



# FLORA

*"Long have I been the First, the Favorite of this place..."*

## **Character:**

Flora

The Favorite

**Gender:** female

**Age:** 37

**Key words:** self-confidence, assertive, seductive, fear of getting old

**Drama:** you will be playing Flora, foremost courtesan of the brothel, the favorite of the place. As an experienced prostitute, you are confident with clients and eager to make sure they are well entertained. As an ageing prostitute, you stand to lose the most when the Flowers will close.

**Narrative arcs:** life choices, evolution, finding yourself through the passing of time, finding different expectations as you grow old, accepting the transient nature of life.

## Story

Flora, the best, the favorite of the place. Long have I been the most requested, the better of all the girls in the House. Of course, these days, I don't have that many different clients. First because Philippe, one of the richest patrons of the Flowers, is my regular client, and is here most of the time. I need to keep myself fresh for him. But I must admit it, I am getting old, I am not as much chosen as I used to be. But I like Philippe. He's energetic but with uncomplicated tastes, we have a solid complicity born of these ten years together.

I have a good position here, I don't complain, but I worked hard to get there. Some girls never had a choice. I did, in a way. I didn't want to end up like my poor, destitute mother. I was a servant in my young age, but after being seduced and abandoned by a young man in the family, I ended on the streets. I knew I'd end up with prostitution eventually, so I took it upon myself to find a good place. Barthelemy helped me. He was the bouncer of the Flowers at the time. He helped me convince Madam May that I could be a good recruit. We've been good friends ever since.

Mia trained me, taught me everything she knew about the art of loving. I love Mia. She's caring and helpful, even in such a place as this, but she's very ill now. Dying, I think. She's an odd character, but I dearly care for her.

I've been at the Flowers for fifteen years now. Everything would be great if Iris was not trying to take my place by becoming first courtesan. Madam May brought her to

create some competition and drama, and it worked. I resent her presence. She makes me feel old, and not as seductive as I used to be.

I have saved some money, however, and I may think of the future, decide to do something else. I could retire in the countryside, or open my own brothel. Sometimes I wonder if Philippe would set me up in my own place, as his official mistress, it sometimes happen. I have always postponed the moment when I should decide what to do with my money, what to do when I'll be too old to have clients. I guess I dread when that time will come.

## **Past**

*Her father used to drink, and he was very mean when he drank. But Flora was quick, she knew how to hide when he came home angry. Her mother was not so fortunate. Flora had lost all pity on her. She didn't fight back, she had no spine. All her beauty gone, too many children to feed. Flora had sworn she would never end up like her.*

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*"Your behavior is unacceptable. You will pack your things and leave this instant, without a reference, of course." Flora looked at the floor. She wasn't questioned about the young man, fortunately. They thought she'd been a fortune-seeker. She had entertained hopes, stupid hopes, maybe she had even fancied herself in love. It had all been for nothing. And she knew better now.*

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*The madam of Le Chabanais was eyeing her suspiciously. "You have some nerve. You know we are the most famous House in Paris, right? What makes you think you're good enough for us?"*

*- If I'm not, I will be. I can learn", said Flora. She wanted to get there, to get in a good home, a rich home. If she had to sell herself, she'll do it at her best.*

*"Not good enough. Find some other place. You'll never be good enough."*

*Flora had never been so humiliated.*

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*"I know who you are, Barthelemy, no need to swindle me. You are the bouncer to Les Fleurs de Mai, and one of the worst bastard in those streets, they say. Works for me. Take me to your boss, I'll work for her. I'm sure we can find an arrangement that will benefit all of us."*

*Barthelemy smiled in a nonchalant way, and Flora triumphed. She had caught his interest.*

*- Well, well. You're one of a kind, I can tell that. Glad to meet you, ma'am, I'm sure we're going to get along just fine. Your name?*

*- I'm Flora."*

## **Others**

**Iris** (25 yrs) : she's beautiful, assertive, and was trained at Le Chabonais, a most famous House. She's a real competition and rival to me. I've spend a lot of energy putting her into her place and making sure she doesn't take precedence over me. It does seem a little vain sometimes, this competition between us.

**Rose** (22 yrs): a poor girl, worn out by the drugs, who gets the worst clients, the violent ones. Some say she's gone mad. Barthelemy has become her regular patron. Word is, he needs to beat her to get going. Doesn't surprise me much.

**Violette** (17 yrs): the new girl, whose virginity will be put for sale on New Year's Eve Party. We regularly have those in the House, they keep the clients interest alive. There is a lot of turnover with the new girls. The most fragile ones are sent to the taverns when they cease being useful.

**Philippe** (47 yrs): he's my oldest lover, my regular in the past ten years. We're part old couple, part old friends that understand each other implicitly, but class and money are ever a wide gap between us.

**André** (42 yrs): the prefect of Paris, an old friend of Philippe. He always look very stressed and under pressure. We know he's a submissive type, likes to be beaten up, it's a way for him to relieve the pressure. He seems overwhelmed by his responsibilities, which is unhealthy in a man. He runs the prefecture, which means he benefits from the bribes and corruption. I don't know what to make of him.

**Barthelemy** (35 yrs): my very good old companion. I knew him as a bouncer to the Flowers of May, and taught him a few tips in seduction. He then landed a rich old widow, got married and became a rich industrialist. However, we've always remained fast friends. I like his ruthlessness, and he holds me superior to the other women.

**Paul** (19 yrs): Philippe's nephew, whom he's bringing for "initiation". He's young and inexperienced, then. We need to make sure he gets to like the place.

## **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