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Wild Strawberries 12/83

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Wild Strawberries is constructed around dream sequences (notably the nightmare at the beginning) and flashbacks and is, in addition to a voyage through modern Sweden, a voyage through time, the past, and the unconscious. An old man approaching death (this was the last role of the great Victor Sjostrom) takes stock of his life and its failings and is confronted by those who loved him, admired him for his contributions to science, and those who detested him as an inhuman, self-centered idiot. Sara, in the present, brings him back to the human simplicity of his youth and the time of 'wild strawberries' and gives him a new sense of serenity." (Georges Sadoul). The story of 24 hours in the life of an aged Stockholm professor who, as he travels by car to receive an honorary degree, recollects his past experiences and becomes aware, for the first time, of his failings and shortcomings and the reasons for his wretched loneli-

Beigman. With Victor Sjostrom, Ingrid Thain, Bibi Andersson, Gunnar Bjornstrand. Directed by Ingmar Bergman, Sweden, 1957, black and white, 95 mins. Swedish with English subtitles.