TWOSISTERS Viola writes novels in a darkened room. Marie, her sister and only companion, takes care of her every

need. Together, they are an island unto themselves, quiet and complete in their isolation. And then, the abrupt arrival of a stranger throws their tenuous order into chaos.

This animated short was made by etching directly onto tinted 70 mm film.

Produced by the French Program Animation Studio of the National Film Board of Canada.

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Printed in Canada

Filmmaker: Caroline Leaf Producers: Robert Forget

Yves Leduc 10 minutes 26 seconds

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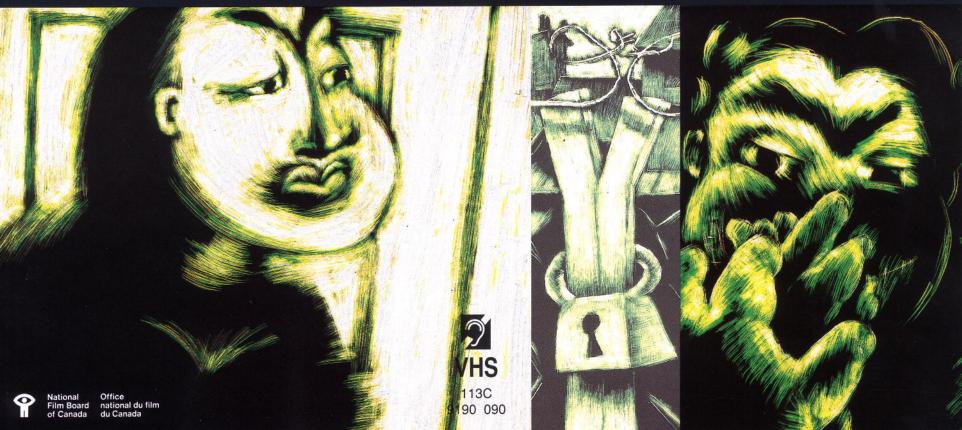


Closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. A decoder is required



FROM THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

# In the infinite ocean are distant isles where people sometimes seek refuge... TWOSISTERS A film by Caroline Leaf



# **TWOSISTERS**

"You are a monster," says Marie to Viola. Yet she also says, "You are my sister." 
Cruelty mingles with an ineffable tenderness in this animated depiction of the relationship between two sisters. This story, etched directly onto tinted 70 mm film, takes us into their enclosed and self-contained world. ■ The etching technique – along with a melodic and quietly haunting soundtrack - suggests rather than shows the content and rhythm of lives made up of cups of coffee poured, household chores done, and not incidentally, novels tapped out on a computer keyboard. 
Viola reveals her face, her hidden shame, to the stranger who irrupts into this insular and illusory calm. And through the events which follow, we see also the hidden faces of power, dependence, and fear. 

This stirring film challenges us to face our own feelings when we are confronted with those who are different or somehow handicapped, as well as our ideas about personal beauty. Do we shield the handicapped from the outside world? Do we lock them away? Do we let them run the risk of getting hurt?

# **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Discuss the pathological mix of power, dependence and control in the relationship between the two sisters.
- The title character in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre is often labelled "plain," and she even finds herself distinctly lacking: "I know that had I been a sanguine, brilliant, careless, exacting, handsome, romping child..." Discuss the notions of personal beauty that are the focus of Two Sisters in relation to Jane Eyre. How does Jane's sense of physical beauty shape her perceptions, experiences and the novel itself? Is Rochester more like the stranger or the sister Marie of Two Sisters?
- Choose a film, novel or short story which explores the relationship between two siblings. Compare and contrast that relationship to the one in Two Sisters.

# For younger audiences:

- Read Hans Christian Andersen's The Ugly Duckling. Discuss the tale in relation to Two Sisters.
- Write a letter to the character of Viola. What would you say to her about her relationship with her sister Marie?
- Why do you think Viola insists that the door remain ajar at the end of the film? Where is the relationship between the two sisters headed?

AROLINE LEAF



Caroline Leaf was born in Seattle on August 12, 1946. After earning a B.A. from Radcliffe College of Harvard University, she enrolled in a film workshop. There she discovered the joys of animation, and made her first film, Sand or Peter and the Wolf in 1969. She subsequently received a scholarship to Harvard which enabled her to make Orfeo in 1972. Arriving at the NFB the same year, she followed her previous successes with The Owl Who

Married a Goose: An Eskimo Legend in 1974. The Street (1976) won sixteen prizes as well as a nomination for an Academy Award. She made *The Metamorphosis of Mr. Samsa* in 1977. In addition to her work in animation, she has directed a number of live-action films.

Script/Direction/Animation

Caroline Leaf

Scriptwriting Collaboration

Anne Dandurand Frederick Ward Bob Pot

Dialogues Grant Heisler

Animation Camera Pierre Landry

Editing

Camille Laperrière

Music

Iudith Gruber-Stitzer

Sound Editing Wojtek Klis

Recordings

Shelley Craig Louis Hone

Re-recording Jean-Pierre Joutel Shelley Craig

Voices

Kathleen Fee Jane Woods Michael Rudder

English Version Production

Dagmar Teufel Jacques Vallée

Producers

Robert Forget Yves Leduc Produced and distributed by National Film Board of Canada

Color 10 minutes 26 seconds

Order numbers: C 9190 090 (video)

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