _____

Explain.

- How Roxie and Velma end up in jail.

  _____

- How they acquired and lost fame

  _____



LIVEWORKSHEETS