

THERESE RAQUIN

Therese Raquin is a tale of passion, obsession, and the psychological aftermath of an unforgivable deed.

Thérèse is stifled by a dreary, arranged marriage to her first cousin, the sickly Camille, and is watched over by her oppressive mother-in-law. She embarks on a reckless affair with her husband's childhood friend, the idle Laurent. Their secretive relationship goes unnoticed but Thérèse and Laurent believe their affair will be discovered. Their frustration and passion drive them to a fatal decision. Thereafter they find themselves trapped in a waking nightmare of guilt and paranoia.

Characters

Therese – young woman – described as lithe and beautiful, she possesses a passionate and volatile personality.

Laurent – young man – described as having great physical strength and reserves of energy, Laurent is devoted to luxury and sensual pleasures.

Madame Raquin – older woman – described as sixty, a sturdy and self-confident woman of peasant origins. Mme Raquin is gradually beset by stiffness and paralysis and becomes more and more dependent on her niece, Thérèse.

Camille – younger man – described as light and slim, handsome in an effete way, and a weakling. Married to Therese. The marriage is passionless, uncomfortable, and fated for disaster.

Grivet – older man – described as a dry old stick fussy and garrulous.

Michaud – older man – described as elderly, bushy-haired, and a burly ex-policeman.

Audition pieces to prepare, (page number references are for the script on the Wick Website):

Pages 3 to 5 Therese and Laurent. From THERESE Are you never satisfied?... to THERESE There now, you've left it too long. Hurry!

Pages 6 to 9 Therese, Mme Raquin, Camille. From MME. RAQUIN Camille, my darling... to CAMILLE Here he comes!

Pages 11 to 13 Therese, Laurent, Camille. From THERESE You've caught him exactly... to THERESE If you don't, I shall.

Pages 17 to 19 Therese, Laurent, Grivet and Michaud. From GRIVET Quarter-past eight... to MICHAUD and he soon saw me off the premises!

Pages 36 to 37 Therese and Laurent. From LAURENT Therese what do you think?... to THERESE As long as it takes. You promised.

Pages 47 to 50 Grivet and Michaud. From MICHAUD Let there be light and there was light... to MICHAUD Sit down, you fool; it's all been taken care of.