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Ingmar Bergman's **AUTUMN SONATA** (1968),
from his screenplay, with
Ingrid Bergman, Liv Ull-
mann, and Lena Nyman,

SARAS / ALL

is a small, lovely character study, but also one of Bergman's most obsessive case-history psychodramas. Again, two great actresses serve as beautiful masks for the director's tortured feelings and his affinity for harrowing, Strindbergian confrontations. In the tell-all scenes, which are closer to trauma than drama, Ullmann provides the high-voltage kvetching of a daughter railing against a career-artist mother for choosing the muse of music over the wailing of her children. The casting of Ingrid Bergman as the wary returning mother is inspired in that her long absence from the Scandinavian cinema serves as an iconographical reinforcement of her character's long absence from her true home. Whether the searing confessionals reach a cathartic effect or not, the acting is brilliant. (Cofeature: Bergman's *Face to Face*)
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