



S P O I L E R

Ivan Turgenev, *First Love*

Zinaida reveals that she has chosen a lover. Woldemar is sickened by the possibility of her being lost to him, and stalks her in her garden to see who she might meet as she walks there by night. He brings a knife to kill his rival, but drops it as he notices that it is his own father. Confusion settles into his mind, and he spirals into depression. One day he sees his father argue with Zinaida, and watches in agony as his father raps the young woman on her arm with his horse-cane. Shortly afterward he enters the university. His parents move away, and his father soon dies of a stroke. In three or four years, he is offered the chance to meet Zinaida, who is now married. He delays for a couple of weeks. When he finally attempts to see her, he discovers that she has died in childbirth just four days earlier. He is left with the scar of his love for her and a sorrow for his lost youth.



