

**FILUMENA MARTURANO**

**THE COURAGE TO BE A WOMAN**

**FILUMENA AND THE FEMALE UNIVERSE**

Through the feminine universe, complex and sometimes mysterious, Eduardo offers the opportunity to explore the dimension of feelings, to understand that fervor that distinguishes a passionate woman. The character of Filumena Marturano embodies all these passions, all those ideals of human life and life lived with the courage of those who fought against the ominous destiny and won. Because Filumena is a winner: at the end of her tragic story, she succeeds in the attempt to unify the family unit she has always dreamed of, to be recognized as mother and wife, achieving equality not only for herself, but also for her children. A reversed Medea, who does not sacrifice her sons, but fights against everyone to guarantee them the dignity they deserve: "*’E figlie so’ ffiglie*!" , exlames Filumena Marturano in the heartfelt monologue of the Madonna delle Rose. Like Antigone, she defies social stereotypes, claiming the right to be a mother and a woman.

The curtain closes, lights fall on the tears of Filumena Marturano, the first after twenty-five years; but they are tears of joy, which leave room for the happy ending, bitter-sweet, typical of Eduardian comedies. The triumph of feelings, achieved thanks to the obstinacy and tenacity of the protagonist, does not exclude the contemporary problem of incommunicability, both familiar and social. The courage of Filumena must be the courage of women of every age, the will to affirm their identity in a world that, perhaps, has not completely overcome prejudices, but has only masked them.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filumena_Marturano>