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Born in Brussels on 5 July 1929. Psychoanalyst: Degree in psychology from the Université Libre in Brussels in 1970. Admitted to the Belgian Society of Psychoanalysis in 1976. In 1996 she was awarded the Prix Médicis for her novel 'Orlanda'.

The narrator is an architect in his sixties. One day his car breaks down in the vicinity of a graceful 18<sup>th</sup> century house. He falls under the spell of the residence. The three generations of women who live there, offer him bed and breakfast and small favours in exchange for repair work to the roof. The maintenance of La Diguière, the name of the property, is the penniless inhabitants' only luxury and their sole reason for living, and they will stop at nothing to achieve their aims.

Thus the narrator reluctantly becomes both witness and accomplice to an intrigue that becomes more and more insidious but which takes place with complete impunity.



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