

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
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## GENUINE (1920)

Robert Wiene (1873-1938)

### OVERVIEW

*Auteur:* Robert Wiene (b. 1873— d. 1938) was a writer and film director of the silent film era of German cinema. He is particularly known for *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920) which is considered to be one of the finest examples of German expressionism. He is also famous for *Raskolnikow* (1923), an adaptation of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*; *The Hands of Orlac* (1924), a silent horror film; *One Night in Venice* (1934), an operetta film. He was born in Breslau as the elder son of the successful theater actor Carl Wiene. Following the rise of the Nazis to power, he fled Germany as he was of Jewish descent. Wiene died of cancer at the age of 65.

*Film:* *Genuine* (original German title: *Genuine, die Tragödie eines seltsamen Hauses*; literally: *Genuine, the tragedy of a strange house*) is a 1920 German silent horror film by Robert Wiene. The screenplay is by Carl Mayer. It was produced by Erich Pommer. The film stars Fern Andra, Hans Heinrich von Twardowski, Ernst Gronau, and Harald Paulsen. The cinematography is by Willy Hameister. The film tells the story of Genuine, a high priestess. After finishing a portrait of Genuine, Percy's demeanor shifts; he becomes increasingly irritable and withdrawn. His passion for painting wanes, he withdraws from social interactions and opts instead to seclude himself in his study with the portrait. Despite being offered a substantial sum by a wealthy patron to purchase the painting, Percy declines. One evening, while engrossed in tales of Genuine's life, Percy falls asleep, only for Genuine to awaken from the painting and flee into the world.

*Historical background:* Despite *Genuine's* lackluster performance at the box office, Robert Wiene bounced back with his 1924 masterpiece, *The Hands of Orlac*. *Genuine* underwent editing to produce a condensed 43-minute version, which has since become the most widely circulated cut of the film. Director Robert Wiene crafted *Genuine* as a successor to his immensely popular film *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, collaborating once again with the same writer and cinematographer from the previous project. Additionally, production designer Cesar Klein rejoined the team, lending his distinctively peculiar Caligari-esque visual style to the film. On 18 November 2014, Kino Lorber launched a restoration of Wiene's earlier masterpiece, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*. Additionally, within the film's special features, viewers were treated to a tinted 43-minute condensed version of *Genuine*.

### SYNOPSIS

Painter Percy becomes reclusive after he completes a portrait of Genuine, a heroine from an old legend. He loses his interest in painting and refuses to see his friends, preferring to spend his time alone with the portrait. After turning down a wealthy patron's offer to buy the painting, Percy falls asleep reading tales of Genuine. As Percy becomes asleep, we see Genuine miraculously coming to life from the painting.

The frame story comes to an end and the main story begins. Genuine is sold into slavery after her tribe's defeat. Then she is purchased at a slave market by an old eccentric named Lord Melo. Melo locks her in a luxurious chamber beneath his house despite her pleas for freedom.

Barber Guyard visits Lord Melo every day at noon and shaves him. However, one day, he is summoned by the magistrate, so, he sends his nephew and apprentice Florian in his place. Meanwhile, Genuine escapes her room/prison by climbing an immense staircase. She encounters Florian shaving the sleeping Lord Melo. She bewitches him into slitting Melo's throat with the razor in his hand and Florian does as she wishes. Later, Genuine also demands that he prove his love for her by taking his own life. Florian struggles to fulfill her demand to take his own life and ultimately flees Lord Melo's house. Soon, Melo's grandson Percy arrives at the house. He becomes infatuated with Genuine, forgetting any questions he

has about his grandfather's sudden death. Genuine is also in love with Percy. After Florian confesses to his uncle Guyard how he became bewitched by Genuine and murdered Lord Melo; Guyard gathers a mob with scythes and bludgeons. The mob storms Melo's house. Florian, still infatuated with Genuine, sneaks into Lord Melo's house, determined to possess Genuine at any cost. When he learns that Genuine is in love with somebody else, he kills Genuine. The main story ends.

The frame story continues as Percy wakes up from his nightmare. Lord Melo arrives once again to purchase the painting and Percy sells the painting.

## CHARACTERS

### **Genuine:**

Genuine is a high priestess of a tribe that gets defeated in a war. Later, she ends up in a slave market. Lord Melo buys her and locks her up in a room. After she escapes her room/prison, she causes Florian to kill Lord Melo. Also, both Florian and Percy fall in love with her.

*Passionate:* The most noticeable characteristic that distinguishes Genuine from the others is her unending passion. She is a passionate individual who wants to be among people where 'life is free and full of youth and love'. She bewitches Florian with her charisma and incites passion in him. Later, she asks Florian to kill himself as she sees death as an irrefutable proof of love. Then she becomes infatuated with Percy. She loves him deeply and passionately.

*Independent:* Genuine is an independent individual. She is courageous and always relies on herself as she explores her environment. She is powerfully independent as she uses her powers of seduction to control the men who love her. What makes her an independent individual is that she does not get help from anyone but always taps into her own strength to make men conform to her demands.

*Cruel:* At the beginning of the film, Genuine is a cruel individual. She asks Florian to kill himself as she believes that the act of killing is a glamorous sacrifice which proves the love of the lover. Afterward, she also wants Percy to kill himself. Her passion for highly violent acts reflects her cruel nature.

*Loving:* As the film progresses, Genuine's cruel side is purified by the love she has for Percy. She realizes that she does not want the death of Percy. She wants him to be alive as she has a deep love for him. Furthermore, she becomes full of horror regarding her past: '...and what should become of Florian?' Thus, Genuine deeply regrets her past decisions and mistakes which shows us how her cruelty is transformed into loving-kindness.

### **Florian:**

Florian is Barber Guyard's nephew and apprentice who becomes infatuated with Genuine. He goes to Lord Melo's house to shave him. As he shaves him, he sees Genuine and is bewitched by her. Following Genuine's orders he kills Lord Melo. After he escapes the house, he is haunted by the memories of Genuine and Lord Melo and becomes delirious.

*Naive:* Florian is a naive individual. He becomes very enthusiastic and joyful when he hears that his uncle Guyard accepts him as his apprentice: 'Life begins!' His youthful enthusiasm and joy show us his innocence and naiveté. After he enters Lord Melo's house, he encounters unexpected things such as the presence of Genuine. He does not truly know how to navigate the environment he finds himself in and thus makes mistakes such as killing Lord Melo.

*Manipulable:* Florian's manipulability can be observed by the viewers when he conforms to the demands of Genuine to slit Lord Melo's throat. We can conclude that he is highly manipulable because he agrees to do as Genuine says after only a few moments of seeing her. Certainly, it is not only Genuine's seductive powers that cause Florian to act as he does but also his innate naiveté and innocence.

*Passionate:* Florian is a passionate individual. He can be described as almost as passionate as Genuine. After slitting Lord Melo's throat, Florian is deeply infatuated with Genuine and is ready to do whatever she demands of him. Even after he escapes the house of Lord Melo, he cannot forget Genuine and eventually turns back to the house to have her at all costs. These acts prove to us his passion.

*Delirious:* Florian becomes delirious after he leaves the house of Lord Melo. He is haunted by hallucinations of Genuine and Lord Melo. He is in deep agony because of what happened and the fact that he killed Lord Melo. He lies sick on his bed for many days and ultimately confesses what he did to his uncle Guyard.

### **Lord Melo:**

Lord Melo is an old, eccentric, and rich man. He is the grandfather of Percy and the benefactor of the town. He buys Genuine at a slave market and locks her up in a chamber beneath his house. He is punctual and has a habit of getting himself shaved every afternoon.

*Eccentric:* Lord Melo's eccentricity is that he is an outsider in comparison to the rest of society. When we see his house, we witness the eccentric decorations such as the big human skeleton which is decorated with a clock at the top. Moreover, Lord Melo buys Genuine as he finds her interesting according to his standards and locks her up in a chamber as if adding a curious item to his collection of eccentric objects.

*Rich:* Lord Melo is a rich man. The townspeople are suspicious of him because of his eccentricity. Therefore, they go to the magistrate to file a complaint but they soon learn that Lord Melo is the benefactor of the town. We learn that Lord Melo has given five thousand Francs to the town's poor. Thus, Lord Melo is not only rich but also engages in benevolent acts.

*Selfish:* It might be difficult to accept that Lord Melo is a selfish individual given that he has helped the poor people of the town. But his selfishness can be observed in his interactions with Genuine. He locks her up in a chamber against her will and consent. Moreover, even though Genuine wishes to go outside to experience life, he does not let her. Thus, he uses an individual according to his wishes and desires. This shows us his selfish nature.

### **Percy Melo:**

In the frame story, Percy is a painter who forms an attachment to the heroine in his painting. In the main story, Percy Melo is the grandson of Lord Melo who later falls in love with Genuine. In the main story, Percy is a passionate and loving individual who is ready to do whatever it takes to prove his love for Genuine.

*Passionate:* Percy is a passionate individual who becomes infatuated with Genuine. When Genuine silently enters Percy's room and Percy becomes aware of Genuine's presence; desire begins to cast its irresistible spells. There is a kind of love at first sight. Percy is so influenced by Genuine that he is willing to do whatever she wishes of him: 'Ask of me whatever you want, however so great, however so beautiful, however so heroic. Only let me prove my love for you once and for all.'

### **Curzon:**

Curzon is Percy's friend whom he invites to Lord Melo's house so that he can meet Genuine and witness Percy's good fortune. Curzon brings the finest pieces of women's jewelry with him to the house to gift Genuine. He has a minor, nevertheless significant role in the film.

*Intelligent:* Curzon is an intelligent individual. His intelligence can be observed when he tells Genuine that Percy is dead. He lies to Genuine so that she can understand her true feelings for Percy. Genuine realizes that she truly loves Percy and does not want him to be dead. So, Curzon's lie makes it possible

for her to understand her true feelings and love for Percy. It is this love that purifies Genuine's heart and transforms her cruelty into loving-kindness.

### **Guyard:**

Guyard is the barber of the town who daily goes to Lord Melo's house to shave him. He is Florian's uncle and master. He is a punctual, talented, and just individual. He searches for justice after he learns how Genuine has destroyed Florian's life by turning him into a murderer.

*Punctual:* Guyard is a talented and punctual individual. He goes to Lord Melo's house every day at the same hours to shave him. He is deeply invested in his craft. He also wants Florian to follow in his footsteps and become a good barber like him. However, his expectations are not to be fulfilled as we see in the rest of the film.

*Just:* Guyard is a law-abiding citizen who also values justice. When he is summoned by the magistrate, he notifies Lord Melo of this event and thus does not run away from civil duties. After he learns from the delirious Florian that Genuine turned him into a murderer, he goes to the magistrate to ask for justice. Later, he gathers the townspeople into a mob and they storm Lord Melo's house to seek justice for what happened to Florian.

## THEMES

### **CRIME**

**Injustice** Injustice is one of the themes of *Genuine*. Various types of injustice go on in the film. First of all, Genuine is a high priestess of a tribe that gets defeated in a war. That is the reason for her ending up in a slave market. The fact of Genuine ending up as a slave can be said to be a violation of human rights as every person has a right to freedom, at least according to the framework of inalienable human rights. Furthermore, she is bought as a slave by Lord Melo and locked up in a chamber against her will. This imprisonment can be said to be another violation of her natural right to be free and thus an instance of injustice. Later on in the film, Genuine causes Florian to murder Lord Melo by slitting his throat with the razor in his hand. This act of bewitching and manipulating someone into engaging in a criminal act is another act of injustice that we witness in *Genuine*. The final act of injustice that we witness is the murder of Genuine herself as she is stabbed by Florian in the very end when Florian learns that Genuine is not in love with him but somebody else, namely Percy. All in all, we can conclude that several acts of injustice and crimes occur throughout the film.

**Punishment** There is no legal punishment in the film for the acts of injustice and crimes that occur. One aspect to notice is that slavery seems to be legal in the setting of the main story, so any act of slavery is not perceived by the majority of humans to be a violation of human rights. However, when looking at the issue with modern eyes, the viewers may see Genuine's situation as an unfortunate and illegal one to be in. Florian also does not get a legal punishment for murdering Lord Melo. This partly stems from the fact that Lord Melo had lived a solitary life, isolated from the rest of society. And even his servant was silenced when he was shown his master's ring. Thus, the criminal case is never taken up by the police. However, Florian does get a psychological punishment in that he is haunted by hallucinations of Genuine and Lord Melo. He becomes delirious and mentally unstable. His delirium is also the reason why he cannot stop thinking about Genuine as he has been bewitched by her and goes to Lord Melo's house once again to see her. He is determined to be with her at all costs. Once he learns that Genuine is not in love with him but with somebody else, he murders her. It can be stated that Genuine thus gets her punishment as she was the one who initiated the series of murders and criminal acts by manipulating Florian in the first place.

**Guilt** Both Florian and Genuine feel remorse and guilt for their acts of violence and injustice. However, their guilt and remorse do not undo the violent acts that they have engaged in. Florian becomes delirious and is haunted by visions and images of Lord Melo whom he killed. He finally confesses his act to his uncle Barber Guyard as he deeply regrets his past actions. Genuine also regrets her previous acts after

she has truly fallen in love with Percy. She is purified by love and can no longer accept acts of cruelty that she used to enjoy before. Therefore, she feels guilt regarding the fact that she manipulated Florian into murdering Lord Melo. One tragic aspect of the film is that even though Florian regrets having murdered Lord Melo, he also cannot stop himself from committing another crime and murdering Genuine. After learning that she is in love with somebody else, he tells her: 'Genuine, you've turned me into a murderer...I love you...I can't live without you...' Genuine responds that it is not him whom she loves. Florian cannot accept this and says to her that she too will die as she does not love him. Thus, he stabs her. Thus, we can state that feeling guilt does not stop him from murdering Genuine as well.

## PSYCHOLOGY

**Sadness** One scene that reflects the emotions and feelings of sadness is when Curzon tells Genuine that Percy is dead. It is noteworthy that it was Genuine herself who first wanted Percy to die. However, when Curzon gives her the news of his death, she is utterly devastated. She cries, perhaps for the first time in her life. She is deeply sad and regrets her previous wish to see Percy dead. Fortunately, very soon, Curzon says to her that he was lying and that Percy is still alive. Then she goes downstairs to see Percy and tells him: 'You must stay alive because I love you!' This scene shows us the viewers that Genuine is no longer under the spell of violent urges and that she is purified by love. Her true love for Percy makes her sad at the news of his apparent passing away.

**Anger** One scene that reflects the feelings of anger is when Guyard learns from his nephew Florian that he had been bewitched by Genuine and thus murdered Lord Melo. As Guyard is a law-abiding and just citizen, he feels that justice must be reestablished. Therefore, he rushes to the magistrate. He says to them: 'This house has condemned my nephew into ruins. I am speaking of murder.' The officials, however, do not say anything and they seem not to believe him. This further angers Guyard who is determined to seek justice for his nephew. Therefore, Guyard gathers the townspeople in order to storm Lord Melo's house. He tells the townspeople that there's a witch living among them: 'My nephew Florian has been bewitched!' Soon, a mob is armed and they go to storm Lord Melo's house. In these couple of scenes, we can observe how the emergence of feelings of anger is related to or associated with a perceived lack of justice in one's environment.

**Isolation/Boredom** Genuine experiences feelings of isolation and boredom during the time she is locked up in a chamber beneath Lord Melo's house. She lives in the chamber all by herself with no outside stimulation. Furthermore, she is only occasionally visited by Lord Melo who merely sees her as a curious object to be possessed. As she emphasizes, she wishes to go outside where 'life is free and full of youth and love'. In the end, she achieves her goal as she finds an immense staircase which she can climb that leads to an exit from the chamber.

**Jealousy** Jealousy refers to the fact of feeling or showing resentment that one's partner is involved with someone else. The scene where we observe a kind of jealousy is when Florian goes to Lord Melo's house once again with the intent to have Genuine at all costs. However, his expectations are unfulfilled as he finds out that Genuine is in love with somebody else. This is a situation that Florian cannot accept under any circumstances. He not only loves Genuine but has a great attachment to her which makes him unable to imagine that Genuine could live happily without him. Because of this unhealthy attachment, he believes that he has a right to possess Genuine. Therefore, when he finds out that she is in love with somebody else, he decides to kill her so that she will forever belong to him. This act can be seen as an example of jealousy in the film.

**Fear** Fear is an unpleasant emotion caused by the threat of danger, pain, or harm. Thus, the scenes where the characters experience fear are usually scenes related to the threat of death. Both Florian and Percy become fearful when Genuine asks them to kill themselves. They cannot understand how Genuine wants them to die as she supposedly loves them. At the beginning of the film, Florian is also fearful when Genuine asks him to kill Lord Melo. However, he is able to commit the crime as it is not his own life that is at stake. Yet, he does not show the same courage when Genuine asks him to take his own life. As explained before, Florian is also haunted by hallucinations of Genuine and Lord Melo, even after he leaves the house. So, he can be said to be in a constant state of anguish and fear throughout the rest of

the film. Another character who experiences fear is Genuine. When Florian finds out that Genuine is not in love with him but with somebody else, he makes his intentions clear that he wants to kill her. We can see the raw expression of fear on Genuine's face when she realizes her ultimate fate.

**Otherness** Otherness refers to the fact of having differing qualities from other human beings. Several characters may be considered as *others* in both the frame and main story. In the frame story, painter Percy can be considered to be different from people around him as he is a sensitive artist who easily gets lost in the stories he reads or even in a painting of his. He becomes withdrawn and isolates himself from the rest of society to spend time alone with his portrait which he apparently considers to be the most important thing upon which the cosmos revolves. In the main story, Lord Melo is an eccentric whose appearance and behavior deviate from the majority of society. Another character who is different from the rest of society is Genuine. She is a high priestess with cruel and violent instincts which may be considered to be anti-social from the point of psychiatry. She enjoys pain, and death and has an ability to bewitch men with her beauty and charm such that she is considered to be a witch. Thus, she is indeed unlike other people in her environment.

**Psychosis** After Florian leaves Lord Melo's house, he very soon becomes delirious. He is haunted by certain images and hallucinations of Lord Melo and Genuine. Thus, he is in a state of perpetual agony. When he decides to go back to Lord Melo's house, he is still in a confused state. He is infatuated with and still bewitched by Genuine which makes him unable to think clearly and make sound decisions. This is why he murders Genuine when he finds out that she is in love with somebody else. Had Florian healed from his psychotic and delusional state of mind, he would not have carried the kinds of actions that we see him carry out in the film.

## FLAW

**Greed** The tragedy that happens in Lord Melo's house affects not only Genuine but also other characters such as Florian, Percy, Lord Melo, and Guyard. The viewers can ask themselves why so many unfortunate events occur in the film and who is to blame in the final analysis. Is Lord Melo to blame as he is the one who buys Genuine from the slave market and initiates the tragic course of events? Or is Florian to blame as he is the one who easily gets manipulated by Genuine into killing Lord Melo? It seems that this is not so easy a question to answer as all characters have their faults and shortcomings. However, we can point out that it is Genuine's greed that ultimately causes the most suffering in the film. Genuine has a greed for violence and death. She enjoys violence and acts of cruelty which causes her to bewitch and manipulate Florian. That is why she not only asks Florian to kill Lord Melo but also himself. She wants people to sacrifice themselves for her. She also asks Percy to kill himself for her. It is only after she truly realizes that she loves Percy that she is purified from all the greed and hatred that have been residing in her heart. However, it is too late for Genuine as Guyard gathers a mob and storms Lord Melo's house and Florian is determined to have her at all costs.

## QUEST

**Explore** Genuine, Florian, and Percy explore their environment throughout the film. Genuine first experiences a tribal war. Afterward, she finds herself in a slave market and experiences how it is to be a slave. Later, she is bought by Lord Melo. When she finds a way out of her chamber where she had been locked up, she experiences freedom after a long time. She bewitches both Florian and Percy and makes them do whatever she wishes. She thus experiences power and exercises authority. She also experiences love and goes through a transformation when she realizes that her love for Percy is stronger and purer than her cruel and violent instincts. All in all, we can say that she develops as a character throughout the film. Another character who explores his environment is Florian. He is only an apprentice and believes that a wonderful life is starting for him. However, on his first day at work, he becomes bewitched by Genuine and commits a crime. He becomes a murderer who is infatuated with Genuine. However, his infatuation cannot be said to be a case of pure love as his infatuation is about possessing Genuine at all costs. A third character who explores his environment is the young Percy who comes to visit his grandfather after many years. He falls in love and finally experiences a tragic loss when Florian kills Genuine in the end.

## RELATIONSHIP

**Friendship** We can examine the theme of friendship in both the frame story and the main story. In the frame story, painter Percy has two friends who visit him and are concerned about his mental well-being. They see how withdrawn Percy has become and are worried about him. When Lord Melo comes to make an offer for the painting, Percy tells him that he will never sell the painting no matter what price might be offered. As Lord Melo is about to leave Percy's house, his friends tell Lord Melo to come back the next day as they might be able to make Percy change his mind. All in all, we can say that his friends are deeply concerned about Percy and want him to be happy. In the frame story, we witness the friendship between Percy and Curzon. Curzon is not only a reliable friend but also an intelligent human who is able to make Genuine realize that she truly loves Percy. He also plans for the three of them to leave Lord Melo's abominable house so that they can finally be free from all the troubles that the house has created for them. Thus, in a similar vein to the frame story, the kind of friendship we witness in the main story is also a strong and reliable one.

**Attraction/Desire** Attraction and desire play an important role in the film as Genuine has the ability to bewitch men with her beauty and charisma. She first manipulates Florian into killing Lord Melo. Then she makes him become infatuated with her. A similar case also happens between Genuine and Percy where she instantly makes him fall in love with her with her appealing appearance. This attraction and desire are, however, not equal to love. Later on, we see the attraction between Genuine and Percy transform into love when Genuine realizes that she does not want Percy to die *for her* but to live with her. As a result of this love, Genuine loses her cruel and violent instincts and regrets her previous actions such as manipulating Florian into killing Lord Melo. To conclude, we can say that the attraction and desires we witness in the film are associated with Genuine's greed for power and violence whereas the love between Genuine and Percy is devoid of any feelings of greed and rather pure.

## APPEARANCE

**Dreams** As we know, the film consists of two parts: a frame story and a main story. The main story turns out to be a dream of the painter Percy. That the main story turns out to be a dream does not detract from its importance to the viewers. However, it can be said that some events in the main story can be understood better when looked at in the context of a dream or nightmare. For instance; the fact that Genuine is able to affect, influence, and manipulate men so easily can be better accounted for when we learn that the main story is a dream of painter Percy. Another point is that when Percy wakes up from his nightmare, he realizes that there is no reason for him to keep the portrait with him and decides to sell the painting. Thus, the main story is not only important to us the viewers but also affects the course of the frame story and Percy's life.

## PLOT

### **The painter Percy's character has changed since painting his last canvas**

As he did every day, the painter Percy had gotten lost in reading his favorite story. We see Percy's two friends knocking on the door. Percy hides his book under his bed and covers his latest painting with a curtain. His friends want to see the painting but Percy does not let them. Since painting his last canvas, Percy had become irritable. His eyes are worn out. He seems to be going mad. His friends think that if his artwork is causing this, then perhaps he should get rid of it.



### **Percy does not want to sell his painting to Lord Melo**

Then an old man named Lord Melo arrives at Percy's house: 'I hear tell that you have painted a marvelous portrait of the heroine from an old legend. I would like to purchase it.' Percy says: 'I won't sell that painting...no matter what price might be offered.' As the old man proceeds to leave the house, Percy's friends say to him: 'We beg you to come back tomorrow, sir. We will make him change his mind.' Afterward, his friends also leave. Percy falls asleep while reading a book about Genuine. Percy is alone and begins to read his book: 'Beautiful and perverse, Genuine had been purchased at a slave market by an old eccentric. As priestess of a religion, she fell into esoteric mysteries, so that, from her childhood, she had witnessed the most cruel spectacles to which she would later become an accomplice.' After reading these sentences, Percy falls asleep. At that moment, we see Genuine moving, stepping out of the painting, and coming near Percy.



### **Genuine, a priestess, winds up a slave in a slave market**

As priestess of a religion that practiced esoteric mysteries, Genuine, above all else, loathed acts of cruelty. Amid a war between rival tribes, she was taken captive and wound up in a slave market.



### **An old man named Lord Melo purchases Genuine**

We see an old, eccentric man (Lord Melo) come and inspect Genuine. Genuine behaves like a wild animal in her expressions and body language. The seller starts to describe Genuine: 'She was a priestess of the conquered tribe. She is beautiful but they have perverted her. She has become savage and barbaric.' We see Genuine trying to bite the hand of the seller. The old man decides to buy Genuine. Later, the old man locks Genuine up in a place where she won't be able to escape.



### **Genuine is bored by being locked up in a room and lack of stimulation**

We see the old man sitting near Genuine. Genuine seems to be bored and stressed about the fact that she has to stay in the same room all the time. She asks her master to let her go up for just one time. The old man says: 'No, my angel. No, my beauty. Up there is life and its ugliness. Here alone shall you smile. Here alone you shall be completely happy.' But Genuine is in a state of ennui for lack of stimulation: 'If I could only go up there, where life is free and full of youth and love.'



## **FLORIAN**

### **Guyard, the barber, shaves Lord Melo every day, at exactly noon**

Next, we see Guyard, the barber. Every day, at exactly noon, he goes into the house of the old Lord Melo. He doesn't say anything about what he sees in there. People don't like his mysterious airs. We see Guyard shaving the beard of the lord. Soon, the old man falls asleep, as he does every time.

### **Guyard is ready to take his nephew Florian as his apprentice**

We see Guyard writing a letter: 'Just as I have always advised you I would, I am prepared today to take my nephew Florian as my apprentice. So he should come as soon as possible. Yours, Guyard.'

### **Florian is happy to become the apprentice of his uncle**

Florian's parents read Guyard's letter joyfully. They inform him that he is going to start his apprenticeship: 'Life is beginning for you.' Florian is enthusiastic and joyful: 'Life begins!'

### **Guyard will send his nephew Florian in his place to shave Lord Melo**

Guyard receives an unexpected summon from the magistrate: 'You shall present yourself in person tomorrow at exactly noon, for the purposes of public inquiry.' Later, Guyard goes to Lord Melo's house to shave him. He tells Lord Melo that he's been summoned by the magistrate: 'You see that I can't possibly be there tomorrow at exactly noon. My nephew Florian will only be able to come to my place this once. Lord Melo finally accepts that Guyard sends his nephew in his place.'

**Genuine finds a way to escape from the room she had been locked in**

Genuine finds a way to get out of the cage-like place she has been imprisoned in. She climbs up and finds a step ladder which leads to the exit from the cage.



**Genuine wants Florian to slit Lord Melo's throat**

Florian takes his first steps into life. He arrives at Lord Melo's house. The black servant of Lord Melo takes Florian to his master. Soon, he starts shaving Lord Melo. While he is shaving the master, Genuine appears. Florian becomes awestruck when he sees Genuine. Very soon, Genuine makes her intentions clear. She wants him to slit the throat of Lord Melo.





### **Florian is bewitched by Genuine and murders Lord Melo**

At first, Florian looks horrified as he cannot believe what she asked him to do. But he is bewitched by her, so, ultimately, he does what she commands him to. Genuine is filled with exuberance and ecstasy when she sees that the old man is killed. She then asks Florian to snatch the old man's ring from his finger: 'Show it to [the servant] and he will obey you!' The black servant tries to fight Florian when he first sees Lord Melo's dead body but then withdraws when the ring is shown to him.



### **The black servant does not kill Florian and lets him escape the house**

Florian begs the black servant not to kill him. The servant pulls out his dagger but does not kill him. He asks Florian to go out of the house. Florian is still madly in love with Genuine and wants to see her but the servant stops him from returning to the house. The servant cuts his arm and fills a cup with his blood to show as proof to Genuine that he has indeed killed Florian.

### **Florian escapes but his mind is haunted by Genuine's memories**

Florian is out of the house and deliriously repeats Genuine's name. He seems to be in agony.



### **Florian confesses his crime to his uncle Guyard**

Meanwhile, Florian is sick and lying on his bed in a state of delirium. He finally confesses to his uncle that he is a murderer. Guyard is shocked to hear this. He rushes to the magistrate. He says to them: 'This house has condemned my nephew into ruins. I am speaking of murder.' The officials, however, do not say anything. They seem not to believe him. Guyard gathers the townspeople in order to storm Lord Melo's house Florian's uncle Guyard tells the townspeople that there's a witch living among them: 'My nephew Florian has been bewitched!' Soon, a mob is armed with scythes and bludgeons and they go to storm Lord Melo's house.



## PERCY

### **Percy arrives at his grandfather's house**

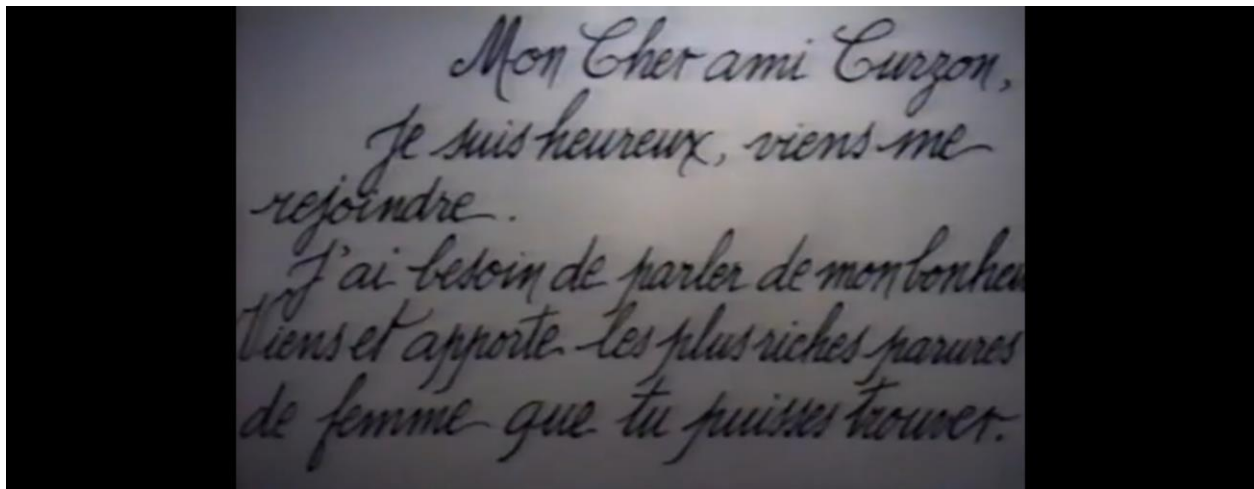
Meanwhile, Lord Melo's grandson Percy arrives at the house. Percy asks the servant when and how his grandfather died. The servant does not explain anything other than saying that his master has died.

### **Genuine and Percy fall in love with each other**

Later on, Genuine asks the servant whether Percy is sleeping. Desire begins to cast its irresistible spells again. Genuine silently enters Percy's room. When Percy becomes aware of Genuine's presence, he asks her who she is. She replies: 'I am Genuine.' Percy tells her that she is beautiful. He embraces her.

### **Percy writes a letter to his friend Curzon**

We see Percy writing a letter to his friend Curzon. He writes to him that he'd be happy to have him come and meet with him: 'I need to speak to you about my good fortune. Come and bring along with you the finest women's jewels that you're able to find.'



### **Percy is ready to do anything for Genuine**

Percy says to Genuine: 'Ask of me whatever you want, however so great, however so beautiful, however so heroic. Only let me prove my love for you once and for all.'





### **Genuine, at first, wants to see Percy dead**

Later, Percy's friend Curzon arrives at the house. Percy and Genuine are deeply in love with each other. However, soon, Genuine makes her intention clear that she wants to see Percy dead. When Percy understands her wishes, he is shocked. He runs away from the room and collapses to the ground. When Curzon finds him, he says to him that he is going mad: 'That woman wants me dead!'

### **Genuine realizes that she truly loves Percy and wants him to live**

After learning this, Curzon goes to Genuine's room. He tells her that Percy is dead. Genuine begins to cry. She is deeply sad at this news. Soon, Curzon says to her that he was lying and that Percy is still alive. She goes downstairs to see Percy and tells him: 'You must stay alive because I love you!' They embrace and hug each other.



## **FLORIAN**

### **Florian is in a state of delirium**

He is in deep agony because of what happened and what he did. Irresistible passion drives Florian to Lord Melo's house. Florian climbs the walls and enters the house. Genuine is truly happy to see him. She tells him that she is happy as she is in love. But Florian is extremely upset to learn that it is not him whom Genuine is in love with.



### **Florian decides to kill Genuine after learning that she is in love with somebody else**

He tells her: 'Genuine, you've turned me into a murderer...I love you...I can't live without you...' Genuine responds that it is not him whom she loves. Florian cannot accept this and says to her that she too will die as she does not love him. Florian kills Genuine and the main story ends.

## PERCY

### **Percy wakes up from his sleep**

The main story comes to an end with the death of Genuine. We turn back to the room where Percy had fallen asleep. Percy wakes up from his dreadful nightmare. Percy decides to stab the painting and destroy it but at that very moment, his two friends come and stop him from doing that.



### **Lord Melo buys the painting of Genuine from Percy**

The old Lord Melo who wanted to buy the painting before comes in. He gives him a cheque he has signed. Percy accepts the cheque and sells the painting.

