

## Document Citation

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Synopsis: ASSUNTA SPINA

Assunta Spina is a laundress in turn-of-the-century Naples. As the film begins, her lover Michele is on trial for assault, having slashed Assunta's cheek in a fit of jealousy. Although she testifies in his favor, Michele is condemned to two years in prison. Federico, a young man with high political connections, offers to use his influence to keep Michele in a local jail; Assunta hesitates, knowing that there is a price for Federico's favors. Once she succumbs, Assunta becomes hopelessly enamored of Federico. Eventually he tires of her and announces that the affair is over. On the day of the Feast of San Gennaro, Naples' patron saint, she goes to church for consolation but is barred from the door by the crowd of worshippers declaring her a scarlet woman who would bring bad luck to the annual rites. Assunta is gently escorted home by a young policeman from the provinces, who soon falls in love with her. Months pass, and the policeman proposes marriage; Assunta sadly declines, declaring that her past makes her unfit for marriage. On Christmas Eve, Assunta sends an urgent message to Federico, beseeching him to visit her one last time. While she waits, Michele appears unexpectedly--he has been released from prison early thanks to Federico's intervention. Assunta confesses her infidelity; when Federico arrives, the enraged Michele stabs him to death and disappears into the night. Assunta tells the police that she committed the crime, and is led off to prison.