

Based on the novel by Albero Moravia, *La ciociara*, 1957

*La ciociara* tells the story of a widow, Cesira and her young 13 year old daughter, Rosetta. The two women flee the bombing of Rome for the country side thinking they will be safer there. Italy is in the midst of the terrible chaos of WWII. The Germans are retreating north as the Allies push up from Sicily. The Fascists are still running most of the countryside at the beginning of the film. But various forces clash: The Allied paratroopers, the Fascists, the Germans, the peasants of the Ciociaria region. Although the end of the War should bring safety the advancing coalition of Allied Troops from France, Morocco, Great Britain and USA do not always help nor liberate the civilian population. Quite the contrary.

Based on historical facts, but using the screen icon Sofia Loren, this film may be considered a hybrid with neorealist traits.

1. Describe the heroine Cesira. What is her occupation in Rome and how would you describe her personality?
2. What is her relationship with Giovanni?
3. Why does she leave her prosperous situation in Rome?
4. Why is she so protective of her daughter? Compare the two women.
5. What do they find in the countryside? Does Cesira's illusion of honest country folk and health peasant ways become shattered? Why?
6. Why does she decide to return to Rome?
7. What is her relationship with Michele?
8. Why is Michele different from the other country people?
9. Do the American soldiers the two women encounter after their trauma help them or try to understand what has happened to them?
10. How does the mother daughter relation ship change after what happens in the church?
11. How would you define the ending?
12. Comment on the tonality. Are there any examples of objective camera in this film? Scenes shot from one of the characters points of view?
13. What myth of the liberation does this film dismantle?