

A Tale of Springtime

Written by Eric Rohmer

Sequence 1

Jeanne drives to her boyfriend's apartment from her job as a philosophy teacher. The apartment is a mess. A vase of healthy flowers sits on the table. She packs a bag and leaves.

Sequence 2

Jeanne arrives at her own apartment, which she has lent to her cousin Gaëlle for a few nights. Gaëlle asks if she can stay two more days. The phone rings. Jeanne is invited to a party that evening.

Sequence 3

At the party, Jeanne meets Natacha, a music student. Neither of them knows anyone at the party. Jeanne offers Natacha a lift home. She explains that even though she has the keys to two apartments, she doesn't want to go home to either. Natacha invites Jeanne to stay at her place. Natacha explains that her boyfriend, William, is more or less her father's age, and his father's girlfriend, Eve, isn't much older than she is. Jeanne and Natacha leave together.

Sequence 4

Natacha's apartment. She tells Jeanne about Igor, her father, who "dreams of being an art critic." His girlfriend, says Natacha, isn't a good influence on him. "I only hope it won't last," she says. Natacha plays Schumann on the piano.

Sequence 5

The next morning Natacha leaves early for a class. Igor arrives unexpectedly to pick up some things. Jeanne speaks with him. Natacha returns. She is happy that Jeanne has bought flowers for the apartment and tells Jeanne that she can stay as long as she wants. She suggests that they go to the family home in Fontainebleau.

Sequence 6

Fontainebleau. Natacha is upset at the idea of Eve staying in the house. She asks Jeanne what she thinks of Igor. "I can see why young girls like him," she says. Natacha tells Jeanne about a necklace, inherited by Igor from his mother, that was stolen, says Natacha, by Eve.

Sequence 7

Jeanne goes back to her apartment to pick up some books. Gaëlle asks to stay another week.

Sequence 8

Natacha is happy when Jeanne tells her that Gaëlle isn't leaving. Jeanne tells Natacha about Mathieu, her boyfriend, and that they plan on getting married. "You don't sound too thrilled," says Natacha. She asks Jeanne to have dinner with her and Igor later in the week.

Sequence 9

Igor arrives at the apartment. Natacha asks him to stay for dinner. She goes out shopping, leaving Jeanne and Igor alone together. Eve telephones and Igor asks her to come over for dinner.

Sequence 10

The four eat dinner together. Natacha and Eve bicker. Igor says he will go to the house on Saturday alone because Natacha, Jeanne and Eve are all busy.

Sequence 11

Jeanne waters the flowers in Natacha's apartment. Natacha tells Jeanne that her father finds her attractive. "You're the kind of girl Dad needs," she says. "He's too old for me," says Jeanne. Natacha questions how committed Jeanne is to Mathieu. The two decide to go to the house that weekend.

Sequence 12

When they arrive, Igor and Eve are there. Natacha and Eve bicker again, and Eve leaves. William arrives. Natacha and William go for a walk. Jeanne and Igor sit and read. Natacha telephones and says that she isn't coming back to the house. Igor convinces Jeanne to stay for dinner.

Sequence 13

Jeanne and Igor have dinner together. Igor tells her that he never thought his relationship with Eve would last. "This morning gives her a good out," he says. Jeanne tells Igor that he reminds her of Mathieu. They kiss. Igor puts on a tape of Natacha playing Schumann. Eve telephones. Jeanne leaves.

Sequence 14

Natacha's apartment the next day. She and Jeanne bicker. "Even if you did try to pair me with your dad, it's OK," says Jeanne. She finds the necklace in a shoe box.

Sequence 15

Jeanne goes home to her apartment. Gaëlle has left her flowers. Jeanne takes them to Mathieu's, where she throws out the flowers that have by now died.