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For the non-seasonal, serious film-goer there is another of the unusual, provocative creations of Jean Cocteau, "The Strange Ones" (Mayer-Kingsley). Based on his novel "Les Enfants Terribles," this has little in common with the conventional movie. Its plot, concerned with a neurotic youth and the sister who mothers him, is less a story than a mosaic of impressions which, as fitted together here, suggest a world of latent incest, homosexuality, and madness. The hand of Cocteau, who prepared the adaptation with director Jean-Pierre Melville, is everywhere apparent—in the trenchant dialogues, in the unlikely camera angles, the bizarre settings, the picaresque story structure, in the narration that comments with amused detachment upon the tragicomic implications of his theme. The youthful cast, headed by Nicole Stéphane, Edouard Dermithe, and Renee Cosima, plays Cocteau's self-absorbed characters with astonishing insight, creating together a borderline private world half way between lovely fantasy and sheer insanity. "The Strange Ones" may be awfully special, but it will fascinate those who can follow Cocteau's sort of thing.

—ARTHUR KNIGHT.