



ILLUSIONS

de
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Synopsis

Marie is German and she is 28 years old. She has been involved with a Frenchman for the past eight years and despite her boyfriend's insistence (who had moved to Berlin to be with her), she is not yet ready to move in together...

Summary

Marie is 28 years old, a journalist living in Berlin.

For the past 8 years, she has been romantically involved with Pierre, a Frenchman; despite his pressures (he had moved to Berlin to live with her), Marie does not feel ready to move in together.

One Friday evening, Pierre drops by to pick her up before they go out; he is early, Marie still in the shower. He would like to talk to her about their future together: the possibility of moving in together and having children.

Marie does not want to engage in this sort of conversation under any circumstances, especially not that evening; all the more, because she is not alone, an old lover of hers hiding out in her bathroom.

Marie tries to manage the situation by inviting Pierre to have a glass of wine while he waits for her in the kitchen. The waiting prolongs for Pierre, as Marie does not seem able to get dressed; her lover, unimpressed by Pierre's presence in the apartment, continues to kiss her, preventing her from getting dressed.

The undertaking becomes impossible for Marie when she realizes that in her room sits another ex-lover. She wants to get dressed, but her lovers surface from her past, behind each door in her apartment, trying to seduce her, kissing her and removing her clothes systematically. Marie loses herself in the embrace of one or another of her ex-lovers, in a game of exchange of clothes and kisses.

When Pierre finally becomes impatient and joins her in her room, he finds her alone, but completely naked in front of her mirror. He reproaches her slowness and Marie begins to get dressed, all the while trying to dissimulate her obvious state of confusion.

But she loses her composure when, upon entering the living room she sees spread all around Pierre (who was reading on her couch) all her former lovers, re-united in the same room.

When Pierre glances at her, the room empties out all over again; Marie bursts into tears while Pierre is dumbfounded, asking her what the matter is. Before she can reply, the doorbell rings. Marie dries out her tears and goes to open the door. She is then face to face with the stunning Irina, a young Russian woman she had met a few days earlier and with whom she had enjoyed a night of consuming passion.

The young woman had come to pick up her handy, which she had forgotten on Marie's chest of drawers before she left her apartment at dawn that day.

Due to a misunderstanding, the two women find themselves in each other's arms before long, and exchange a long kiss, only interrupted by the arrival of Pierre, curious to see who was at the door.

The three are frozen at the entrance of the apartment, and Marie loses herself in the memories of her night with Irina.

We suddenly plunge into Marie's memories of her different nights; she is sleeping in her bed and to her side we see each time a different person; the positions of their sleeping bodies expose the type of relationships Marie has to each of her lovers.

When Marie awakes from her daydream, she is still by the entrance door, in her apartment; the beautiful Irina is no longer there. Instead of Irina, two movers are bringing in Pierre's furniture. He has finally managed to convince her and has moved into her apartment.

Marie, her gaze lost in the empty space in front of her, tries to comprehend what has happened between her memories and reality; she cannot recall how she has got to this point.

Seq.1- Bathroom – Entrance to the apartment

Marie is taking a bath.

The apartment resounds with the ring of the interphone. She does not budge.

The sound is more and more irritating: on the fifth ring, Marie comes out of the bath, visibly annoyed, and without even taking a towel, she quickly crosses the apartment and reaches the interphone.

The water dripping off her naked body wets the wooden floor.

(Dialogues are in French)

MARIE

Come up! I'm not ready!

She goes back in the bath, only to come out shortly after: she had forgotten to open the door.

MARIE (in German)

...Scheiße !

She leaves the door open and slips back into the bathtub.

Seq.2 – Entrance to the apartment

The sound of steps on the stairway anticipates Pierre's arrival.

His voice resounds in the doorway. Pierre is 30, tall, slim and dark-haired. His appearance and the way in which he is dressed give away his French-ness.

PIERRE (in French)

Huuu, where are you ?

Marie does not answer.

Pierre slips on the puddle of water Marie created.

PIERRE

Shit !

Seq. 3 – Bathroom

Pierre shows up at the bathroom door.

PIERRE (half German-half French)

Hallo, meine Liebe, are you there ? What are you doing?

MARIE (in French)

Can't you see? I'm trying to take a bath.

He enters the bathroom, gives Marie a kiss and sits next to the bathtub.

PIERRE

I saw the girl from the third floor on my way up ; she's moving in with her boyfriend at the end of the month.

You could find out from your landlord how much he's asking for the place.

MARIE
Why, do you know someone who's looking for a place ?

PIERRE
Me ! Of course, if you don't really want me to move in here with you ?!

MARIE
So what ?! Now you want to live downstairs ?

PIERRE
Why not ?
This way, we would be closer...

MARIE
Oh, please don't pressure me...

PIERRE
I really think that that would be a great solution!

Pierre comes closer and starts to gently massage her back.
Marie is startled by his touch : she does not seem to appreciate Pierre's caresses.

MARIE
Please stop, let me have my bath in peace. I've had a hellish day at the radio station today.
Go into the kitchen and pour yourself a glass of wine.

Pierre is slightly vexed. He gets up and leaves the bathroom.

Seq. 4 -kitchen-

The kitchen is a mess. The sink is brimming with dirty plates and glasses.
Pierre searches the cupboard for a wine glass, but without succeeding.
He tries to take one out of the sink, but the tall pile of plates prevents him from so doing.

PIERRE
What a mess !

He finally finds a plastic glass on a shelf and with a certain disdain, and only to get it over with, he grabs it and pours himself some wine.

Pierre is reading the newspaper, while sitting at the kitchen table.
He finishes his glass and would appreciate a refill but notices that the bottle is empty ; he tries different bottles which are on the table, but they are all empty.

PIERRE
Marie, could you hurry up ?

MARIE (voice-off)
What's up ? I can't hear you.

PIERRE (loud)
Hurry up, you are always late.

MARIE (voice-off)
I told you to go ahead without me...

PIERRE (loud)
I'd rather show up with you, so that I don't have to queue for three hours. (To himself) Berghain is always an ordeal.

MARIE (voice-off)
Wait until I come out of the bathroom, I hate speaking across rooms.

Seq. 5 – Bathroom –

Marie comes out from under the shower, a man's hands pass her the dressing gown, she slips into it ; the hands tie the belt around her waist, she does not fight it ; the hands descend the length of the gown and slide through the slit, the length of her thighs. She closes her eyes and for a moment abandons herself to the caresses.

PIERRE (voice-off)
Why don't you take the apartment on the 3rd floor ?
You always said it is a lot better than this one.

Marie pulls herself together and tries to push the stranger's/foreign hands away from her body, as if she only now realizes it was not Pierre, or better, as if she only now realizes that Pierre is in the kitchen. The hands get a firm hold of her and do not let her to go; an attractive man with blond dishevelled hair, suddenly appears from a dark corner in the bathroom ; he holds Marie tightly with his arms and then pulls her against his body forcibly. She resists him at first, but then caves in. The young man starts to passionately kiss Marie.

PIERRE (voice-off)
Did you hear what I said ?

Upon hearing Pierre's voice, Marie frees herself from her lover and re-closes her dressing-gown.

Seq. 6 – Kitchen-

Marie appears in the kitchen door, feigning nonchalance.

MARIE
Yes, I heard you, but I don't feel like moving, I love my apartment.
You're drinking wine out of a plastic glass ?

Marie manages to find a clean glass among the chaos in her kitchen ; she transfers the wine from the plastic cup to the wine-glass.

PIERRE
...But you always said that the ideal for a child would be to have both parents in the same apartment building.

We could start by living in the same building and then...

MARIE

Pierre, please, not tonight!

I'm not yet ready to move in with someone, and even less so to get pregnant.

PIERRE

Marie, but we've been together for 5 years already.

MARIE

So ?

A noise coming from the bathroom disquiets Marie.

She comes closer to Pierre, trying to be nicer.

MARIE

Please, be patient...

Pierre grabs her by the arm and forces her to sit down on his lap.

He addresses her in a paternalistic tone, fiddling with her hair.

PIERRE

My little stubborn celibate, I'm not going to give you any headaches. You can have lovers, you see, meet up with your German friends whenever you feel like it...

MARIE

Stop it !

PIERRE

I don't understand. There has never been a problem with jealousy between us. I couldn't care less...

MARIE

Of course not ! Because you love to fool around with the German girls !

PIERRE

I think you do too.

MARIE

I'm warning you, I don't want to hear anything more about that bitch, Janine.

Marie frees herself from Pierre and returns to the bathroom.

Seq. 7 – Bathroom

The bathroom is empty. Marie picks up a cream bottle which had fallen to the ground, in the middle of the room. Afterwards, she disappears in the corridor.

PIERRE (voice-off from the kitchen)

I really don't understand what the charming Janine has done to (upset) you.

Seq. 8 – Kitchen

Marie reappears in the kitchen, wearing only her underwear and bra. She takes a glass of water and swallows a pill.

MARIE
She didn't do anything to me...
What did she do to you ?

PIERRE
Amazing blow-jobs!

MARIE
You see... She is in love with you.
She only dreams of one thing, that I'm out of the picture, so that she could get her hands on you.

Marie exits into the corridor.
Pierre continues to talk to her, as if she were still in the kitchen.

PIERRE
Who is most jealous between the two of us ?
When it comes to Janine, you're overreacting, she loves you a lot, did you know ?

Seq. 9 - Changing room

Marie enters her dressing room to discover her lover who had been waiting for her. She slowly approaches him, places her hand on his face, her lover kisses her gently. Their exchange suddenly intensifies, Marie melts into his arms and they start to kiss passionately.
They end up against the closet, the young man immobilizes Marie and slowly goes down the length of her body and starts to kiss her in between the legs.
Her body arches with pleasure.

PIERRE (voice-off)
Do you hear me?
You're overreacting, I tell you!

The young man stands up and kisses Marie on the mouth. The two ignite and begin to undress each other almost violently until they're naked.
The two lovers' bodies fuse together while they kiss fervently until they fall to the ground in each other's arms.
They freeze for a moment, without moving, as if to catch their breaths: their breathing is heavy, the silhouette of their melded bodies resembles a strange animal.

After a moment of stillness, her lover slowly gets up and slides into her again; Marie moans with pleasure as he glides in and out of her.

Seq.10– Kitchen

Pierre keeps on reading the newspaper.

PIERRE
Marie, are you ready ?

From the kitchen, he glances through the corridor and catches a glimpse of Marie who is quickly coming out of her dressing room, and is going to her bedroom, this time wearing a red Kimono.

PIERRE
Marie, are you still naked ?

Seq. 11 – Bedroom

Marie is in her bedroom, this time in the arms of another young man; he is the main character of "Klappe cowboy" and he looks as if he had just stepped out of the film and walked into Marie's room.

The young man is very muscular, and has a contemporary cowboy style, he is dressed in a shirt, hat and boots.

He locks Marie into his arms and kisses her passionately, then suddenly breaks away from her only to lure her before a standing mirror, which is in the middle of the room. He moves behind her and slowly removes her red kimono. His powerful embrace holds her captive in front of the mirror: holding her from behind, he kisses her neck, shoulders, and with one hand, he draws the contour of one breast and then the other .

We follow the reflection of his hand in the mirror, as it moves down her body almost in slow motion.

Seq. 12 – Kitchen – Corridor – Living room

All the while reading his journal, Pierre stands up and starts to walk towards Marie's bedroom.

Seq. 13 – Bedroom

Pierre appears in the bedroom door, and catches Marie naked, in front of the mirror, but alone.

PIERRE
What are you doing ?
Are you trying out all of your lingerie ?

Marie is startled by Pierre's sudden appearance, her face blushed. She picks up her bra which is at her feet, then grabs some underwear and a black skirt from her bed, puts them on and hurries to leave the room. Klappe cowboy hides behind the bedroom door and throws her a mischievous look. When Pierre leaves toward the sofa, he come farther to follow Marie disappearing into the dressing room: he perceived the arms of the other lover, who grab Marie's hand and pull her into the dressing room.

Seq. 14 – Living room

Pierre goes back in the leaving room, open the fridge, he grabs something to eat and go back to sit on the couch.

Seq. 15 – Dressing room

When Marie is in the dressing room, her lovers is wearing a nice kimono, and greets her with a broad smile, then he grabs her in his arms, kisses her and takes her skirt off. Marie pushes him away, quickly puts on a black shirt and walks towards the living room.

Seq. 16 – Living room

Pierre sees Marie as she is crossing the living room wearing only her underwear and the shirt. He is surprised by her change of outfit, but remains silent.

She only passes through and quickly disappears into her room.

Seq. 17 – Bedroom

Marie storms into her room, picks up a pair of pants and puts them on, but before she can leave again, KLAPPE COWBOY intercepts her with a kiss. He unbuttons her shirt and tries to pull it off her. Marie wants to stop him, but she cannot. While he is trying to undress her, she manages to escape him and exits the room.

The young man is standing with her shirt in his hand.

Seq. 18 – Living room

Pierre is watching Marie, notices that she has changed clothes yet again. Marie does not even look at him, makes her way towards the living room and starts to look through a pile of clothes which are lying around, on the living room chairs, in search of a t-shirt.

PIERRE

You really can't get dressed tonight ?!

MARIE

No ! I can't find my t-shirt.

Can you check to see if you're sitting on a t-shirt ?

PIERRE

What colour ?

MARIE

Black.

PIERRE

No, there's only a green sweater, a pair of underwear, a man's shirt, a pair of tights and some socks, but no black t-shirt.

MARIE

Are you mocking me ?

Marie throws a glance in Pierre's direction and is baffled by what she sees: the living room is suddenly filled with men, all staring at her.

Pierre is the only one among them sitting there unawares. He continues to calmly turn the pages of his newspaper, sitting on the couch, amidst everyone.

To his side, a young man with long hair looks at Marie and winks at her; a bearded man is reclining on one of the armchair ; another, his head shaved, stands close to the window ; a young woman and man, half naked, are kissing on the bedroom doorstep ; they stop and turn to Marie, inviting her to join them.

The blond Lover appears from the dressing room and stare Marie with a provocative look. From the bedroom arrive the well-built guy.

Upon seeing all her former lovers in the same room Marie wants to shout, but somehow manages to hold it back.

Pierre lifts his eyes and the room is suddenly empty.
Marie is visibly troubled.

PIERRE

No, I'm not mocking you, your things are all over the apartment.
Marie, are you ok? You look very pale.

Marie strenuously dissimulates her troubled state/anguish ; she sits down to put on her boots.

MARIE

...

PIERRE

You want to keep living in this mess for a long time?
You know, when it comes to a young girl, mess can be cute, but from a certain age onwards...

MARIE (bursts into tears)

Stop it! You are pissing me off! (You are really getting on my nerves tonight!)

Pierre is surprised by Marie's overreaction, but before he can utter a word, the doorbell rings. Marie and Pierre freeze, she stares at him questioningly, at wits' ends. Pierre does not move. She dries her tears, gets up and goes to open the door half naked, without caring about her appearance.

Seq. 19 – Entrance to the apartment

Marie opens the door, she is surprised to see Irina, who greets her with a warm smile. Marie's face is transfigured, her eyes light up, and she slowly recovers her calm. Irina looks her intensely in the eyes, and they both keep silent for a moment.

IRINA

I am really sorry to arrive like this, but last night I forgot my phone here.
I tried to come back... right away but I couldn't find your doorbell...
I realized... I don't know your name...
I tried a few times today, hoping to find you...
I am sorry, I don't want to disturb you, but I really need my phone.

Marie does not move, she can't take her eyes off of the girl's, as she is completely bewitched by Irina's beauty and sweetness/gentleness.

Seq. 19 A- MARIE'S FLASHBACK (PHOTOS)

Marie remembers the different moments spent with Irina.

Marie is dancing alone in the middle of the dance-floor in the Weekend's club.
She goes to the bathroom. A girl, with blonde hairs, arrive next to her. It's Irina.
Marie looks at her and smiles.

Marie and Irina are speaking in front of the bathroom mirror.

Marie and Irina are dancing together sensually, and they start to kiss on the dance floor.

Marie and Irina are driving a motorcycle on the streets of Berlin.

Marie and Irina are entering Marie's building. They kiss.
They start to get undress and make love in the staircase.

The two girls are making love in Marie's bed.

Marie and Irina are lying in each other's arms.

Seq. 20 – Entrance to the apartment

Irina stands in the door, quietly waiting for Marie to say something. But Marie is still completely immersed in the memories of their first meeting and keeps on staring into her eyes without uttering a word.

Irina looks around then timidly steps towards Marie.

IRINA

You see, my phone it's here, I left it on your chest.

MARIE

My chest ? What ?

Irina extends her arm to reach for her telephone but instead touches Marie's breast(s).

MARIE

Oh, this chest !

They are looking at each other intensely, Irina smiles, slowly they come closer.

IRINA

You never wear a t-shirt ?

Their mouths are getting closer and closer, they begin to kiss very slowly, a kiss which seems to be never-ending.

Seq. 21 – In Marie's bed

(High angle shot of the bed)

Multiple fixed images show Marie sleeping in her bed; to her side, there is always someone else.

Marie's (sleeping) position gives a clear enough sense of the type of relationship she has with the person sleeping next to her.

Marie and LOVER 1 from the bathroom

Both still sleeping, both still in their kimonos, (lying in all directions), the bed sheets and the pillow cases scattered in all directions.

Marie and Lover 2 (Klappe cowboy)

The guy fell asleep on Marie's belly

Marie and Pierre

Marie is at the edge of the bed, facing away ; Pierre is jammed/pressed against her and occupies the remaining space.

Marie and Irina

Marie and Irina are holding each other in a tender embrace.

Seq.22 – MARIE'S BED - VOICES OVER of Marie and Irina on the Still-Photos of the morning after their first encounter.

Marie and Irina are lying in bed in the morning. Marie is smoking while Irina observe her.

IRINA
Are you ok ?

MARIE
What do you think ?

IRINA
I do.

Irina kisses Marie on the lips.

Marie Kisses her back, all over the face; Irina abandons herself to her kisses.

VOICE OFF - PIERRE
So now you felt in love with this girl ??

Seq. 23 – Entrance to the apartment

Marie and Irina are kissing, in front of the entrance door; Pierre stand up and come closer to watch the two girls.

Irina stops to kiss Marie, all of sudden, embarrassed as soon she take notice of Pierre's presence.

IRINA
Sorry, but somebody is watching us.

MARIE
Ah... My boyfriend.
Irina, this is Pierre.
Pierre, this is Irina.

PIERRE
Nice to meet you, Irina.

Pierre takes the opportunity to come closer to the girls and extends his hand to Irina; she shakes timidly his hand back. No one speaks.

Marie seems disoriented. She is standing in front of the entrance door, Irina still opposite her and Pierre to her side.

All three freeze for a moment.

Irina moves in fast to recuperate her cell phone from the chest by the entrance and then hurries back and disappear into the staircase.

PIERRE (VOICE-OFF, Pierre doesn't move his mouth, like if it was a mental dialogue, between them)

Do you love her ?

Tell me, are you now in love with a Russian doll ?

Marie doesn't move, she seems terribly confused and unable to answer.

Seq. 24 - Entrance to the apartment

Marie is in the same spot, standing in front of the entrance door, the same confused look on her face. She appears to not have moved ever since Irina left. But this time she is wearing a t-shirt.

She is prompted by two movers, who are entering with a large piece of furniture on their arms.

MOVER (in German)

Miss, where do you want this?

Pierre appears on the doorstep, and gives instructions to the mover.

PIERRE

This way, this way, this goes into my office!

The two movers and Pierre go past Marie who remains still in front of the door, her gaze lost in a void.

THE END.