



IRIS

"Once bodies get naked, they don't get to lie"

Character

Iris

The rival

Gender: female

Age: 25

Key words: pride, ambition, well-read, dominant, cynical

Drama: you will be playing Iris, second courtesan of the brothel, a rival to Favorite Flora's status as First of the House. As an experienced prostitute, you are confident and know what you are worth to the House. You are the most flexible and self-confident of the girls, and the one who should have the most opportunities after leaving the brothel.

Narrative arcs: bringing the best (and worst) in others, overcoming bitterness, hoping for the best, facing vulnerability, maturity

Story

I am a professional and quite proud of it. I know how to use bodies, master them, give and take pleasure. "Once bodies are naked, they don't get to lie", I was taught. It was the motto of the Madam of the Chabanais, my previous employer. I like to sway people's bodies and minds.

I take advantage of being better educated than most girls. I used to come from a respectable family, mind you. I was proud of my status in life, but naïve. I was married properly, but then I fell in love. I cheated on my husband but I didn't care, I was in love for the first time of my life, I knew what pleasure was for the first time of my life, I was sure he'd ask me to live with him. But he didn't. He was too much of a coward for that. Men usually are. My husband found out and divorced me. As such, I had no status in society, and survived by having rich lovers. I didn't love any of them. I would never love again. My family tried to lock me up to protect themselves from the scandal, so I hid, first at Le Chabanais, then at Flowers of May.

Madam May hired me to create a competition with her Favorite, Flora, thinking it would provide entertainment, and she was right to do so. The clients like my fiery spirit, and I alone discovered the guilty pleasures of the prefect of Paris, André, who is now one of my regular clients. As prefect, André controls the registration of prostitutes, the bribes to the police and taxation of all activities. He's an important man we have to keep. But to relieve the

pressure, he likes to be submissive, have me dominate and flog him as foreplay. I know he needs me. I get along well with everybody in the House but Mia, the Madam's sister and assistant. She looks kind and devoted, but I can tell she's actually exploitative, like anyone involved in the prostitution system. I find her the worst kind of hypocrite.

I've worked at Flowers of May in the past two years. My position is good, I have my own room, and I even started to be able to save some money. I don't know what I'll become yet, but I am confident as well as hopeful.

Past

Her mother was gushing. She was radiant. Iris kept a straight face. At least someone was happy tonight.

"He finally proposed. I am so happy, and so relieved. Our situation is not that desperate, of course, but we need you to raise our fortunes, and this marriage couldn't have come at a better time..."

Iris looked blandly in front of herself, hands folded in her lap, perfectly poised like the proper lady she was. Her future husband was handsome enough, looked kind enough. She should have been more excited. So why didn't she feel anything?

"I think I'm in love with you."

Iris kept her head against her lover's shoulder, not daring looking at him as yet. She felt, instinctively, that their relation was at a breaking point. She had professed her love before. He had not answered to it. He kept having sex with her, of course, but never discussed her feelings, or what would become of their affair.

"I love you, but I can't keep going on like this. I want to come clean to my husband, I don't want to hide anymore."

She'd felt she hit a brick wall. He had broken up their relationship immediately, of course. He couldn't possibly, he had his own responsibilities, he had never promised her anything. And it was true, although it made for a very poor excuse. She had been naïve, fancying herself in love.

She would never make the same mistake again.

Madam May watched Iris intently.

"You have been with us for some time now. You are as good as they said, better, even. Some clients speak very highly of you. Even André, the prefect, and he's someone whose acquaintance is a great asset to us. He's said to be difficult. What do you make of him?"

- Well, some Houses would be better suited to cater his taste for men, that's for sure. But more than that, he needs to let go. Be submissive. Find solace in pain from all his worries. I read that in him, and that's why he now needs me. He'll keep coming back for more. You'll see."

Madam May smiled, but also look a bit worried. Iris wasn't surprised.

Iris could be scary at times

Iris smiled and said:

"You want to let go, will you? I can help you with that. But you'll have to subject yourself to me. I'll have you do everything I say. I can give you solace. I can show you how to use the pain, ride it to your heart's content, how to find pleasure in it. But you'll only be free once you completely subject yourself to me."

And so he would. It was strange, really. The client had all the power of status and money, but when he wanted to surrender and give in to the pain, she felt empowered as well. She never let herself forget her place. But it felt good, this sensation of power. Being in charge. Even if it was an illusion.

Others

Flora (37 yrs): she's currently the favorite and n°1 of the House, but she's getting old, and I know that I am better than she is. Under other circumstances, we might have been friends: we're both confident and smart women. But as it is, my role is to be a rival to her, and entertain people by playing the tension and drama between us, a role I assume perfectly.

Rose (25 yrs) : she's the weird one. She's always unhinged, spends most of her times on drugs, and likes to say eccentric things. Sometimes I want to hug her, sometimes I want to shake her out of her drugged-induced stupor, make her more combative. I could help her if she wanted to. But is she not broken past the point where she can even be helped?

Violette (17 yrs) : she's a newcomer in the House, she's sweet and fresh, probably got into prostitution by accident. I've seen a lot of girls like her. Most get broken pretty far, can't make themselves get used to the violence and abuse. I'll try to help her get over it, be stronger than the system. We'll see if she can pull it out.

Philippe (47 yrs) : one of the richest patrons of the House, Flora's regular client. They have had a standing agreement for about ten years, and sometimes look as close as any old couple may be.

André (40 yrs) : my regular patron, the prefect of Police of the Paris department. He's a submissive and a fetishist, who finds solace and relief from pressure in submission and pain. I also believe he is more sexually attracted to men, can't accept it, and makes himself suffer from it. I could almost feel sorry for him. As it is, I get him what he needs, brutally so.

Paul (19 yrs): Philippe's nephew, a newcomer in the House. We'll have to make sure his debut in the place is quite unforgettable, and no doubt he'll be at the center of every attention.

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