

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:14,454

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:14,454 --> 00:00:20,219

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily

3

00:00:20,219 --> 00:00:29,107

the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

4

00:00:29,107 --> 00:00:33,471

350 years ago a fictional man was born on paper.

5

00:00:33,471 --> 00:00:38,956

The name Don Juan was scratched on a manuscript by a Spanish monk, and the legend of a great

6

00:00:38,956 --> 00:00:40,958

lover was born.

7

00:00:40,958 --> 00:00:46,603

A hundred years later, a Venetian named Casanova wrote six volumes on his own life and established

8

00:00:46,603 --> 00:00:49,525

himself as a legendary lover as well.

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00:00:49,525 --> 00:00:54,329

The two men had a common occupation, the pursuit of women.

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00:00:54,329 --> 00:01:17,550

Were they great lovers, or merely fools?

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00:01:17,550 --> 00:01:22,795

Through the ages, legends of love and lovers have captured the imaginations of storytellers

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00:01:22,795 --> 00:01:24,516

and their audiences.

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00:01:24,516 --> 00:01:30,361

Platonic lovers, selfish and selfless lovers, star-crossed lovers, all have had their expression

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00:01:30,361 --> 00:01:34,485

in music, drama, literature and dance.

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00:01:34,485 --> 00:01:39,530

In all the annals of fiction, one character stands alone as the symbol of sensuality triumphant.

16

00:01:39,530 --> 00:01:45,855

He was the title character in a 17th century drama called The Playboy of Seville, a character

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00:01:45,855 --> 00:01:51,300

whose very existence is based on the seduction of women.

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00:01:51,300 --> 00:01:55,904

In the story he was a nobleman, handsome, intelligent and cynical.

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00:01:55,904 --> 00:02:00,228

His list of female conquests totaled a thousand and three.

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00:02:00,228 --> 00:02:04,432

When warned that someday he would pay for his lust, he would answer, there's plenty

21

00:02:04,432 --> 00:02:05,993

of time for that.

22

00:02:05,993 --> 00:02:11,518

His name, Don Juan.

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00:02:11,518 --> 00:02:18,764

The beautiful Donna Anna is to be married to the Marquis de Mota, a friend of Don Juan's.

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00:02:18,764 --> 00:02:25,210

Despite she's expecting a visit from her future husband, Don Juan has intercepted her invitation

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00:02:25,210 --> 00:02:31,816

and in the darkness is planning to enjoy her favorites.

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00:02:31,816 --> 00:02:37,701

At this moment he is under royal order of banishment for a similar affair.

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00:02:37,701 --> 00:02:44,948

This is his way of having a last bit of sport before leaving Seville.

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00:02:44,948 --> 00:02:56,878

Was this an act of love or simply a cruel deception?

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00:02:56,878 --> 00:03:05,126

This time the plan fails.

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00:03:05,126 --> 00:03:09,289

Donna Anna screams awaken her father, the illustrious commander of the order of color

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00:03:09,289 --> 00:03:35,433

trouble.

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00:03:35,433 --> 00:03:42,159

Don Juan escaped punishment by having someone else blame for the killing.

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00:03:42,159 --> 00:03:45,201

The soul of the commander would seek its vengeance.

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00:03:45,201 --> 00:03:52,808

A statue erected to honor Don Juan's victim came to life and invited him to dinner.

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00:03:52,808 --> 00:04:01,816

The meal was elegantly served and the conversation was friendly.

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00:04:01,816 --> 00:04:31,723

Around out the evening the statue proposed the toast.

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00:04:31,723 --> 00:04:34,725

Donna was a murderer that went to hell for his sins.

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00:04:34,725 --> 00:04:38,889

The legend of a great lover was born.

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00:04:38,889 --> 00:04:42,292

A hundred years later that legend would spring to life.

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00:04:42,292 --> 00:04:47,417

In the 1700s a man appeared whose very aim in life seemed to be the enactment of the

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00:04:47,417 --> 00:04:49,018

Don Juan role.

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00:04:49,018 --> 00:04:55,424

A man who said of himself, the chief business of my life is to indulge my senses.

43

00:04:55,424 --> 00:05:01,789

I felt myself born for the fair sex.

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00:05:01,789 --> 00:05:07,074

He was a lawyer, con man, writer, gentleman and scoundrel.

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00:05:07,074 --> 00:05:12,719

Eighteenth century Venice was a hotbed of extremes, dignity and debauchery, brilliance

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00:05:12,719 --> 00:05:16,643

and stupidity, extravagance and poverty.

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00:05:16,643 --> 00:05:23,809

This man was the embodiment of it all.

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00:05:23,809 --> 00:05:30,295

He pursued women constantly and like Don Juan he made no class distinction.

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00:05:30,295 --> 00:05:34,699

Born illegitimate he became a self-appointed nobleman.

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00:05:34,699 --> 00:05:40,544

His name was Giacomo Casanova.

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00:05:40,544 --> 00:05:42,946

Was he truly a lover?

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00:05:42,946 --> 00:05:47,710

If so then certainly Venice was his appropriate birthplace.

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00:05:48,711 --> 00:05:55,197

In the lexicon of romance Venice is a name to conjure with.

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00:05:55,197 --> 00:06:01,162

On excel in its beauty hear the balladeers sing of their great loves and the poets come

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00:06:01,162 --> 00:06:15,495

for inspiration.

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00:06:15,495 --> 00:06:21,020

Here Casanova lived by his wits, dabbling in cabala, an ancient mysticism invoking the

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00:06:21,020 --> 00:06:25,103

powers of God and the cosmos.

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00:06:25,103 --> 00:06:30,869

Was he a true believer or did he use mysticism to exploit the gullible?

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00:06:30,869 --> 00:06:38,836

Casanova's reputation as shongaten could stand against that of Count Saint Germain who claimed

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00:06:38,836 --> 00:06:44,521

several reincarnations and Count Calioistro who claimed to turn lead into gold and to

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00:06:44,521 --> 00:06:47,764

extend life indefinitely.

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00:06:47,764 --> 00:06:53,409

Yet Casanova also held his own in conversations with two popes, Catherine the Great, Voltaire,

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00:06:53,409 --> 00:06:57,532

Rousseau and Benjamin Franklin.

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00:06:57,532 --> 00:07:02,216

He gambled heavily and his sensual appetite was expensive.

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00:07:02,216 --> 00:07:07,061

Under constant financial pressure he used various talents and schemes to replenish his

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00:07:07,061 --> 00:07:10,224

purse but his profits were soon squandered.

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00:07:15,548 --> 00:07:25,277

He spent his winnings on women and more often consoled himself in a new affair when he lost.

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00:07:25,277 --> 00:07:31,242

In Amsterdam he urged financiers to issue insurance on a ship believed lost at sea.

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00:07:31,242 --> 00:07:35,406

He claimed to have a cabalistic prophecy that the ship would be safe.

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00:07:35,406 --> 00:07:38,288

Actually Casanova had little to lose.

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00:07:38,288 --> 00:07:42,452

If the venture was a failure he would simply leave town.

72

00:07:42,452 --> 00:07:49,739

The ship turned up safely.

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00:07:49,739 --> 00:07:55,544

Sir Thomas Hope, believing in Casanova's mystic knowledge had taken the gamble.

74

00:07:55,544 --> 00:07:57,826

Hope profited handsomely.

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00:07:57,826 --> 00:08:03,791

He shared his profits with Casanova and offered him a substantial business position.

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00:08:03,791 --> 00:08:05,633

Why did he refuse?

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00:08:05,633 --> 00:08:10,397

Was he insecure about his talent for magic, fearful that failure and future prophecies

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00:08:10,397 --> 00:08:16,683

might expose him as a fraud or was it because he was about to embark on his most larseness

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00:08:16,683 --> 00:08:18,764

and erotic adventure?

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00:08:22,568 --> 00:08:29,334

For Giacomo Casanova the time was now ripe for the climactic scene in a bizarre scheme.

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00:08:29,334 --> 00:08:31,896

The lady was Madame Durif.

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00:08:31,896 --> 00:08:35,860

Her wealth was surpassed only by her imagination.

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00:08:35,860 --> 00:08:41,745

Being a sincere believer in the cabala, Madame Durif wished to be reborn as a man.

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00:08:41,745 --> 00:08:47,630

Only as a male would she be allowed to commune with the cabalistic spirits.

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00:08:47,630 --> 00:08:53,395

Using a young friend as an accomplice, Casanova was to invoke the proper magical environment.

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00:08:53,395 --> 00:09:00,121

Then he would father the male child which would carry the spirit of Madame Durif.

87

00:09:00,121 --> 00:09:08,288

In return, Casanova would gain control of her estate.

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00:09:08,288 --> 00:09:19,058

The evening was a strange mixture of fantasy, imagination and eroticism.

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00:09:19,058 --> 00:09:25,984

To conclude, Casanova was to spend the night outdoors waiting for a cosmic sign of success.

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00:09:26,985 --> 00:09:35,993

When the sign came, it was loud and clear and it frightened Casanova out of his wits.

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00:09:47,003 --> 00:09:52,007

Although Casanova was to inherit Madame Durif's estate, her daughter managed to gain control of her assets,

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00:09:52,007 --> 00:09:55,010

thereby doing Casanova out of his reward.

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00:09:55,010 --> 00:10:01,015

Madame Durif was intended to be a victim, but since she enjoyed the full measure of Casanova's services

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00:10:01,015 --> 00:10:08,022

and he enjoyed very little of her money, we're left to wonder who was the user and who was used.

95

00:10:11,024 --> 00:10:17,030

Venice was controlled by a governor who left the daily affairs of state to three inquisitors.

96

00:10:17,030 --> 00:10:20,032

For them, Casanova meant trouble.

97

00:10:21,033 --> 00:10:28,039

There were his financial double dealings, his mystic activities and his scandals with the wives of royalty.

98

00:10:29,040 --> 00:10:34,045

In 1755, when he was 30 years old, he was escorted to the royal palace.

99

00:10:34,045 --> 00:10:38,048

This was not a social invitation.

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00:10:38,048 --> 00:10:43,053

His talent for intrigue and scandal had left the trail of enemies.

101

00:10:43,053 --> 00:10:47,056

Now, he was caught in his own web.

102

00:10:51,060 --> 00:10:56,064

The top floor of the palace was a prison.

103

00:10:56,064 --> 00:11:03,070

Here, without trial and for unspecified crimes, he was locked up, possibly for life.

104

00:11:07,074 --> 00:11:13,079

A painful prospect for a man who so desperately needed the company of women.

105

00:11:14,080 --> 00:11:20,086

Because of the metal roof over his cell, the prison was known as the Leds.

106

00:11:20,086 --> 00:11:23,088

No prisoner had ever escaped.

107

00:11:24,089 --> 00:11:29,094

While exercising in the prison hall, Casanova found some hope.

108

00:11:33,097 --> 00:11:39,102

The metal bar took a month of work until it was sharp enough, and then his plan went into action.

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00:11:39,102 --> 00:11:46,109

After 15 months of imprisonment, he climbed out onto this roof on the night of October 1st, 1756.

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00:11:46,109 --> 00:11:54,116

Finding a workman's ladder, he lowered himself past his own barred window and entered the business offices below.

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00:11:54,116 --> 00:12:00,121

His intention was to wait until morning and walk out the front door of the building.

112

00:12:00,121 --> 00:12:04,125

He was a very busy man, and he was very busy.

113

00:12:04,125 --> 00:12:07,127

He was very busy, and he was very low.

114

00:12:07,127 --> 00:12:12,132

His intention was to wait until morning and walk out the front door when the palace was opened.

115

00:12:12,132 --> 00:12:14,134

He didn't have to wait long.

116

00:12:14,134 --> 00:12:20,139

He was seen at the window by a passerby who took him for an important nobleman locked in by mistake.

117

00:12:20,139 --> 00:12:25,143

The front door was unlocked, and Casanova was freed.

118

00:12:34,151 --> 00:12:37,154

That was Casanova's own version of his escape.

119

00:12:37,154 --> 00:12:39,156

Was it true?

120

00:12:39,156 --> 00:12:45,161

There are some who say it was a fiction, a product of his own fertile imagination.

121

00:12:45,161 --> 00:12:51,167

The disbelievers suggest that he may simply have bribed the guards and he was released.

122

00:12:51,167 --> 00:12:54,169

Personally, I prefer the romantic version.

123

00:12:54,169 --> 00:12:59,174

In any case, he would now be exiled from the Leds.

124

00:12:59,174 --> 00:13:06,180

To Paris, to Holland, to Rome, Milan, Marseille, London, running, conniving, debauching.

125

00:13:06,180 --> 00:13:09,183

The pursuit of women resumed.

126

00:13:09,183 --> 00:13:13,186

He was a very busy man, and he was very busy.

127

00:13:13,186 --> 00:13:15,188

He was very busy.

128

00:13:15,188 --> 00:13:17,190

He was very busy.

129

00:13:17,190 --> 00:13:19,191

He was very busy.

130

00:13:19,191 --> 00:13:21,193

He was very busy.

131

00:13:21,193 --> 00:13:23,195

He was very busy.

132

00:13:23,195 --> 00:13:25,197

He was very busy.

133

00:13:25,197 --> 00:13:27,199

Debauching.

134

00:13:27,199 --> 00:13:30,201

The pursuit of women resumed.

135

00:13:30,201 --> 00:13:36,207

Several times he considered marriage, but cooled on the idea in time to avoid the commitment.

136

00:13:36,207 --> 00:13:44,214

On the one occasion, when he came close to taking the vows, circumstances took a strange turn.

137

00:13:44,214 --> 00:13:46,215

The young lady was named Leonilda.

138

00:13:46,215 --> 00:13:50,219

Casanova asked for her hand and she agreed.

139

00:13:50,219 --> 00:13:54,223

Her widowed mother was sent for to complete the arrangements.

140

00:13:54,223 --> 00:14:01,229

Now, the ghost of his own past, Indra Veen.

141

00:14:01,229 --> 00:14:14,240

The girl's mother was Lucrezia D'Antoni, with whom he'd had an affair some years earlier.

142

00:14:15,241 --> 00:14:20,246

The young lady, who was 16, was his own daughter.

143

00:14:30,255 --> 00:14:39,263

For a short time he was grief-stricken, but very soon consoled himself by renewing his affair with the mother of his almost bride.

144

00:14:40,263 --> 00:14:46,269

He arrived in Florence, alone and empty-handed.

145

00:14:46,269 --> 00:14:52,274

He was granted asylum by Duke Leopold, who told him he would be welcome if he stayed out of trouble.

146

00:14:52,274 --> 00:14:56,278

His good behavior lasted two weeks.

147

00:14:56,278 --> 00:15:11,291

He came to the rescue of an actress being abused by a theater manager.

148

00:15:11,291 --> 00:15:16,295

Once again, his adoration of a gentle sex was his downfall.

149

00:15:16,295 --> 00:15:21,300

He was reported by the manager and expelled from Florence.

150

00:15:27,305 --> 00:15:39,316

In the endless string of assignations, flirtations, intrigues, call them what you will, the question remains, was there love?

151

00:15:39,316 --> 00:15:42,319

The answer is yes.

152

00:15:44,320 --> 00:15:50,326

In Cezana, Casanova met a young lady who had left her home to escape from an unhappy marriage.

153

00:15:50,326 --> 00:15:55,330

She was bright and beautiful and they fell truly in love.

154

00:15:57,332 --> 00:16:02,336

For several months they traveled together, reveling in the glow of romance.

155

00:16:18,351 --> 00:16:25,357

Although Henriette cared deeply for Casanova, she was a shrewd judge of character.

156

00:16:27,359 --> 00:16:33,364

Casanova was not a man with whom one could build a future.

157

00:16:33,364 --> 00:16:37,368

Her message read, Tu obligeras aussi Henriette.

158

00:16:37,368 --> 00:16:41,371

You will also forget Henriette.

159

00:17:04,392 --> 00:17:13,400

The next day her coachman returned with a one word message. Goodbye.

160

00:17:21,407 --> 00:17:27,412

A legend is a story handed down to us from the past containing an element of truth.

161

00:17:28,413 --> 00:17:34,418

Although it is a fact that these two legendary lovers could each claim a thousand affairs,

162

00:17:34,418 --> 00:17:39,423

are we to assume that quantity is a valid measure when applied to love?

163

00:17:42,425 --> 00:17:49,432

In the case of Don Juan, the question is dealt with in a poignant and telling manner by author Edmund Rossdand.

164

00:17:58,440 --> 00:18:04,445

Having been cast into hell by the statue of the commander, Don Juan was greeted by the devil,

165

00:18:04,445 --> 00:18:10,450

who had been expecting him and welcomed him.

166

00:18:16,456 --> 00:18:22,461

The devil explained that all who come to hell are assigned a role to reflect their performance on earth.

167

00:18:23,462 --> 00:18:28,466

Don Juan asked what his role was to be.

168

00:18:31,469 --> 00:18:35,473

It was the suit of a court jester, a fool.

169

00:18:35,473 --> 00:18:40,477

Don Juan complained there must be some mistake.

170

00:18:40,477 --> 00:18:46,482

No mistake said the devil. Put it on. You will be our clown. You will make a perfect fool.

171

00:18:47,483 --> 00:18:52,488

Don Juan argued that he was a great lover, a man of a thousand and three conquests.

172

00:18:52,488 --> 00:19:01,496

The devil had a suggestion. If one could remember one, just one of his supposed loves, he could avoid the fool's role.

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00:19:03,497 --> 00:19:07,501

The bargain was struck and the women were summoned.

174

00:19:08,502 --> 00:19:12,505

Now the strange trial began.

175

00:19:12,505 --> 00:19:19,512

I remember how could I ever forget our beautiful night in Paris. You are Arabella.

176

00:19:19,512 --> 00:19:23,515

No one. It was Rome. I am Sarah.

177

00:19:26,518 --> 00:19:30,521

Only one. I only have to remember one.

178

00:19:30,521 --> 00:19:37,528

And so it went. One by one they came and time after time he failed.

179

00:19:42,532 --> 00:19:49,538

This time I'm certain I will not be made a fool. It was Madrid. You are Esmeralda.

180

00:19:49,538 --> 00:19:54,543

No one. We were in Malaga. I am Cara.

181

00:19:55,544 --> 00:20:01,549

The sad parade continued until...

182

00:20:04,552 --> 00:20:10,557

Yes said the devil. A real tear. This one truly loved you.

183

00:20:10,557 --> 00:20:14,561

Offered you a great and lasting love.

184

00:20:17,563 --> 00:20:22,568

Finally, accepting the truth of his life, Don Juan said,

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00:20:22,568 --> 00:20:26,571

Give me the suit.

186

00:20:33,577 --> 00:20:38,582

Jacomo Casanova. Great lover or great fool.

187

00:20:40,584 --> 00:20:45,588

By his own admission, the number of his liaisons equaled that of Don Juan.

188

00:20:46,589 --> 00:20:51,593

Ironically, there is evidence that he contributed to the libretto of Don Giovanni,

189

00:20:51,593 --> 00:20:55,597

the Mozart opera based on the Don Juan story.

190

00:20:59,601 --> 00:21:03,604

Yet there is an outstanding difference between the two men.

191

00:21:03,604 --> 00:21:10,610

While Don Juan left bitterness in his wake, Casanova's women maintained tender feelings for him

192

00:21:10,610 --> 00:21:13,613

long after the passion of their affairs had faded.

193

00:21:14,614 --> 00:21:19,618

An enduring testimony to the generosity of Casanova's character.

194

00:21:22,621 --> 00:21:26,625

If a lover can be defined as one who enjoys the giving as well as the taking,

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00:21:26,625 --> 00:21:32,630

then surely Giacomo Casanova must be granted the title of lover.

196

00:21:32,630 --> 00:21:39,716

Breaking into this

197

00:21:43,640 --> 00:21:48,644

Coming up next in search of traces a route to what may be the historical side of the Garden of Eden.