A Gentle Woman (1969)
Directed by Robert Bresson

A beautiful young woman (Dominique Sanda in her debut role) leaps from a Paris balcony to her death. Baffled by her suicide, a grief-stricken husband (Guy Frangin) sets out to learn what led his wife to such a desperate act. Through flashbacks we learn how the young couple met and married. The young man makes a living as a pawnbroker. His quiet, but domineering nature stifles his wife. Their scarce dialogue only deepens her isolation. Escape from her unredeemable is only possible through death—either her husbands or her own.

The film was adapted from Fyodor Dostoevsky's short story "A Gentle Creature (Кроткая)". It is Bresson's first color film.

88 min.

Gertrud (1964)
Directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer

Dryer's last completed film tells the story of Gertrud Kanning (Nina Pens Rode), a woman in solitude. On the eve of her husband's (Bendt Rothe) appointment to a cabinet minister post, Gertrud tells him that she is leaving their loveless marriage. Her young lover Erland Jansson (Baard Owe), a concert pianist, is not interested in continuing their affair out into the open. Her former lover, the poet Gabriel Lidman (Ebbe Rode), once again offers his love to Gertrud. Unwilling to compromise in love again, she refuses him, choosing instead to live out her life alone.

Gertrud plays out in long takes. There are less than ninety shots in the entire film.

119 min.