



VIOLETTE

"How did I ever come to this?"

Character

Violette

The prisoner

Age: 17

Key words: vulnerable, fear, trapped, trying to survive

Drama: you'll be playing Violette, the new girl who will be sold for the first time and didn't choose to become a prostitute. Violette embodies the way the prostitution system traps and then shapes individuals. She might evolve in a great number of ways. Maybe she'll accept the logic of the system and learn to strive in it. Or she might end up broken and defeated.

Narrative arcs: discovery, survival, finding humanity, surviving under duress

Story

I got trapped and I can't escape now. My virginity will be sold, and then I'll be a prostitute like any other. I've been so stupid. I should never have come to Paris.

I'm a foundling. I was left in the hospital, with only a blanket and the picture of a woman I always assumed to be my mother. I supposed the picture was left as a souvenir. I grew up in the orphanage, I was not unhappy, but it was a bleak and loveless place, with a lot of chores and praying that would make your knees hurt.

I left the orphanage at the age of 16. I started to work as a seamstress, hoping that I could find employment as a shop girl in a fashion store later. I had a sweetheart at the time, I loved him, but we were too poor to marry, and I didn't want to have sex before marriage. It feels really ironic, now.

I also hoped I could find my mother, or at least some information about her. It was a wild chase, but somehow I wanted to know why she abandoned me. I started looking for information in the theatre district, where you would also find the whorehouses and brothels. Then my sweetheart introduced me to Barthelemy, the former bouncer of the Flowers of May. I understood later that they were accomplices, and that I was duped. To think that I was in love with him... Barthelemy invited me to

follow him in the Flowers of May, claiming someone there had information about my mother. The place was rich, but also unsettling, with women exposed to men's stares and lust. Barthelemy offered me a drink while we waited, then another. I had never tasted champagne before, and soon got completely drunk, unable to leave the premises.

In the morning, I had a shock when I was presented with my bills. I had drunk for hundreds of francs, or at least a lot of drinking had been put on my bill while I couldn't defend myself. I could not pay for it all, and I soon understand where the trap lay. The police in the district was corrupted and helped the owners of brothels. Once a girl was in debt, she couldn't escape the place until she paid. They told me that the alternate option was to be sent to a tavern, where women are tied to their beds and beaten while dozens of men in a row abuse their bodies. Comparatively, enduring the rule of the Flowers of May sound almost good.

I've been taken care of by the girls and Mia, the sister of Madam May, and they have prepared me for my first big night in the House, where they'll try to get a good price for my first time. In the meanwhile, I have gotten even more in debt, since we have to pay for food and lodgings at the Whorehouse. I have no family and no one to help, and I am still nursing my broken heart, having all in one

been betrayed and abandoned. Mia helps me, stops me from trying to hurt myself, and gradually I am settling into my life here, accepting the situation, becoming part of the system.

I am still so afraid, and so angry for not having had any chance, any choice in the matter. But escaping? The police would catch me and send me to the taverns or worse. I have to find another way to survive. But what will I do? Will I become a strong one, a leader like Flora, who almost seem to enjoy her life there, abuse others like Iris, or insane and broken like poor Rose?

Past

She was still crying. She knew she should have stopped, that Barthélémy, who was watching from a distance, was entertained by her distress, but she couldn't help herself. Mia was telling her, in a very calm voice, how she had no choice. The alternative was to end up in a Tavern, a fate far worse. Going to the Police was useless, they were part of the system, bribed to keep the Whorehouses going and the peace in the streets. There was no end to it.

Others

Flora (37 ans) : the Favorite and leading lady of the Whorhouse. She can be pleasing enough, as long as you defer to her and admit her superiority. Since I treat her as a superior, she seems to like me well enough.

Iris (25 yrs) : she is Flora's rival, also a proud woman that seems to completely own up to her status as a prostitute. I would wish to approach her, maybe take some advice from her, but I must admit that she is so impressive that she scares me sometimes.

Rose (22 yrs) : Rose intrigues me. It is known that she gets all the worst clients, the violent ones, especially Barthelemy, who is a real sadist. However, she still endures, and nothing seems to faze her anymore. Of course, the drug helps, but there is more to it than that. It seems like she has gotten past the point where she would care. Maybe she is the strongest among us, or maybe she's just completely empty and not really alive anymore.

Philippe (47 yrs) : one of the richest patrons in the House, a regular client of Flora's, whom he's been involved with in the past ten years. He likes to pose as a hedonistic and elegant man of the world, but I fear he's like any other man that goes to this kind of place, just a selfish abuser.

André (42 yrs) : he's the prefect of the Police in Paris, also a good client of the Flowers of May. I find him despicable: he's in the center of the system, benefitting from corruption and bribes. I wouldn't be trapped if it were not for men like him, who make sure the system work and reap the benefits from it.

Barthélémy (35 yrs) : the guy who trapped and framed me. He used to be a bouncer for Madam May, he's now a wealthy industrialist but obviously has not forgotten his ancient trade. He got off on catching me, it seems quite obvious. All the girls know him for a sadist, and are scared of him, for good reason. Fortunately, he goes mostly after Rose, the only one who seems to be able to put up with his violent outbursts. I hope he doesn't try to buy me.

Paul (19 yrs) : a new customer, Philippe's nephew, that he wants to bring into the Whorehouse to teach him the ways of the sex trade. They say newcomers tend to be nicer at first, when they are not fully aware of their privileges and position of power, and how they may abuse them.

Game structure

#1 Workshops

#2 Introduction scenes

#3 Opening

#4 Act I, daytime: the New Year celebration

#5 Act I, nighttime: in the chambers

#6 Act I, remembrances: black box time

#7 Intermission

#8 Act II, daytime: Autumn Solstice

#9 Act II, nighttime: in the chambers

#10 Act II, remembrances: black box time

#11 Intermission

#12 Act III, daytime: Farewell

#13 Act III, remembrances

#14 Intermission

#15 Epilogue