

Irreparable Damage

A sexy psychological drama

“The obsession of a 20 year old girl threatens the marriage and life of an American painter in Vienna.”

With the help of his wife Maria, Paul has recuperated from his alcohol and drug addiction that destroyed his New York career as a painter. We find him having chosen a comfortable but uninspired life in Vienna with Maria, a renowned Austrian art restorer.

Joseph, an unscrupulous New York associate and wealthy art dealer offers Paul a chance at a New York comeback in exchange for mentoring Eva, Joseph’s young and beautiful girlfriend. Paul resists the prospect of copying the style of his earlier, successful paintings but, encouraged by Maria, reluctantly accepts Joseph’s offer.

Paul helps Eva use her paintings to understand her traumatic past but in doing so discovers in her an irresistible muse who pushes him into a marvelous new phase of vibrant and disturbing paintings. What starts out as an innocent attraction quickly escalates into a web of intrigue. Seduced by her, he begins to realize that she is mentally disturbed and has developed a father-fixation on him. Afraid to jeopardize his marriage he tries to end the relationship abruptly, but Eva stalks him and makes threatening phone calls to Maria. She manages to push her way into Paul’s house and tries to seduce him once more but Paul rejects her. Desperate she appeals to his mercy by revealing her dark history of sexual abuse. Enraged when even this fails to attract him, she shocks him by attempting suicide, forcing Paul to rush her to the hospital.

While she is recovering in a hospital, Joseph discovers their affair while reviewing his surveillance tapes. Enraged he surprises Paul in his studio and assaults him. When Paul returns home, bloody and beaten, Maria confronts him and his affair with Eva is exposed. Ironically, as his marriage is in eminent collapse, Paul’s new style is generating great interest in New York and he sells three new paintings.

Once out of the hospital, Eva’s obsession erupts into rage forcing a frightened Paul and Maria to flee to a mountain resort. Eva follows them and close behind and so does Joseph, who is determined to get Eva back even if it means killing Paul. Finally making an honest appraisal of his behavior and their marriage, Paul confesses his undying love for his wife. However, he tells Maria he needs to reestablish his independence from her somehow.

Eva forces a final, desperate confrontation with Paul and Maria in their hotel room. When Paul categorically rejects her, she lunges at Maria with a knife. Paul jumps to protect his wife and disarms Eva telling her it’s over. However, in the struggle Paul is cut in the arm.

Distraught Eva wanders through the village towards the railroad bridge. An enraged Joseph arrives and finds Paul looking for a pharmacy. As they wrestle violently near the railroad bridge we hear the frantic whistle of an approaching train, followed by screeching breaks and then... dead silence. Intuitively Paul rushes to the river’s edge as Eva’s body is brought out of the water. Paul holds Eva’s dead body in his arms and weeps.

After a couple of weeks of seclusion Paul reluctantly returns to his studio. As he reaches for the door he finds the lock broken. Stepping inside, he is frozen by the sight of slashed canvases and trampled paintings. His life has come to a crossroad and now he must choose a path. Instead of accepting defeat at the hands of Joseph, Paul defiantly decides to finally face his demons and go where he truly belongs.

A month later, back in New York, Paul has just finished his latest work. His benefactors, an older couple, are admiring a portrait of Maria done in his vibrant new style. Maria appears at the doorway. Paul looks out the window into the New York City harbor and can admit at last: this is his best work yet. He is going to be somebody.