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Death in the Garden

Expressed ?

(La Mort En Ce Jardin)

1956 97 min. Color French dialog with English subtitles

With Simone Signoret, Michel Piccoli, Georges Marchal.

Death in the Garden, like several Bunuel works of this period, is an exploration of revolutionary morality. Set in a diamond-rich region of a fascist South American country, the film features Simone Signoret as a prostitute and Michel Piccoli as a pacifistic priest, who are forced to flee to the jungle with a bunch of rebellious miners. Georges Marchal plays a bold and fearless figure who assumes leadership of the fugitive group which has begun to deteriorate under the stress of isolation and physical hardship. Miraculously, they come upon a vestige of civilization—a wrecked airplane filled with food, corpses, and jewels. When the priest insists on religious ritual, however, he opens the door to desperate acts. As in Clouzot's grueling thriller The Wages of Fear, the characters exchange the oppressive politics of civilization for the anarchy of individualism.

