

*L'Inhumaine*  
Marcel L'Herbier  
1923  
Translation of title cards

*All translations have been done by me. The Division of the film into acts and the titles of those acts are something I have added. They do not exist in the film, nor are they L'Herbier's intention. I have added them simply to help comprehension of the movie.*

Act I: "The Party at Claire's House" (47 min)

1. Here, towering over the city
2. It's the home of Claire Lescot, famous singer, strange woman
3. Rich, emancipated, inaccessible to ordinary ambitions, Claire Lescot, who holds a kind of international salon, gathers together tonight a few outstanding personalities from all over the world.
4. By the fancy of this curious artist, an academic, a famous clown, a former governmental minister, a boxer, a manufacturer, a poet meet pele-mele here tonight...
5. ... with Frank Mahler, the global businessman (Kellerman)
6. ...Kranine, "the apostle", a theoretician of the "humanitarian" movement (J.K. de Malte)
7. ...a practitioner of despotism, the maha-radja Djorah of Mopur (Philippe Hériat)
8. Among all of these admirers of Claire Lescot reigns a silent rivalry, each man dreaming of attracting to himself this fêted woman, whose successes have not reduced her solitude.
9. Gossip Concert...of protest The return of Claire Lescot will likely be talked about. People are pointing out, in fact, the upcoming marriage of the strange singer with Frank M.I.H.R. who (as a matter of fact) owns the twelve principal musical theaters in the United States. ¶ This event, and the strange maneuvers that brought it about would have cut to the quick a few rivals of the ambitious artist. And it is possible that the recital that she is giving tomorrow evening will be enriched by an unplanned choir of pro...
10. Finally! .... Claire
11. The woman that even her closest friends call "the inhuman woman" (Georgette Leblanc)
12. In this small court of international powers where the most secret things are said...
13. ...a judicious mask makes the servants deaf...and always smiling
14. one last guest is late. Claire decides that they will not wait for him.
15. The tardy one
16. ...a young engineer, enthused with the mechanics of sports and with the enchantment of modern sciences
17. ...Einar Norsen (Jacques-Catelain)

18. Claire, with her glory, her power, her mystery profoundly impresses this young man, who is fanatical about her...will he dare to enter...so late?..
19. Yes...after my two concerts, it's all set. I'm leaving. I will travel, alone, around the world...
20. ...unless SOMETHING keeps me here...
21. Something (sparkling: fades in and out)
22. Something (over chair)
23. Something (corner of screen by Einar)
24. Something? (over cars driving) What? Success? Love? Something unexpected?
25. She's going to leave? He must, at any price, talk to her tonight and find out what would keep her here
26. "Why this trip around the world? Come, rather, to America. Over there, you will rule. All my theaters, I'll give them to you.
27. No...thankyou...I am only interested in what I conquer
28. Worried about Claire's departure, the "apostle" also proposes...
29. "The social wheel is finally turning...For a woman of action like you, what a beautiful task: THE PROGRESS OF HUMANITY"
30. ...our movement is advancing in Mongolia. Imagine what role you would play...over there..."
31. "Your 'HUMANITY' doesn't interest me. For me, only exceptional people count.
32. As soon as Claire brought in the entertainment...
33. Djorah, he...
34. "...a 'crown'?...I'm not dead yet! Kill me first!"
35. The wait...Claire's indifference...have exasperated Einar's impatience
36. "I don't want you to leave"
37. "...because I lo..." (It really says, "I you..." which is the beginning of the French way to say I love you)
38. ....they've arrived at the point where they are playing with fire...
39. I am exhausted from fighting...of fighting over you with everyone...I need your strength...yours...for only me."
40. "...if you refuse..."
41. "...I'll kill myself!"
42. "If you would destroy your life so easily, that means it wasn't worth very much"
43. Claire's irony whips up Einar's desperation
44. THEY SAY THAT...our great singer Cl.r. Le.c.t has finally accepted the hindou crown offered to her by a charming maharadjah
45. Without you, this world is horrible—a swerve will throw me in the other
46. Without you, this world is horrible—a swerve will throw me in the other
47. Without you, this world is horrible—a swerve will throw me in the other
48. A little peasant girl, a bit "innocent"...

Act II: "The Reputation" (21 min)

49. It's—already—morning and Claire has just learned...
50. The searches have been in vain. The body is lost in the water...

51. Sign on poster: This evening: Claire Lescot: Singing Recital / Modern Music  
52. "...She won't sing, I think, after this!"  
53. News Briefs: He loved the beauty too much and that's what killed Einar Norsen, a young engineer who, after he left the house of the insensitive Cl...re L.sc.t last night, found a voluntary death, they say, due to a sharp turn of the steering wheel towards a fatal slope.  
54. ... "The apostle" whips his party up against the woman who is frustrating his personal ambitions  
55. Let's punish this creature who insults HUMANITY...Meeting, this evening, at her show"  
56. Ticket: Singing recital: Claire LESCOT  
57. Telegraph: Tauberger, Theater director, Champs-Elysees: Impossible to sing tonight. Will personally reimburse the ticket sales. –Claire Lescot  
58. The decision not to sing, which her own sorrow and social conventions impose on Claire, provokes a cruel hesitation  
59. but her REASON revolts against her PAIN...Is serving her ART betraying her mourning? Must she disappoint the fervor of those who wait for her?...out of fear of slander, out of cowardice before the emotional hypocrisy of HUMANITY?  
60. Rumor has it that you are not going to sing tonight. Is that true?  
61. "...it's false.....I am singing tonight."  
62. Everywhere, little by little, slander spreads...  
63. News Briefs: He loved the beauty too much and that's what killed Einar Norsen, a young engineer who, after he left the house of the insensitive Cl...re L.sc.t last night, found a voluntary death, they say, due to a sharp turn of the steering wheel towards a fatal slope.  
64. "...This Lescot, what a scandalous life. Women like that should be locked up!"  
65. HEADLINE: A young engineer commits suicide for an artist.  
66. "They ain't got no pity...a woman without a womb!"  
67. EVENING  
68. ...There is a large crowd, agitated by the drama...the scandal  
69. among the last to arrive  
70. The ballet is nearly over. There is standing room only  
71. After a short intermission, Claire was going to appear.  
72. Now a stormy curiosity is waiting Claire's entrance  
73. Suddenly Kranine attacks  
74. The whole feverish theater becomes impassioned, --for or against this "inhuman" woman  
75. ...who stubbornly holds her ground...  
76. sings song: can't get all lyrics, but some are "the anguish of love", "adieu" (until we meet in heaven)...  
77. ...and finishes with a triumph

Act III: "Repentance" (16 min)

78. And while people leave the theater...  
79. "...no...not for anybody!"

80. "I would like to speak to you—somewhere else—about Einar Norsen
81. "They have just found his body, horribly mutilated..."
82. "To legally identify the body, we need two witnesses...Please be the other one"
83. "At your house...tomorrow...at 7:00"
84. Towards Einar Norsen's strange laboratory, where his body lies...
85. At the meeting time
86. ...Claire, unsteady from emotion...
87. ...an un expected music...odious...
88. In this torturous atmosphere, Claire is shattered little by little ...haunted...
89. All of a sudden, the wind
90. When she finally allows the SECRET of her immense HUMAN sadness break through...
91. Suddenly—

Act IV: "Something" (44 min)

92. Please excuse this...hoax..."
93. "...in the beginning...it wasn't one: I left your house to die...but at the edge of nothingness, in a flash, I remembered..."
94. "...“If you destroy your life, that means it wasn't worth very much...”
95. "...and then I wanted people to believe that I was dead in order to know you better, to know better what you were hiding..."
96. You know nothing more!
97. "...I know that you are here, and that, without all this, you would never have come here!"
98. "Yes! I do know something more..."
99. "Now, SOMETHING HERE is going to make you give up your TRIP"
100. While Claire, disarmed, smiles at this mystery, Djorah, downstairs...
101. Be careful! This machine is dangerous..."
102. Sign on the machine: "Risk of death"
103. "See you tomorrow..here...to KNOW?..."
104. The Prince's jealousy is exacerbated
105. Claire wants to be alone, her mind strangely obsessed
106. On note: "My patience will not last any longer than this rose"
107. All of this wonderful science glimpsed at Einar's house draws Claire like *something* as unexpected, as strong, as love
108. At the agreed upon time at the SCHOLARLY modern enchanter's house
109. On TV screen: The whole world IS HERE
110. On TV screen: The whole world IS HERE
111. On TV screen: Travel by TSF
112. "Look, what is the use of LEAVING? You only need to sing HERE in front of a microphone...and while the TSF will radiophone your voice everywhere, the same waves, by a new process will transmit to you, in exchange, the IMAGE of your listeners."
113. On this television screen, while you sing, you are going to see appear those who listen to you all across the Earth.

114. She travels without moving across the abolished space...
115. ...across the joy and the pain of others...
116. She forgets time...
117. ...my concert!—its scary...
118. The spectators are already in front of the theaters...
119. “Yes, it’s a new machine coupled to the one you almost burned yourself on yesterday. It produced a force capable of undreamed of effects...”
120. “...perhaps to reanimate the beatings of the heart...to heal HUMANITY of death. ...But I haven’t yet dared to experiment on anybody.”
121. Sign on machine: Risk of death
122. “Careful!...the machine...”
123. Sign on machine: Risk of death
124. Sign on machine: Risk of death
125. “Will you be at home...tonight...after the show?”
126. “But....yes.”
127. The concert is over
128. I forbid you to go there
129. “Watch out...you will not get there ALIVE”
130. On notecard: From Einar
131. A reptile from Asia with deadly venom
132. “To Mr. Norsen’s home”
133. On notecard: From Einar
134. Then Einar, stupefied, discovers...
135. Now the big laboratory pulses with activity
136. To save Claire, they attempt the daring experiment
137. Sign on machine: Risk of death
138. Sign on machine: Risk of death
139. Einar decides to tray again, and on his ORDER everything activates...
140. ...as in a symphony of work
141. “I wanted to come at any price for the dangerous EXPERIMENT”
142. “...it was out of love for...”
143. “...humanity!”