

ORIGINAL FRENCH  
VERSION "L'AMOUR HUMAIN"

ENGLISH DUBBED VERSION :

" THE AWAKENING "

35 MM EASTMAN COLOR

94 minutes

Screen ratio : 1 to 1.66

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DIRECTOR : Denis HEROUX  
ORIGINAL SCREEN-  
PLAY BY : Roger FOURNIER  
DIRECTOR OF PHO-  
TOGRAPHY : René VERZIER  
EDITOR : Jean LAFLEUR  
MUSIC : Francois COUSINEAU

W I T H :

Louise MARLEAU  
Jacques RIBEROLLES

Charlotte BOISJOLY  
Ovila LEGARE  
Jean-Pierre COMPAIN  
Germaine GIROUX  
Nana de VARENNES  
Denise PROULX  
Simone PIUZE  
Yvan CANUEL  
Suzanne VALERY

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RESUME : A priest and a nun .... frustated and feeling  
useless in today's world, they leave the orders  
to seek a full life in the outside world.  
Once outside, they meet and marry. But their  
new life together is troubled by conflicts and  
guilt feelings until they learn to accept each  
other as they are.

## THE AWAKENING

### SYNOPSIS

Sister Constance, a young nun in a convent, is haunted by desires which make her doubt her faith. She leaves her order and becomes a nurse in a hospital. There she is confronted with life and death, and again her doubts arise. Questioning her faith which is stifling her ever present feelings of being a woman. In the hospital she meets Father Julien who also is tormented by the same questioning. He sees all the destruction and suffering in the world and is aware of his own inadequacies in trying to bring order to the chaos. Incapable of living with his doubts, Julien leaves his order and turns to teaching. Constance breaks her vows and follows him. The onset of their new life is beset by conflicts and feelings of guilt. Julien is shaken by his conscience and feels responsible for the mutual reproachment which is tearing them apart. Constance is troubled until she finally accepts her position as woman and wife.

They learn to know and love each other, and in time the deep feelings of divine love are replaced by human understanding.

The Awakening is the communion of souls through the union of bodies, which is slowly being discovered. Two souls which form the perfect One, absolute and beautiful.

A man, Julien, and a woman, Constance, in which union brings to mind divine perfection.

"IL VAUT MIEUX SE MARIER QUE BRULER"

SAINT PAUL.

"When you have chosen the religious life, you have chosen Christ as your husband. In the eyes of the world you have sacrificed the human love (l'amour humain) and its profound joys."

A CONVENT... A ROOM...

A woman watches tensely as a litter of kittens is born. This woman has entered the orders of the church. Her name... sister Constance. "My God, I don't even know if it's beautiful, however, it seems necessary".

"You must remember that the love of Christ, divine love, is the most beautiful love of all".

these words echo,...throb through her anguished mind.

A VILLAGE... A CHURCH...

A priest, presides over a marriage. Does Julien still have faith? Has he lost it? He doesn't know anymore. Is he of any use to anyone, to anything? These questions torment him night and day.

Nighttime, and scenes of rioting flash across the television screen. Julien feels compelled to get out, to clear his mind. He goes to a restaurant where he is surrounded by the vibrant dancing young people. He tries bowling, hurling the ball harder, and faster. Involved in the game he first removes his jacket, then his vest and finally the collar, ending the game in shirt-sleeves

He has reached the end of this "divine love", this sacrifice of a lifetime for an intangible absolute.

AT THE CONVENT...

Cloistered within four walls, Constance reconsiders the sisterhood. The woman sleeping in her awakens little by little. She feels a need to help others.

"I feel that I have not accomplished anything positive here" she confesses to the Mother Superior. She wants to leave the convent where she feels she is useless.

Meanwhile, Julien realizes that his feeling of ineffectiveness is destroying him slowly. He too wants to participate in the life of the world. He leaves for the secular world.

A HOSPITAL, A CHAPLAIN, A NUN, JULIEN and CONSTANCE....

Troubled by the life, the death, that reigned between her "four walls", Constance questions her faith.

She repeats her doubts during confession to Julien, the vicar, who is also disturbed by similar thoughts.

"FAith is the gift of God and if you lose it, it is because you either don't merit it or that you no longer need it"

reassured, Sister Constance leaves in peace; she is no longer alone.

"Now I am looking, searching, for something else".

A CHILD DIES...A WOMAN DEEPLY HURT, SCREAMING,  
BEGGING JULIEN TO SAVE HER SON.

Exasperated by his own incapacity, Julien revolts. "Enough is enough", I can't take anymore of this common everyday routine. I want more, I want to overcome my ordinary self, to find the real me instead of this pretentious self...

Constance regrets having accused him of cowardice. She enters Julien's bedroom. He tells her "I am a coward for not having defrocked" He can't go on any further. He feels a prisoner of sentiments that have no meaning for him anymore.

She offers her help: "You need my help, and yet you are helping me; it's a disgrace", he says. She disputes those last words: "It's human and you are a man", "and you are a woman", he insists. She points out: "It is as a nun that I am here to see you".

#### THE HOSPITAL, THE NEXT DAY

Constance learns that Julien has defrocked. The telephone rings: "Hello, Sister Constance? Julien Lambert speaking"... I'm relieved, yes... I have pleasant memories of you".

Constance is upset, she is alone and in a state of distress; She finds herself doubting her faith again. She is decided, she will leave ~~the~~ hospital and defrock. Julien had mentioned that he was teaching at Deschamps. She goes to meet him.

## THEY MARRY AND FIND THEMSELVES ALONE.

They are happy, discovering each other little by little.

"Our marriage seems to be an end rather than a beginning in life", says Constance.

"Our life begins today, replies Julien".

(Does human love become profane for those who have known divine love?)

(Constance and Julien are not happy). They go through the everyday motions of life together, yet a wall stands between them. They meet everyday at breakfast, almost like strangers, unaware of each other).

The act of love frightens them. They suppress their desires, both disapproving; Thinking that they are sinning. (When one consents, the other retreats). Memories of the past recur, striking obsessively.

("Human love - profane love"); They feel guilty, tearing and destroying each other, in spite of their love.

## ONE NIGHT...

Exasperated by a wife that rejects him, and disgusted by his own weakness, he leaves, alone in the night...

"You run away from me, why?" she asks him the next day. "I'm not running away from you, <sup>you</sup> twist everything around he answers." Each is the object of sin to the other.

Later, on a metro platform, amongst anonymous crowd, they quarrel. "Before, I was useless but at least I had peace", says Julien.

At night, as Julien returns home, he finds the house empty, Constance has left.

In the calm of winter's snow, she desperately tries to find herself.

In the roar of the city, he is looking for something else, in vain... (Until they accept each other the way they are...).

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