

and if I don't get a chance to do them, I'm going to be really heartbroken. Barbara, please, Barbara — you've got to do something to show them you're alive. You've got to do something. You've got to show them. You gotta do it for me, Barbara. Please, just show them. Just help me, Barbara. I need you, Barbara. Please, help me, Barbara. For me, do it for me, Barbara. Barbara, please help me! You gotta do it! You can do it! Show them, Barbara. Please, help me, Barbara! Sidi! She's grabbing my hand! Sidi! She's crying! She's alive! Barbara's alive! Look, Sidi! Barbara!

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

1985

Screenplay by Leonard Schrader. Based on the novel by Manuel Puig.
Directed by Hector Babenco. Produced by David Weisman.

Setting: A prison in an unnamed South American country in the 1980s

Kiss of the Spider Woman is the haunting story of two men unjustly imprisoned by a brutal South American junta. Based on the bestselling novel by Manuel Puig, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* is the tale of Molina, a gentle man imprisoned for his homosexuality, and of Valentin, member of an underground political organization determined to free the people of his country.

Forced to share a cell, these two very different men learn to come to terms with one another. Valentin learns that there is more to being a man than biological determination, and Molina learns that there are things in life worth giving your life for.

To escape the hellish nightmare of prison, Molina likes to "tell" his favorite movie. In this way the two men are able to leave the pain and humiliation of torture behind, if only for a few moments, as they enter the beautiful fantasy world of Molina's imagination. When the two men finally part, they have forged a love that transcends politics and sexuality.

MOLINA

Molina bitterly speaks of his life outside prison and of the terrible loneliness that preys upon his soul. He describes meeting what he likes to call a "real man" and of his frustrated feelings of love.

I'll cry about whatever I want to. Do you think you're the only one who's suffered? Do you think it's easy to find a real man? One who is humble and yet has dignity. How many years have I been searching; how many nights; how many faces filled with

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scorn and deceit? I mean, you know, working as a window-dresser — enjoyable as it is — sometimes at the end of the day you wonder what it's all about. You feel kind of empty inside. Then, one night, my heart was pounding; so afraid that I would get hurt once again. His white tunic, the way he moved, his sad smile; everything seemed so perfect, like in the movies. You have no idea how much trouble I went through, month after month, just to get him to go for a walk. But little by little, I made him see that I respected him. Anyway, after more than a year, we finally became friends. Nothing at all happened — ever. Don't you know anything at all? He's straight, he's married. I said to him: "Just once. Let's do it just once." But he never wanted to.

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VALENTIN

Here, Valentin describes Marta, the woman he loves. He tells of the day that he told her about his subversive activities and of the events which led to his arrest. He verbally denounces his martyrdom and pleads for life.

I'm going to tell you the truth. During torture, whenever I felt close to death, it was Marta I would think about and she would save me. My whole body ached to hold her. She's upper class; pure bourgeois. She's got everything; money, looks, ed-