***La regenta***

First of all, we must explain why we keep the Spanish tittle of the novel and why we are going to use it in different parts of our explanations. In fact the English translations of the novel use to keep the Spanish tittle because of the difficulties to find a suitable word for “regenta” in English. We should notice that in other languages, such as German or Swedish, they have used the word “president”, in feminine in those languages, because of the reasons we are going to explain below.

The main character, Ana Ozores, is called “la regenta” (feminine noun in Spanish) because she is married to “el regente” (masculine noun in Spanish) who is her husband´s title as he was the president of the main court of the province. In fact, the narrator explains that when the action takes place this title was old-fashioned because the name of that post had changed and it was then “presidente” (president) of the court. On the other hand Ana Ozores´ husband, Víctor Quintanar, was then retired, therefore he was not “el regente” any more, and another person (who doesn´t appear in the story) was the president of the court; but the people in Vetusta (the city where the action takes place) thought “regente” was a more prestigious title and they continued to name him “regente” as this couldn´t cause confusion with the real president.

But we should notice that giving the title of “regenta” to Ana Ozores has an intention because it shows that a woman in the 19th century was not an independent and autonomous person, she depended on her husband.

The action takes places in Vetusta, which is clearly inspired by Oviedo; that is the reason why many people in the time the novel was published thought it was a critic to the society of Oviedo and to people of that time. This fact caused problems to its author and even to his family in the following years. But actually Oviedo was only his inspiration and he tried to reflect and criticize the values of the society of his time and he found that inspiration in the city which he knew better.

**Topics and values of the novel**

For many years the critics said that this novel was the story of an adulterous relationship. It was compared to *Madame Bovary* and it is true that some passages of our novel are similar to some ones in the French novel. But while in *Madame Bovary* the adulterous relationship is recounted in several chapters of the novel and lasts quite a long time in the time of it, in *La regenta* this relationship is only shown in one chapter (out of 30) and lasts less than two months in a story that lasts three years.

On the other hand, in a novel which recounts an adulterous relationship, the main characters should be the husband, the wife and the lover. In *La regenta*, we have a fourth character, who is in fact the most important after Ana Ozores, it is Fermín de Pas, the confessor. But actually the only main character is Ana, because, although Fermín de Pas is very important in the story, he only appears when he is part of Ana´s life or story. Ana suffers changes due to the plot but Fermín doesn´t, which shows that what is recounted is Ana´s story, the rest of the characters are subordinated to hers.

Our novel shows how a woman in the 19th century tries to fight between her ethics and the temptations that surround her. She tries to find a shelter in her marriage and home, in religion, in literature, in her own esteem to avoid that adulterous relationship. But she fails, and, when this happens, she is the only one who is responsible of it because the hypocritical society of her time leaves her alone and rejects her while her lover escapes without any harm.

We can compare Ana to Nora in *A Doll´s House.* Both women lack autonomy and independence in the society of their time and, in some aspects, they behave as if they were minors. But Nora decides, at the end of the play, to face the values of that society and fight the consequences, while Ana suffers the consequences of breaking them but without rebellion.

Nevertheless, she was free to choose. She could have chosen a different husband, or being a nun to avoid getting married to someone she didn´t love, or try to find a job in a society that didn´t allow high class women to work. She didn´t do any of that, she accepted getting married to a man she knew she didn´t love and with whom she didn´t have children. An in this situation she can only find happiness and salvation in religion or in a lover and both will fail.

**Characters**

Ana Ozores

As we said before, she is the main character, perhaps the only one. The physical quality which stands out is beauty, although her physical description is not very detailed. We can say she suffers from narcissism. She lost her mother at birth and was educated by a strict governess, she didn´t love much her father with whom she didn´t have much contact, she married to a man she didn´t love, she doesn´t have children and she misses them. That is why she feels sorry for herself. She tries to find a shelter in religion and friendship in her confessor. But when she discovers that her confessor loves her, she escapes and tries to find happiness with Álvaro Mesía, the local Casanova.

Fermín de Pas

His physical description is quite ambiguous. The look in his eyes shows his ambition, his thirst of power, anger…, but he is also shown as a strong, tall man, whose manly beauty could attract a woman, Ana for instance, if he was not a priest. Psychologically speaking, his thirst of power controls all his life. He pretends to rule all the people who depends on him and even those who don´t, for example Ana at the beginning of the novel. This is determined by the power his mother has in his life and that she focuses on the acquisition of riches due to their poor origins. Nevertheless, in different moments he rejects it; he would like to free himself from all the ties and hypocrisy. He sometimes feels his ecclesiastical habit as a symbol of it and would like to leave it to dream of what he desires, his love with Ana Ozores, for instance, which he confesses to himself when he can´t hide it to himself any more.

Víctor Quintanar

He is Ana Ozores´ husband. He is almost shown as a caricature. He is described like a husband taken from the Spanish comedies of the 17th century. He is worried about his honor and he even says he would kill her wife´s lover in case she was unfaithful. But when this happens, the caricature disappears. We learn the bitter feelings and thoughts the adultery causes on him; he blames himself for it; he rejects his ideas about dishonored husbands that come from the 17th century comedies; he would like to forgive his wife and avoid the duel the hypocritical society pushes him to do.

Álvaro Mesía

He is the lover, the seducer, also shown as a caricature. He plays the role of the Casanova (“donjuán” in Spanish) in the story. We know very little about his life and his thoughts, just his ideas about love relationships, which he considers just a collection of love affairs to boast in front of that hypocritical society. About his physical description, we only know he is handsome, but the narrator says his beauty is a bit “worn-out” due to his love excesses and his age.

**Other characters**

There are many other characters in the novel; these are the ones that appear in the summary of the novel below.

Barinaga, Santos: he is a shopkeeper who is ruined due to the competition Mr. de Pas´shop has caused to his business. He also gets drunk as a consequence.
Bermúdez, Saturnino: the local erudite.
Bismarck: altar boy in the cathedral.
Camoirán, Fortunato: he is the bishop of Vetusta. He is a kind man with a weak personality. He is ruled by de Pas and his mother.
Carraspique, Francisco: he is an aristocrat and conservative man who keeps his daughters in different convents in spite of their bad health. One of them, Rosa, dies because of tuberculosis.
Celedonio: Altar boy in the cathedral.
Crespo, Tomás: His nickname is Frígilis, it is a play on words based on the Spanish word “frágil” (fragile); he uses to say that humans and their behavior, as a consequence, is fragile. He is a friend of Víctor Quintanar and Ana Ozores´, he is a kind man and the only one who helps and supports Ana at the end of the novel.
Custodio: he is a canon in the cathedral, one of de Pas´ enemies.
Fandiño, Obdulia: she is a widow; she leads a scandalous life and uses to go to all the high class meetings and parties in Vestusta.
Guimarán, Pompeyo: he is the official atheist of Vetusta.
Olías de Cuervo, Visitación: she is married to a bank employee; she also leads a scandalous life in spite of her marriage and also goes to all the high class parties usually with Obdulia Fandiño but without her husband; she was one of Mesías´ lovers before her marriage.
Ozores, Carlos: he was Ana´s father.
Petra: Ana´s maid; she has an important role in the outcome of the novel.
Raíces, Paula: Mr. Fermín de Pas´ mother; she is ambitious and authoritarian and has an enormous influence on his son.
Rianzares, Petronila: she is one of de Pas´ allies, de Pas and Ana Ozores sometimes meet in her house.
Ripamilán, Cayetano: he is one of the canons in the cathedral. He is also one of de Pas´ allies and is Ana´s confessor at the beginning of the novel.
Teresina: she is de Pas and his mother´s maid.
Vegallana, Marquis and Marquess of: they are the most prominent members of the aristocracy; the high class of Vetusta uses to meet in their palace.
Vegallana, Francisco (Paco): he is the marquises´ son and Mesias´ best friend.

**Summary of the novel**

Chapter 1. (2nd October) It is time for siesta in Vestusta. Bismarck and Celedonio, altar boys in the cathedral, are going to ring the bells in the tower, and notice one of the canons is coming up the stairs: it is Mr. Fermín de Pas, one of the most prominent canons in the cathedral in Vetusta.
It is his custom to climb the highest place in the town or region where he lives, the tower of the cathedral in this case, to scrutinize with his spyglass the buildings and people around and have them, so tiny, at his feet. This shows his arrogance and ambition. Celedonio knows that using the spyglass you can see what happens in every corner of the city, in streets, in gardens, even inside rooms. He, when Mr. de Pas was once distracted, could see the Regenta, Mrs. Ana Ozores, the most beautiful lady in the city, walking in her garden.
Mr. Fermín´s spyglass is also the instrument the narrator uses to give a brief panoramic view of Vetusta: La Encimada, the old town where the aristocracy lives; La Colonia, the bourgeois district, where the new rich people who made their fortune in America live; and El Campo del Sol, the working class district around the factories where the Church is losing its influence.
When Mr. Fermín comes down the tower, he bumps into one of his enemies in the cathedral, Mr. Custodio; he also meets Saturnino Bermúdez, the local erudite, who is explaining the artistic values of the cathedral to a married couple accompanied by Obdulia Fandiño.

Chapter 2. After celebrating the Nones service, the canons have an unexpected meeting in the sacristy that the narrator uses to present the canons and their enmities and envies.
Ana Ozores, Mr. Víctor Quintanar´s wife and former Regente (president of the Court of Vestuta), had Mr. Cayetano Ripamilán as her confessor up to this moment. But, due to his old age, he decides to tell Mr. de Pas to become the confessor of this important lady, which causes the envy of his enemies. This evening Ana has waited for Mr. De Pas to be confessed but he doesn´t do it that day. Therefore, he, accompanied by Mr. Cayetano Ripamilán, goes to the Espolón Promenade, where the aristocracy and bourgeoisie have a walk at that time, to meet her and apologize.

Chapter 3. After their meeting in the Espolón Promenade, they arrange to have a general confession the next day in order to know her better. Mrs. Ana Ozores starts to examine her life. The narrator uses this to tell us about Ana´s childhood: she had lost her mother at birth and was educated by a horrible governess while her father was exiled because of political reasons. She remembers when she escaped on a boat with a young boy and the gossip that it caused. These memories cause a nervous breakdown that her husband tries to calm down.

Chapter 4. Ana continues with her memories: her adolescence; how her father (Mr. Carlos Ozores), a freethinker and agnostic, marries a plebeian (a seamstress trainee) and then breaks down his relationship with his family and the rest of Vetustas´ aristocracy as a consequence.

Chapter 5. Ana continues with her memories once again. When her father dies, her aunts, two strict old maids who live in Vetusta, decide to take care of her. Due to her beauty and her aunts´ efforts, the aristocracy in Vestusta accepts Ana as a member of their group. They try to find her a husband and decide the appropriate man is Mr. Víctor Quintanar in spite of his age (he is more than fifty while Ana is in her twenties). Ana tries to keep on with her hobbies, reading and writing, but the aristocracy laughs at it and has to give it up. Mr. Álvaro Mesía, the Casanova of Vetusta, appears in her life as they usually meet in different reunions in the most important houses in the city. Ana also meets Mr. Tomás Crespo (whose nickname is Frígilis); he is one of Mr. Quintanar´s friends and one of the few people who is nice to her.

Chapter 6. (3rd October)This chapter takes place in the local social club of Vestusta (called the casino). We know the most important members of it and the political opinions, relationships, and rivalries of them all. They also gossip about different people in the city and they discuss about the ambition of Mr. Álvaro Mesías (the casino´s president) of winning Ana over.

Chapter 7. Discussions in the casino: some members defend Ana against Álvaro´s ambitions while others support Álvaro´s plans. They also attack or defend Mr. Fermín de Pas because of his power and how he manipulates the Bishop. Those discussions stop when Mr. Mesía, accompanied by Francisco Vegallana, enters the room and continue when both leave to Mr. Vegallana´s palace.

Chapter 8. The chapter takes place in the Marquises of Vegallanas´ Palace. We know about this family, the most important among the aristocracy, and the social gatherings where Álvaro has the opportunity to win over his lovers. When Álvaro and Paco Vegallana arrive, Mrs. Obdulia Fandiño and Mrs. Visitación Olías (former Álvaro´s lover) are there and Visitación encourages Álvaro to win Ana over, so that Ana´s virtue will “fall down” as it happened to Visitación.

Chapter 9. After the confession with Mr. Fermín, Ana decides to go for a walk with her maid, Petra, before they come back home. At dusk they go back home walking through the Bulevar, where the walking class enjoys at the end of the day, and Comercio Street where they meet Álvaro and Paco. We also know that the confession lasted one hour and Ana remembers some details about it, so we can have an idea about what happened from her point of view.

Chapter 10. The Marquess of Vegallana (accompanied by her son, Francisco or Paco) decides to go to the Ozores´ house to persuade them to go with her to the theatre where they perform La vida es sueño by Calderón de la Barca. Ana refuses due to her religious obligations (she has to receive communion early in the morning next day). Finally her husband goes to the theatre and Ana wanders along the house thinking about her confession because she is not satisfied with it. She enters a room where her husband stocks up different devices and gets trapped in a trap for foxes. Her maid, Petra, helps her and Ana, who is very nervous, decides to walk in the garden. Meanwhile Álvaro, who was at the theatre, decides to go out for a walk near the Ozores´ garden to have the chance to meet Ana. He can hardly believe it when he sees her there and calls her name. Ana, who guesses who is calling, escapes terrified and has a nervous breakdown. When her husband comes back home and knows about the breakdown suggests his wife to cure it taking up hobbies.

Chapter 11. Mr. de Pas is working in his study early in the morning. He remembers details of Ana´s confession, therefore we know about it from his point of view. Later he talks to her mother, who lives with him, about it and the gossip that is spreading throughout the city (the confession has been very long), and about the influence that they have in all the parishes in the province and that their enemies want to use against them, and how their businesses (although they are not legally theirs because it is forbidden for him as a member of the Church) may have ruined some shopkeepers, Mr. Santos Barinaga for instance. But Fermín does not want to talk about it, he only wants to think about his influence on Mrs. Ana Ozores. Then he receives a letter from her where she explains she needs to confess again after what happened the previous night. Mr. de Pas´ mother warns him against their enemies if he is not careful with his relationship with Mrs. Ana Ozores. Finally he leaves home to congratulate different people on their name day (it is Saint Francis, 4th October).

Chapter 12. We follow Mr. Fermín de Pas while he visits several “Franciscos” whom he has to congratulate on their name day. During those visits he has to deal with some problems that his enemies want to use against him. One of them involves Mr. Francisco Carraspique´s daughter (Rosa Carraspique) who is a nun at a convent and is seriously ill with tuberculosis; some people say she may get well if she leaves the convent, an unhealthy all building, where they say Mr. de Pas has almost kidnapped her. Finally he arrives to the Vegallana Palace to congratulate the son of the marquises and where he expects to find Ana because she is a close friend of the family and he knows, in days like that, she uses to have lunch with other good friends of the family. He also expects to be invited to have lunch.

Chapter 13. Fermín de Pas is invited to have lunch at the marquises´ house. Mr. Álvaro Mesía is also invited. Ana will have the opportunity to compare both men, that is what the evil tongues say. After lunch, they have coffee in the garden and Obdulia Fandiño gets trapped while she is swinging. Mr. De Pas manages to free her after others have tried to, Álvaro for instance, without success. This makes Álvaro feel jealous of Mr. de Pas. Then they decide to go to El Vivero, a property the marquises have some kilometres away from Vetusta, to continue the party. Mr. de Pas decides not to go with them due to his obligations, but he gets on the same carriage that leaves him at the Espolón Promenade.

Chapter 14. Description of the Espolón Promenade and the people who use to walk there. These people gossip about Mr. de Pas because he has had lunch at the marquises´ house and he gets off one of their carriages. He spends several hours walking around and thinking about what may happen at El Vivero where he knows some of the distractions between men and women are not very “honest”. Finally he goes back home where he knows his mother is waiting for him very angry because he has not told her about the invitation and has been asking where he may be in different places, such as the Bishop´s Palace.

Chapter 15. Fermín and his mother, Paula, have a big argument. Her mother warns him against having a scandal with the Regenta. In the rest of the chapter we learn about their past. They come from a very poor village where Paula´s father worked in the coal mines and spent most of the money he earned in drinks. When she was very young she worked as a maid for a priest whom she blackmailed after he tried to abuse her. She got pregnant of a former soldier and married him, but he dies when Fermín is very young. With the money he got from the priest she started different businesses in order her son could study to be a priest. Finally she worked as a maid for Mr. Fortunato Camoirán who will be later Bishop in Vetusta.

Chapter 16. A month has gone by. It is All Saints Day (1st November). Ana feels sad at home. Álvaro has not been very successful in his conquest. She looks out from her balcony and Álvaro appears riding a horse. He understands it is the opportunity he has been looking for but doesn´t dare to say anything. Ana knows she feels attracted by him. Her husband arrives and both men convince her to go to the theatre that evening to see Don Juan Tenorio. During the performance she identifies with the female main character and Álvaro, who is near her, understands what Ana is feeling. Ana has a bad night and she gets up late next morning. He receives a letter from Mr. de Pas who asks her to meet in the cathedral that evening to confess. But Ana makes excuses saying that she has a bad headache.

Chapter 17. The next day Mr. de Pas visits the Regenta. He tells her he knows he had gone to the theatre the previous night and that is against the religious traditions on a day like that. They talk in the garden until late in the evening and they arrange to meet, but not in the cathedral to avoid gossip. Petra, the maid, hides the visit to her husband. The next morning Frígilis, who takes care of the garden, finds a purple glove. He asks Petra whose priest is its owner, but Petra lies by saying it belongs to Ana because Petra feels there is a kind of love affair between Fermín and Ana.

Chapter 18. Winter arrives full of rain as usual. The chapter describes how people live and enjoy themselves during that sad season. Ana has only confessed twice since November and she didn´t meet Mr. de Pas out of the cathedral as they had arranged. Fermín sees from the top of the tower of the cathedral how Ana throws a pious book on a bench in her garden. A week later, when Ana meets Fermín to confess, he manages to convince her to start a pious life and to meet at Mrs. Petronila Rianzares´ house, one of the most religious women in the city.

Chapter 19. Ana falls ill at the end of March and is ill for several weeks with a relapse due to a spiritual crisis while she tries to read a book by Santa Teresa. In this chapter we also learn some details about the previous months that have prepared the crisis. Since February, Álvaro has decided to become her husband´s friend and they meet at home, going for excursions in the countryside, at the Vegallana Palace… Ana feels how Álvaro loves her in silence and it is a great pleasure for her. On the occasion of going to the cathedral to confess it is when Mr. de Pas convinces her to start a pious life and Ana decides to divide her life between a religious life and a worldly one.

Chapter 20. Mr. Pompeyo Guimarán is “formally” the only atheist in Vetusta. Mr. Santos Barinaga, whose business has been ruined by Mr. de Pas and her mother, becomes friend of Mr. Guimarán to fight them. Mr. Mesía, who is afraid Mr. de Pas is successful in his love affair with the Regenta, supports Guimarán and Barinaga. They arrange to have a dinner as a tribute to Mr. Guimarán in the casino in which they decide to create an association to fight Mr. de Pas and his mother. Meanwhile Fermín´s mother is sure there is an affair between Mrs. Ana Ozores and his son and prepares to fight their enemies. At the end of July, Álvaro goes to the Ozores´ house to say good bye until he comes back from his holidays in September. Ana, who tries to hide her love and sadness, starts crying as soon as Álvaro leaves the room.

Chapter 21. We read about the relationship between Ana and Fermín during the spring and the early summer. Paula, Fermín´s mother, keeps a close eye on them because she is convinced of the risk of that relationship. Mr. de Pas feels happier each day. While Fermin´s mother is away, he has sexual relations with his maid, Teresina. Ana tries to persuade her husband to start a pious life without much success. That is when Álvaro comes home to say good bye until September.

Chapter 22. Summer ends and all the people who had been away on holidays come back to Vetusta. Mr. Santos Barinaga dies without confession; some weeks before the nun Rosa Carraspique dies because of tuberculosis. Mr. Guimarán, the atheist, has avoided that Mr. Barinaga receives the holy sacraments. Even the Bishop has tried to go to convince Mr. Barinaga to accept them, although Mr. de Pas prohibited him to do it. The burial becomes a demonstration against Mr. de Pas.

Chapter 23. It is Christmas Eve. All the important people in Vestusta attend midnight mass. On Christmas Day, Ana and Fermín meet at Mrs. Petronila Rianzares´ house. He tells her how he feels after all the attacks that he has suffered for weeks and she promises him to support and defend him.

Chapter 24. Ana gets permission from Fermín to go to a dance in the casino on Shrove Tuesday Eve because her husband has insisted on it. After dinner, Víctor tells Ana and Víctor to dance together. Ana faints in his arms while dancing and has to be taken home. Mr. Paco Vegallana congratulates Álvaro for his success because most people guess what has caused Ana´s faint.

Chapter 25. Next day Mr. de Pas trembles when he learns what happened the night before in the casino. Fermín admits to himself that he is in love with Ana. He sets a date with her at Mrs. Rianzares´ house and there he tells her about his passion although not very clearly. But Ana understands what he feels and runs away. Meanwhile Álvaro plans to wait until Lent finishes to continue with his “campaign”. One day while he is walking in the country, he meets Mr. de Pas. De Pas has a desire to kill him and has to run away. Some days later Ana regrets her attitude with Fermín and tries to start again her pious life.

Chapter 26. Mr. Guimarán is seriously ill. In fact he has been ill since Mr. Barinaga´s burial. Mr. Guimarán asks Mr. de Pas to confess him. Fermín receives a letter from Ana just when he is going to leave to Mr. Guimarán´s house. Fermín decides to go to Ana´s house before and there they reconcile. They decide Ana will walk barefoot as a penitent during the procession on Good Friday. But during the procession Ana feels ashamed of herself because of the scene she is giving and her husband feels the same. In the end Mr. Guimarán´s confession and Ana´s decision are a great success for Mr. de Pas.

Chapter 27. After the procession, Ana falls ill again. In order to recover from her crisis, the Vegallanas offer her and her husband El Vivero (this was suggested by Mr. Mesía). There, in the countryside, Ana feels happy and relaxed. Álvaro goes to visit her very frequently accompanied by Paco Vegallana. On the 29th of June (Saint Peter´s feast), the marquises invite many of their friends to have lunch in El Vivero. One of those guests is Mr. de Pas who, while they walk through a forest to go to the church for the celebrations, has an erotic affair with Petra, Ana´s maid, in a hut. After lunch some of the guests (Ana and Álvaro, for instance) go for walk in the forest, but suddenly a storm bursts violently.

Chapter 28. Mr. de Pas feels jealous and urges Mr. Quintanar to look for Ana, thinking she and Álvaro could have sheltered in the same hut where he has had the erotic affair with Petra that morning. They walk through the forest and reach the hut, but nobody is there because they could find a carriage that took them home. Both men, completely soaked, go back to the house; Mr. Quntanar doesn´t understand Mr. de Pas´ behavior and the second is so furious, feeling that he has made a fool of himself, that, when they reach the house, leaves as quickly as he can to Vetusta. When Ana learns what has happened, she understands that Fermín is jealous. Some days later Álvaro declares his love to her.

Summer arrives and everybody goes on holidays. Ana and her husband spend the summer with Álvaro in a town on the coast. They go back to Vetusta at the beginning of September and Álvaro continues with his seduction. In November all the Vegallana´s guests go to El Vivero for the last time before the bad weather arrives. At dusk they go back to Vetusta and have dinner at the marquises´ palace and after dinner, finally, Ana accepts to start their love affair with Álvaro.

Chapter 29. Mr. Quintanar, who ignores the adulterous relationship, invites Álvaro very frequently to have lunch or dinner at home. Mr. de Pas suspects of Ana and Álvaro and asks Petra to inform him if they have a love affair. Álvaro has paid Petra to help him to come into the house without being noticed. When Petra learns that Teresina, Mr. De Pas´ maid, is going to get married and leave the house, decides to ask Mr. de Pas for the post, therefore she tells Mr. de Pas what is happening.

Mr. Quintanar and Frígilis use to go for hunting very early in the morning and this is one of the reasons Ana and Víctor don´t sleep in the same bedroom. So Ana and Álvaro can spend the night together and he leaves very early before Mr. Quntanar gets up. Mr. de Pas tells Petra to move his alarm clock forward one hour, so Mr. Quintanar will see how Álvaro leaves Ana´s bedroom. That is what happens and Víctor is on the verge of shooting him but finally he doesn´t do it. He goes hunting, feels miserable all day and, when they are arriving home, Víctor tells his friend Frígilis what he has discovered that morning. Frígilis asks him not to say anything fearing what Ana may feel and do.

Chapter 30. But Mr. De Pas is waiting for Mr. Quintanar at home. Fermín urges Víctor to revenge. Therefore Víctor finds himself forced to challenge Álvaro to a duel. In the duel Víctor dies. Álvaro leaves to Madrid and he writes a letter to the Regenta from there. Ana is abandoned and looked down on by everybody in the city, but for Frigilis who cares and accompanies her. In October, one day just like that one when the story began, she goes to the cathedral asking Fermín for confession and understanding, but he pushes her away and she faints on the floor. While she lies there unconscious, Celedonio notices her, approaches and kisses her. That is when Ana regains her consciousness with the sensation that a toad has touched her mouth.