

AMOUR

Written by

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SCENE 1 - INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The hallway is a mess. A window opening onto a light well is open.

The door to the apartment is suddenly broken open. A plain-clothes detective, two uniformed police officers and several firemen - also in uniform - enter and look around. They all wear gloves and masks that cover their mouths and noses. Behind them, the superintendent and his wife also push their way in. They're both holding their noses. In his free hand, the superintendent holds a pile of mail and promotional flyers. Behind him, comes a female neighbor.

PLAIN-CLOTHES DETECTIVE
(to the superintendent and the neighbor)
Wait Outside please.

He signals to a police officer who herds the curious onlookers back out through the door.

POLICE OFFICER
(to the superintendent, pointing to a pile of mail)
What's the date of the last letter?

SUPERINTENDENT
(verifying)
The 16th from what I can see...
Wait...

The plain-clothes detective has tried in vain to open the door on the left. It has been sealed up with adhesive tape.

PLAIN-CLOTHES DETECTIVE
(to the fire officer)
Can you try?

While the firemen go to work on the door, the plain-clothes detective goes into the adjoining dining room. He opens the windows quickly and turns to go into the room to the left via the double doors. They are locked and the gaps are also taped up. He turns to the right and goes into the living room, where he also opens up the windows...

FIREMAN (O.S.)
The door is open.

...and comes back into the hallway, passing by the waiting firemen. Once again, we hear snatches of dialogue between the police officer and the janitor.

JANITOR

...no as far as I know. During the whole time, they had a nurse, but it's been a while since I last saw her. My wife has been...

The plain-clothes detective enters the bedroom which is now accessible. Its windows are open and the draft makes the curtains billow into the room.

PLAIN-CLOTHES DETECTIVE

(to the firemen who are now curious enough to come and stand by the door)

Did you open the windows?

The firemen shake their heads.

The PLAIN-CLOTHES DETECTIVE turns toward the big double bed placed against the back wall of the bedroom. On the right-hand bed, there's only the bare mattress. On the left-hand bed lies the partly decomposed body of an old woman. Where once there were eyes, now there are only gaping holes. The corpse has been neatly dressed and is adorned with flowers that have already dried out a little. On her chest is a crucifix.

SCENE 2 - White letters on a black background: THE CREDITS

SCENE 3 - INT. CONCERT HALL - NIGHT

All we see is the audience pouring into the hall. GEORGES and ANNE, both are around eighty, are part of this crowd. They go to their seats in one of the rows near the front. Once everybody is seated, we hear the usual ANNOUNCEMENT asking people to turn off their mobile phones. Some people, caught with their phones switched on, hasten to comply. Then the lights go out. APPLAUSE.

Off-screen, we hear the soloist make his entrance. THROATS ARE CLEARED here and there. Finally, the MUSIC begins.

SCENE 4 - INT. ARTISTS DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

The music from Scene 3 continues. The soloist is surrounded by admirers who congratulate him.

Now Georges and Anne push their way into the room. (If the soloist is female, they will be carrying flowers, like most of the others).

When the soloist notices their presence, he leaves his group of fans, heads towards them and greets them very warmly, visibly glad to see them.

SCENE 5 - INT. BUS - NIGHT

Continuation of the MUSIC from Scene 3.

Georges and Anne are seated side by side in the half empty bus. Anne talks enthusiastically, Georges says something from time to time, and smiles now and then. They are both relaxed and happy.

SCENE 6 - INT. APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The door to the apartment is unlocked and opened from the outside. THE MUSIC ENDS.

Georges comes in, turns on the light. He and Anne observe the open door. Around the lock, one can see the traces of an attempted forced entry.

Georges bends down and runs his fingers over the deep grooves.

GEORGES

They used a screwdriver or something like that...it doesn't look very professional...

ANNE

But who would do something like that?

GEORGES

No idea. Why do people break in? Because they want to steal something.

ANNE

From us?

GEORGES

(laughs briefly out loud)
Hey, why not? If I thought about it, I could come up with at least three or four people we know who've been burgled.

After having examined the outside of the second leaf of the double door, he comes in, closing the door behind him.

ANNE

What time is it? Can't we call the superintendent?

GEORGES

I'll do that tomorrow morning.
Anyway, they didn't see anything.

He unbuttons his overcoat and heads toward the large closet in the hallway.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Don't let it spoil your good mood now.

ANNE

Or the police?

GEORGES

Come on, give me your coat.

She goes toward him, he takes her coat off and hangs it with his in the closet.

ANNE

Imagine if we were here, in our beds, and someone broke in.

GEORGES

Why should I imagine that?

ANNE

But it's terrible! I think I'd die of fright.

GEORGES

(laughing)
So would I.

He undoes his shoes.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Shall we have a drink?

ANNE

I'm tired.

GEORGES

I still fancy a drink.

He puts away his shoes with the others and slips on his slippers. Anne has gone into the bathroom.

ANNE (O.S.)

Go ahead then. Mathilde told me that in her building, the attic apartment was burgled from the loft. They just knocked a hole in the wall, cut out all of the valuable pictures from their frames and disappeared without a trace.

He goes toward the kitchen.

GEORGES

They must have been professionals.

As he passes in front of the bathroom, he stops and appears to be looking at Anne.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Did I tell you, you looked good tonight?

SHORT PAUSE. THEN:

ANNE (O.S.)

(Flattered)
What's got into you?

With a gentle LAUGH, Georges disappears into the kitchen, where he turns on the lights. We hear him FIDDLING AROUND, apparently getting a glass and some wine. After a short PAUSE:

ANNE (CONT'D)

Weren't those semiquavers in the presto incredible? What staccato! Don't you agree?

Short PAUSE.

GEORGES (O.S.)

You're proud of him, huh?

SCENE 7 - INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Georges wakes up. He looks with amazement beside him, then raises his eyes. Anne is sitting upright, her back against the headboard.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Something wrong?

ANNE

No.

After a while, the RINGING of a kitchen egg-timer leads us to the next scene.

SCENE 8 - INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The egg timer in the kitchen RINGS.

Georges is seated in front of the window, at a table which is half set for breakfast. He has mobile phone raised to his ear and a phone book opened in front of him. Anne is getting up from the table. She goes toward the stove, turns off the gas, takes the egg out of the pan with a spoon and runs it under cold water. Like Georges, she is still in her robe.

GEORGES

(on the phone)

What about next week? No but still, it would make sense to get it done soon. It might give people silly ideas. And anyway, it's too ugly to look at... Wednesday? What time? OK... Will you bring the paint with you too, to paint over it? But at least some primer...Yes, OK. Thank you.

He hangs up.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

(to Anne)

You can depend on that guy.

ANNE

(who comes back to the table with the egg) I hope so. The last time, he kept us waiting for ages, if you remember.

GEORGES

(laughs while acquiescing)

Yes, that's true. (Reacting when she places the egg in his egg cup) Thanks. If I call a regular professional, we'll still be waiting two months time.

ANNE

(more to herself)

Really?

She has sat down. Looks straight ahead. He cracks open his egg, puts salt on it, eats.

GEORGES

The Frodons waited three days when their toilet was blocked. Not exactly pleasant.

He eats. Wants to put on more salt, but the saltcellar is empty.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

The saltcellar is empty.

He looks up for an instant, as if he expected her to deal with it. As she doesn't react, he realizes the inappropriateness of such an expectation, gets up himself, heads for the kitchen cupboards and fills the salt cellar.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

I don't know if he's going to bring us the CD. Maybe he won't come at all. In any case, he didn't mention it. I'd like to buy it. It was really good and I don't want to wait long for it. We could go to Virgin this afternoon and buy it. What do you say?

He comes back to the table and sits down again.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Hmmm? Anne? What's the matter?

She looks at him and doesn't answer.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

What's going on? What's the matter?

He waves his hand in front of her eyes and laughs nervously.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Hellllloooo!!! Cuckoo!!! I'm here!

She continues to look at him without reacting.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

(serious now) Anne! What's going on?

He waits, looks at her. No reaction. He stands up slightly, leans over the table to sit beside her. Tries to make her turn toward him.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Anne, what's the matter?

He manages to get her torso to turn halfway toward him, but her eyes look through him.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Anne...what's...

He takes her face in both hands and turns toward him.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Anne...

She stares into the void. He drops his hands. Then sits beside her, for quite awhile.

SILENCE

Finally he gets up, heads for the sink, turns on the tap, wets a tea towel, wrings it out a little, comes back and places it on Anne's face. Waits for a reaction that doesn't come. Then he pulls up her hair in the nape of her neck and applies the cloth there. Then sits down and looks at her imploringly.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

(close to tears)

Anne...Darling...please!

Once again they both remain seated. In the background, we hear the GUSHING of the tap that in his panic he has forgotten to turn it off.

Making a sudden decision, he gets up, rapidly crossing the hallway, he goes into the bedroom where he starts to dress agitatedly, which takes him quite a lot of time. Suddenly, the GUSHING of the tap stops, which had accompanied us as far as the bedroom.

George doesn't notice it immediately, then he stops short.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Anne?

Finally he returns, half dressed, into the kitchen.

Anne is seated in the same place and looks at him.

ANNE

What are you doing?

She turns toward the breakfast.

ANNE (CONT'D)

You left the water running.

Georges stares at her.

GEORGES
(both aghast and furious)
Hey, what's going on? Are you
completely crazy? Is this supposed
to be a joke, or what's going on?

She looks at him with amazement.

ANNE
What did you say?

GEORGES
(seriously)
Is this a joke? Is this meant to be
a joke?

ANNE
What joke? I don't get it! Why are
you talking to me like that? What's
got into you?

Georges comes from the door to the table.

GEORGES
Anne! Please! Stop this game. It's
not funny.

ANNE
(getting irritated)
What game, for Christ's sake? What
on earth's the matter?!!

Georges is about to answer in a similarly irritated tone, but gradually begins to suspect that he could be mistaken. He tries to calm down, takes his chair that has remained beside Anne, sits down and looks at his wife. She doesn't know how to react.

GEORGES
What's the matter? Why didn't you
react?

ANNE
To what?

GEORGES
To what? To me, to everything.

ANNE
When?

GEORGES
Just now. A moment ago.

ANNE
Please tell me what's wrong. What
am I supposed to have done?

Georges first looks away reluctantly, then looks at Anne. He doesn't want to believe that it's serious.

GEORGES
I don't know what to say. Do you
really not know what just happened?

ANNE
But what DID happen?

GEORGES
(almost reluctantly bowing his head
as he speaks) You were sitting
there, staring at me. You didn't
answer me when I asked you what the
matter was.

He picks up the wet tea towel from the table.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
I put this tea towel on your face,
and you didn't react.

Anne looks at the towel, then at Georges, and shakes her head, perturbed that she can't understand. Georges looks at her. He sees the damp marks on the collar of her robe.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Look... There's still dampness on
your collar.

Anne follows his gesture, tugs on her collar and sees the damp marks. She slowly grasps that something is awry.

ANNE
When... When was it?

GEORGES
Just now, a few minutes ago.

ANNE
So...??

GEORGES
There's no "So". I went into the
bedroom to get dressed. I wanted to
get help.

ANNE

Help?

GEORGES

Yes, and then you turned off the tap.

ANNE

Yes. Because you left it on.

SILENCE

ANNE (CONT'D)

I don't understand.

GEORGES

Neither do I.

PAUSE.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Don't you think it's best if I call Dr. Bertier?

ANNE

Why? What can he do?

GEORGES

I don't know. Examine you.

ANNE

I'm fine. There's nothing wrong with me.

GEORGES

Anne, please!! That's absurd. We can't pretend that nothing happened.

ANNE

But what DID happen?

PAUSE.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I'm here. I'm having my breakfast, and you're telling me things happened that I don't understand.

GEORGES

Can you explain how the tea towel got there?

ANNE
(irritated)
No, I can't!

GEORGES
Who turned on the tap?

ANNE
You did!

GEORGES
Can you remember that?

ANNE
(more and more desperate, close to
tears) No I can't! Do you want to
torture me? Leave me in peace!

Georges looks at her.

GEORGES
Don't you think it would be better
to fetch Dr. Bertier?

ANNE
No!

She takes her cup of tea, as if to show how well she is, and drinks it up. When she wants to re-fill her cup, she completely misses her aim. She notices it, puts down her cup and bursts into tears.

SCENE 9 - INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

SILENCE

We see wide shots of the apartment. The hallway. The bedroom. The living room. The dining room. The kitchen. Nobody in sight.

SCENE 10 - INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

EVA, around 50, has come to pay a visit. Anne isn't there.

EVA
You know how he is. Once he's got
something into his head, he has to
go through with it. In the end,
everybody was delighted. And
besides, it didn't hurt our
financial situation. We're playing
until the 28th.
(MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)

Then we have 10 days to rest, then we go to Stockholm for four days, and then to Kumo in Finland. Heaven knows where that is. At the North Pole. But Geoff's already been there few times, and he loves it. We're playing the "Dowland Transcriptions" there and then we're back in London.

GEORGES

What about the children?

EVA

Liz is at boarding school and John is living his own life. He's twenty-six years old.

GEORGES

What does he do?

EVA

He's a student. We rarely see him. He's got his own ideas. Life Geoff. They don't really get along. Geoff wants to advise him on everything, and John doesn't like that at all.

GEORGES

Is he good?

EVA

I think so. He's less impulsive. Very industrious.

GEORGES

That sounds rather derogatory.

EVA

No!! He's not like Geoff. Quiet, but stubborn. I think he'll do all right. At the last Conservatory concert, he played the solo part in the Haydn Concerto. It was very good. Geoff was there and congratulated him at the end.

Brief PAUSE.

GEORGES

And you?

EVA

What do you mean?

GEORGES

Did you both make up?

EVA

(with a little laugh)
My God, you know him, don't you?
Over the winter, he suddenly
discovered his passion for a viola
player who'd been in our ensemble
for years. What can I tell you? It
was a huge drama, and the poor
little darling wound up trying to
commit suicide. That scared him and
he came back to me in full remorse.
I've got used to it now. What's a
bit embarrassing is that the
ensemble, you can't keep any
secrets from anyone.

GEORGES

Do you love him?

EVA

Yes, I think so.

Brief PAUSE.

EVA (CONT'D)

What's aphasia?

Georges gestures that it's too complicated.

GEORGES

What can I say? The carotid artery
was blocked. They did an ultrasound
scan, two in fact, and they said
they had to operate on her. She was
scared. She was confused and
scared. You know she has always
been afraid of doctors. They said
the risk was very low and that if
they didn't operate, she'd be
certain to have a serious stroke.

EVA

And what do they say now?

GEORGES

Just that it didn't go well. It's
one of the 5% that go wrong.

He yawns.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
It's pretty upsetting.

He looks at his watch.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Usually at this time, I take a nap.
My blood sugar is somewhere down in
my socks.

PAUSE.

EVA
I'm so sorry.

GEORGES
Yeah.

PAUSE.

EVA
What can I do for you?

GEORGES
Nothing. It was nice of you to come
despite all of your stress.

Brief PAUSE.

She doesn't know what to say.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
No, really. There's nothing you can
do. We'll see how things go when
she's back here in the apartment.
We'll manage. Maybe I'll get a
caretaker in, or maybe I'll manage
on my own. We'll see. We've been
through quite a lot in our time,
your mother and I.
(little laugh)
All this is still a bit new.

PAUSE.

EVA
(with a little laugh)
It's funny. I don't know if I
should say it. Maybe it'll
embarrass you. But when I came here
a short while ago, I suddenly
remembered how I always used to
listen to the two of you making
love when I was little.

(MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)

For me, at the time, it was reassuring. It gave me a feeling that you loved each other, and that we'd always be together.

SCENE 11 - INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A carpenter and his assistant are raising the base of the double bed. Georges watches.

SCENE 12 - INT. HALLWAY - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The door of the apartment is opened. Georges comes in. Behind him is Anne in a wheelchair, pushed by a paramedic. A second paramedic (as young as the first) follows with a suitcase and a large bag. Behind them, the superintendent.

Georges tries to rid of the three as quickly as possible. He stuffs a twenty euro note into the hand of the first paramedic.

GEORGES

Here. Thank you very much. It's for both of you. You can just put the things down here. There, beside the window, right. We'll be okay on our own. Thanks a lot.

The two paramedics exchange a brief glance, say thanks, and leave the apartment, passing the superintendent as they go.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

(to the superintendent)
Thank you, Mr. Mery.

SUPERINTENDENT

If you need anything, just call downstairs. If we can help at all...

GEORGES

Right now everything's fine. I'll let your wife know as soon as we need anything.

SUPERINTENDENT

(to Anne)
It's nice to have you back, Mrs. Laurent.

ANNE

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mery. Thank you.

The superintendent hesitates another moment.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Yes, thanks.

SUPERINTENDENT

Yes... So... Goodbye then, ma'am.
Welcome home again. Goodbye, Sir.

GEORGES

Goodbye, Mr. Mery.

SUPERINTENDENT

Goodbye.

He leaves the apartment.

There is a brief moment of perplexity. Then Georges says:

GEORGES

(with a nervous smile)
Where do you want...

ANNE

In the living room.

Georges pushes her toward the living room door, walks around the wheelchair, opens the door, comes back behind the wheelchair and pushes Anne into the LIVING ROOM.

The doorway is narrow. The wheelchair only just passes through it. Georges pushes Anne toward the sofa and the armchairs and then steps in front of her.

GEORGES

Shall I make some tea?

ANNE

(with a faint smile)
First come sit with me.

George registers her smile; he knows he's behaving in a clumsy way. He sits down in one of the two arm chairs.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Can you help me into the chair?

Georges stands back up.

GEORGES

(eagerly)
Of course.

He extends his hands. She puts on the wheelchair brake, lifts the footrest with her left foot, raises her right leg from the footrest with her left hand and then extends her left arm to Georges.

ANNE

It's best if you put my arm around your neck and your right arm around me, that way it'll be easy.

He does as he is told, pulls her up as they hobble together the short distance to the second arm chair. Cautiously, he lowers her down and helps her sit herself straight. Because they are not used to it, the whole process appears awkward and clumsy.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Thanks.

He smiles because it seems silly to him to answer "Don't mention it". Then he sits down opposite her.

LONG PAUSE.

At first they are both ill at ease, but then they accept the fact that words do not come easily. After a long while, during which we hear the intermittent sound of the TRAFFIC below.

GEORGES

(softly almost to himself)
I'm glad you're back.

ANNE

(in a voice just as soft)
Me too.

Another PAUSE. Then Anne says:

ANNE (CONT'D)

Promise me one thing.

GEORGES

What?

ANNE

Please never take me back to the hospital.

GEORGES

What?

PAUSE.

She looks at him. He has understood.

ANNE
You promise?

GEORGES
Anne...

ANNE
You promise?

PAUSE.

GEORGES
Anne, I...

ANNE
Don't talk right now. And don't
give me any lectures. Please.

Brief PAUSE.

GEORGES
What can I say, it's...

ANNE
(interrupting him)
Nothing. Just don't say anything.
OK?!

PAUSE.

SCENE 13 - INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

He helps her into bed, then throws the blanket over her.

GEORGES
There.

ANNE
Thank you. Thank you, Darling.

GEORGES
Everything OK?

ANNE
(smiling)
Everything's fine.

He hesitates.

ANNE (CONT'D)

You don't have to hold my hand all the time now. I can look after myself, you know.

He nods.

ANNE (CONT'D)

And don't feel guilty. That would be pointless. And a drag. For me too.

GEORGES

I don't feel guilty.

ANNE

That's good.

She smiles.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Go over there now. I'm not a cripple. You can easily leave me alone for two minutes. I won't collapse.

GEORGES

(with a slight smile)
OK.

ANNE

Did you buy the new book on Harnoncourt?

GEORGES

I've already read it.

ANNE

And?

GEORGES

Do you want it? I'll get it for you.

ANNE

Sure.

He goes out of the room to fetch the book. She remains lying there, waiting, and runs her healthy left hand through her hair to make herself look prettier, then smooths out the blanket that has slipped out of place a little. After a while, we hear Georges shouting.

GEORGES (O.S.)
I don't know where I put it.

ANNE
Don't worry. It isn't that important.

GEORGES (O.S.)
Yes, it is. Hold on, maybe it's in the... Just a moment! Viola! Here you are! Nothing like an infallible memory!

She smiles, looks in his direction. He enters with the book in his hand.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
I thought I'd left it over there in the other room, but I'd already put it away. Tidy people just can't help being tidy.

ANNE
(taking the book)
Thanks.

She puts the book on her stomach. Looks at Georges.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Right now, take care of yourself. And don't wait to see how I hold the book in my hand, OK?

GEORGES
OK.

He looks at her for a moment longer, then leaves the bedroom. She waits till he's outside. Tries to relax. Then she remembers the book. She takes it in her left hand and tries to open it. It's not easy for her.

Then she notices that she's forgotten her glasses. She rests the book back on the bed cover and fishes for her glasses on the night stand. In the end, she manages it. Then she opens the book again, and tries to read.

SCENE 14 - INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The superintendent's wife puts the filled supermarket bags on the counter. Takes the stack of mail that she had put on top of one of the bags and puts it down beside them. Then she takes out the receipt and the change.

SUPERINTENDANT'S WIFE

Unfortunately the strawberries were already moldy. I'll go and get you some fresh ones tomorrow from the market. My husband will bring you the bottled water this afternoon. I'm not supposed to carry anything heavy: my back, you know...

GEORGES

Sure, no problem.

SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE

It came to 76 euros and 40 cents. There's the till receipt and here's your change: 23 euros 60.

GEORGES

Thank you very much. Keep the change. Thanks.

SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE

Thank you, sir.

Short embarrassed PAUSE.

SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE (CONT'D)

Well, I'll be off. Call me if you need anything else.

GEORGES

Yes. I will.

SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE

Is your wife well? ...

GEORGES

Yes, she's OK. She's recovering.

SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE

Fine. Give her my regards. My husband and I are very glad she's back.

GEORGES

Yes, we are too. Bye, Mrs. Méry, thanks so much.

SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE

Goodbye, sir.

She heads toward the front door of the apartment, turns around again toward Georges.

SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE (CONT'D)

I'll bring you the strawberries
tomorrow around noon, if that suits
you.

He nods, she closes the door as she leaves.

SCENE 15 - INT. HALLWAY - TOILET - DAY

He stands in front of the closed door of the toilet, waiting. After a while, we hear the noise of flushing. After a while longer, we hear

ANNE (O.S.)

There. Can you come in, please?

He opens the toilet door, goes around Anne, pulls her up, she puts her left arm around his neck, keeps herself upright that way, he pulls up her pants under her skirt. Then they slowly hobble out of the toilet and he sits her back down in the wheelchair.

SCENE 16 - INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

They are both lying in their beds. Anne sleeps, BREATHING NOISILY. Georges lies with his eyes open, listening attentively to her breathing.

SCENE 17 - INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The sun shines in. Georges has cooked something simple. They are both in a good mood, eating and drinking.

GEORGES

... some banal romance or other about a nobleman and a lower middle-class girl who couldn't have each other and who then, out of sheer magnanimity, decide to renounce their love - in fact I don't quite remember it any more. In any case, afterwards I was thoroughly distraught, and it took me a bit of time to calm down. In the courtyard of the house where grandma lived, there was a young guy at the window who asked me where I'd been. He was a couple of years older than me, a braggart who of course really impressed me. "To the movies", I said, because I was proud that my grandma had given me the money to go all alone to the cinema.

(MORE)

GEORGES (CONT'D)

"What did you see?" I started to tell him the story of the movie, and as I did, all the emotion came back. I didn't want to cry in front of the boy, but it was impossible; there I was, crying out loud in the courtyard, and I told him the whole drama to the bitter end.

ANNE

So? How did he react?

GEORGES

No idea. He probably found it amusing. I don't remember. I don't remember the film either. But I remember the feeling. That I was ashamed of crying, but that telling him the story made all my feelings and tears come back, almost more powerfully than when I was actually watching the film, and that I just couldn't stop.

She looks at him, smiles, then turns back to her food.

ANNE

That's cute. Why didn't you ever tell me before?

GEORGES

There are still a few stories you don't know.

ANNE

Aha...? Don't tell me you're going to ruin your image in your old age?

GEORGES

(grinning)
You bet I won't. But what is my image?

She takes a mouthful, eats ponderously. Then she looks at him.

ANNE

(tenderly)
Sometimes you're a rotter. But you're nice.

GEORGES

(embarrassed grin)
Can I take you for a drink?

She laughs.

SCENE 18 - INT. HALLWAY - DAY

He does physiotherapy exercises with her. Counts the repetitive movements of the exercises.

SCENE 19 - INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

She's lying on the sofa. He's seated in the armchair. They're both reading the newspaper. After a while:

ANNE

Listen to this! My horoscope.
 Motto: You have lots of verve, but need to be more serious!
 Love: High-class conversation is what you need.
 Work: You're motivated again. But proceed with care.
 Health: Loosen up by doing exercises. It'll give you renewed pizzazz.

PAUSE. Then

GEORGES

(good-humored)
 You've only yourself to blame if you read stuff like that.

Brief PAUSE. Then:

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Tomorrow afternoon is Pierre's funeral.

ANNE

You have to go.

GEORGES

I fear I must. I don't want to go at all.

ANNE

Who does like going to funerals?

GEORGES

Oh, I know a few people who do. Annette can never wait to get all dolled up again. And François has...

ANNE

You're mean. What would you say if no one came to your funeral?

GEORGES

(dryly) Nothing, presumably.

She shoots him a glance, smiles at his irony. Then she says:

ANNE

Have you talked to Jeanne since I was in the hospital? I mean, does she know I can't come?

GEORGES

Of course.

ANNE

What did she say?

GEORGES

She was shocked.

ANNE

How?

GEORGES

(a bit irritated)
My God, what are people like when they're shocked? She couldn't believe it, she was speechless. I don't remember any more. In any case, not exactly. I've spoken to a lot of people since.

PAUSE.

ANNE

Sorry.

GEORGES

No, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to be unkind, but I just don't see the point of talking about it all the time.

Short PAUSE.

ANNE

Do I talk about it all the time?

GEORGES

No. Sorry.

ANNE

Don't worry.

SCENE 20 - INT. HALLWAY - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The front door is unlocked from the outside, and Georges enters. He's back from the funeral, dressed for the occasion. He turns on the light. He's wet. Clearly, it's been raining. As he closes the door again, his eyes fall on Anne. With her back to him, she is sitting on the floor in front of the opened window of the light well, half propped against her wheelchair.

GEORGES

What ... ?!

Shaken, he heads toward her, picks her up and seats her in the wheelchair. Outside, in the light well, it is raining.

PAUSE.

ANNE

(once she's seated in the
wheelchair)
Why are you back already? What time
is it?

PAUSE.

Georges has understood immediately. He closes the window noiselessly.

Then just stands there, at a loss.

SILENCE. Then

ANNE (CONT'D)

(softly)
Forgive me, I was too slow.

GEORGES

Anne...

ANNE

Can you wheel me into the living
room?

PAUSE.

GEORGES

Yes.

He turns toward her, pushes the wheelchair into the living room between the two armchairs. Turns on the light. Stops beside the switch. They both look exhausted.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

You're always good at surprises.

ANNE

Yes. Why are you home earlier?

GEORGES

I didn't come home earlier. I took a taxi. In August, there isn't a lot of traffic.

ANNE

That's true. How was the funeral?

GEORGES

Anne...!

ANNE

How was it, go on, tell me!

He thinks an instant, then goes and sits down facing her in an armchair. Looks at her. She raises her head and returns his look. He understands that he can't insist right now. Long PAUSE. Then he begins:

GEORGES

It was rather bizarre. The priest was an idiot. Then one of Pierre's co-workers made a speech that was embarrassingly emotional. His old secretary came with a radio-cassette player and after the speech she put on "Yesterday" by the Beatles. You can't imagine. Everybody turned round to look at her. Apparently, it wasn't planned. His grandchildren were there. Of course they giggled as soon as the music began. Then the urn was put on a huge stretcher that was obviously designed for a coffin, and out we went into the rain. They placed the urn on a small electric cart that crawled along for what seemed like an eternity to the tiny hole they had dug. A lot of people had to stifle their laughter. It must have been terrible for Jeanne. I have...

ANNE

(interrupting him)
There's just no point in going on living. I know it can only get worse. Why should I inflict it on us? On you and me.

GEORGES

You're not inflicting anything on me.

ANNE

You don't have to lie, Georges.

PAUSE.

GEORGES

Imagine you were me. Didn't you ever think something like this could happen to one of us?

ANNE

Of course I did. But imagination and reality have little in common.

GEORGES

But things are getting better every day. We'll...

ANNE

(interrupting him)
Georges, I don't want to carry on. You're making such efforts to make everything easier for me. But I don't want to go on. For my own sake. Not yours.

GEORGES

I don't believe you. I know you. You think you're a burden on me. But what if things were the other way around? What would you do then?

ANNE

I don't know. I can't be bothered to think about being you. I'm tired. You tire me. Everything tires me. I can't talk. I want to go to bed.

He looks at her. Finally he gets up and pushes her wheelchair out of frame.

SCENE 21 - INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

She is lying in bed. The bedside lamp is on.

We hear the RADIO coming from the living room: a program about the fauna and flora of the South Seas, or something similar.

SCENE 22 - INT. HALLWAY - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Georges comes out of the kitchen and opens the front door. On the doorstep stands the soloist (male or female) from Scenes 3 and 4.

GEORGES
(somewhat perplexed, but pleased)
Oh hello! Nice to see you.

SOLOIST
Forgive me for dropping in on you like this, Professor. I tried to reach you by phone a couple of times, but no luck.

GEORGES
I'm sorry. I only pick up the phone when I've stored the caller's number and I can see who's calling. Why didn't you leave a message? Anyway, do come in...

He closes the door behind his guest.

SOLOIST
I just couldn't manage to come by after the concert. I was so sorry, because I was so pleased you came along.

GEORGES
Come with me.

While they pass into the living room, they continue to speak:

SOLOIST
... And now, an unexpected opportunity has arisen because François Mitry called me - you know him, he's my agent - to say he'd arranged for me to meet the boss of the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées tonight to talk about their new concert series.

(MORE)

SOLOIST (CONT'D)

So I flew to Paris this morning,
and while I was in my hotel, I
thought, I'll just give it a try
and drop in. After all, it's
virtually just around the corner.

Sorry, these are for your wife.

He takes the bouquet of flowers from its wrapping paper and hands it to Georges.

SOLOIST (CONT'D)

Isn't she at home?

GEORGES

Yes, she is. I'll go and get her in
a minute. Have a seat.

SOLOIST

I hope I'm not disturbing you too
much.

GEORGES

No, not at all. I'm happy that you
came. We were so thrilled by your
concert. We hoped we'd see you
again soon. Please do have a seat.
Can I can get you something? A cup
of tea?

SOLOIST

No, no, thank you very much.

GEORGES

Hold on, I'll just freshen up the
flowers; in this heat they wilt so
fast...

SOLOIST

I've only just bought them. They
should keep quite...

But Georges has already left the room with the bouquet and closed the door behind him. The soloist looks around him.

After a few moments we hear the VOICES of Anne and Georges in the distance, without understanding what they're saying. It lasts a while.

Finally Georges opens the door and pushes Anne, in her wheelchair, into the living room.

ANNE

Martin! What a delight. How lovely to see you!

The (male or female) soloist has got up and doesn't quite know how to handle the situation.

SOLOIST

Mrs. Laurent! Lovely to see you too.

ANNE

Don't get up. Come on, sit yourself down and don't look so shocked.

The soloist sits down hesitantly, Georges pushes the wheelchair between the two armchairs and also sits down. Brief embarrassed PAUSE.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I'm so proud of you. We were both in raptures after your concert. Georges wanted to buy your new CD the very next morning.

SOLOIST

Oh God! I wanted to bring you the CD, but I left in such a hurry that I forgot it. I'm so sorry. I'll get one today and drop it by.

ANNE

(smiling)
No, no, don't worry. We want to make a contribution to your success. Even if it's only twenty euros.

SOLOIST

You've already contributed so much. I owe you so much, Madame.

ANNE

You owe it to your hard work and your talent.

SOLOIST

(shaking his head a little) Do you remember, when you first gave me the Bagatelles to play? I was twelve at the time, and in my youthful arrogance I said: "But why the Bagatelles?" And you really gave me a piece of your mind.

They both smile. PAUSE. Then he goes on:

SOLOIST (CONT'D)
So what happened?

ANNE
My right side is paralyzed, that's all. It can happen when you get older.

SOLOIST
And how...?

ANNE
Let's talk about something else, shall we?

SOLOIST
(disconcerted)
Sure ...

ANNE
Don't be offended. But I want to enjoy the lovely interlude you've given us with your visit.

SOLOIST
(disarmed)
Of course.

Brief PAUSE.

GEORGES
You haven't told us yet what's been going on since the Paris concert.

The soloist is a bit thrown by the couple's behavior.

SOLOIST
Well, actually I've spent most of the time in London studying. Then I went to Copenhagen for two performances, that was Schubert too. My whole life revolves around Schubert at the moment. The concerts with the Impromptus and the Moments Musicaux, and for my bread-and-butter work I'm developing the sonatas. Not the late ones, I think I still need a couple more years for those.

(The dialogue concerning music will be modified according to the performer chosen.)

ANNE

Could you do me a favor?

SOLOIST

(surprised)
Really?

ANNE

Would you play Für Elise?

SOLOIST

(embarrassed)
Um, I don't know if I remember it very well. Beethoven, it's been a long time since I've... But if you want...

ANNE

Give it a try.

SOLOIST

(hesitantly)
OK.

He looks at Georges, then at Anne again, gets up, goes to the grand piano and plays.

SCENE 23 - INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Georges is leaning against the chest, and watches Anne, who is practicing maneuvering her new electric wheelchair. Forward, backward, turning. In the end, she goes round and round in circles several times. He laughs, so does she.

SCENE 24 - INT. BEDROOM - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Anne is lying in bed. A book rests on her stomach. She listens to the PIANO playing coming from the living room. After a while the music stops.

ANNE

What's the matter?

LIVING ROOM

Georges is seated in front of the open piano. His hands in his lap, he looks straight ahead.

SCENE 25 - INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The superintendent's wife runs the vacuum cleaner over a carpet.

SCENE 26 - INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Anne is seated on a stool. Georges washes her.

SCENE 27 - INT. KITCHEN - HALLWAY - BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Georges has cooked himself a steak and is eating. On the radio, we hear the EVENING NEWS. Suddenly, coming from the neighboring room, a LOUD CRASH and the SOUND of crockery breaking. Stifled CRY from Anne. Georges gets up, irritated, crosses the HALLWAY and enters the BEDROOM.

Anne lies on the floor, beside the overturned night stand, in the midst of the crockery and remains of a meal.

GEORGES
(shocked, and hence furious)
Good God, what are you doing?

He hurries toward her and pulls her up rather roughly into the bed.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Have you lost your senses?! I don't believe it! How stupid!

He points to the broken objects.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Look at that! Did you need to do that? Can't you call me when you need something?

ANNE
(meekly) I'm sorry.

GEORGES
(still furious)
Yes, so am I.

ANNE
(softly)
Sorry.

Georges bends down, and begins to gather up the scattered objects.

GEORGES
The lamp is broken too.

SCENE 28 - INT. BATHROOM - HALLWAY - ANNEX - DAY

Bathroom.

Georges, in pajama pants, naked torso, brushes his teeth. The doorbell rings.

Georges spits out, wipes his mouth, goes into the hallway and over to the front door.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Yes? Who's there?

No answer. Georges is very irritated. O.S., Anne calls to him:

ANNE

Georges? What's going on? Who is it?

Georges opens the door. Outside, however, instead of the usual landing, we see an empty room lit a giorno but without a window, about as large as the rooms in the apartment. It looks like an unpainted room in a new apartment. A couple of ladders are propped against the opposite wall. At the other end of the room, to the side, is a small door. Georges is stunned, and doesn't understand what has happened. Hesitating, he crosses the room toward the door.

O.S., in the distance, Anne's worried voice:

ANNE (CONT'D)

Georges? What's going on?

Georges opens the small door. Behind it is a narrow, windowless corridor, as brightly lit as the room. At the end of the corridor, a door. Georges heads toward this door and opens it too. Behind it is a tiny windowless room, equally bright as the others. Everything is very quiet. Georges enters, turns round, then goes back along the corridor, crosses the room, comes through the apartment door into the hallway of the apartment. But it too is now empty and bright, with bare unpainted walls, no doors; only the door to the bedroom is open. Behind that too, it appears to be empty and bright. Georges goes toward it.

At the same time, we hear GEORGES' VOICE. At first he groans, but then begins inarticulately hollering, louder and louder. Shortly after, we also hear:

ANNE'S VOICE:

Georges, what's going on?

SCENE 29 - INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darkness. GEORGES HOLLERS

ANNE'S VOICE

Calm down will you! There's nothing there. It's nothing.

She manages to switch on the bedside lamp. Georges is sitting up in his bed, having just awoken, wide-eyed with terror. His breathing is labored.

Anne extends her good hand toward him, caresses his back to calm him. He slowly calms down and flops back on his pillow.

ANNE

What was it?

He doesn't answer. Continues breathing heavily. She caresses him.

GEORGES

(still with labored breathing)
I didn't understand... I thought I'd gone mad... It was something impossible...

ANNE

What was?

SCENE 30 - INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Close shot on the screen of a cell phone. We read on it:

Coming to Paris on 12th. Plan to stop by in afternoon. Hope all well. So look forward to seeing you. Love Eva.

We hear O.S. the voice of

GEORGES

Eva. They're coming on the 12th.

He crouches down in front of Anne who is seated on the bed, puts his mobile phone back in his pocket and continues to put on her socks and her shoes.

ANNE

Why?

GEORGES

No idea. Apparently she's coming with Geoff.

ANNE

When is it?

GEORGES

I don't know exactly. What day is it today? I'll go and look.

Short PAUSE.

ANNE

I don't want that.

GEORGES

What?

ANNE

Geoff doesn't need to come.

PAUSE.

Georges doesn't agree, but continues to dress Anne.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I don't need any comments on my predicament. I can only take his British humor in small doses.

SCENE 31 - INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Once more the set of physiotherapy exercises. Things are going better. Georges smiles encouragingly at Anne, noticing her improvement. She reacts like someone duty-bound, but without conviction.

SCENE 32 - INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Close shot: a CD is inserted into a player. As the MUSIC begins (the concert heard in Scene 3), Georges takes a card out of the envelope that contained the CD and reads it to Anne:

GEORGES

Dear Madame Laurent, Dear Monsieur Laurent, it was beautiful and yet sad to see you. My heartfelt wishes that things will get better. With deep gratitude, your former pupil, Martin.

The MUSIC makes their SILENCE less awkward. Then, after a long while, Anne says:

ANNE

Stop the CD.

He hesitates, looks at her, then stops the music. They remain SILENT.

SCENE 33- INT. KITCHEN - ADJOINING ROOM - DAY

They eat. Suddenly, Anne says:

ANNE (CONT'D)
Where are the family albums?

GEORGES
The family albums? I don't know,
there, in the other room. Why?

ANNE
Can you get them for me?

GEORGES
What, now?

Anne nods.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Why, Anne?

ANNE
I'd like to look at them.

Georges hesitates, and doesn't understand the suddenness of this request.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Please!

He finally gets up and goes into the adjoining room. He comes back after a few moments with a stack of albums, pushes away the remains of Anne's meal and sets down the first album in front of her.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Thanks.

GEORGES
(a bit irritated)
You're welcome.

With her able hand, Anne opens the album, looks at the photos, turns the pages, looks.

ANNE
That's nice.

GEORGES
(self-consciously, softly)
What?

ANNE
Life...so long... What a long
life...

Georges looks at her. She continues to thumb through the pages. After a while she turns toward him.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Stop watching me.

GEORGES
(caught in the act)
I wasn't watching you.

ANNE
Of course you were. I'm not that
dumb yet.

SCENE 24 - INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

They are both lying in bed. Georges reads the day's news to Anne from the newspaper. When he looks over to her, she has fallen asleep. He then puts the newspaper on the night stand and turns out the light.

SCENE 35 - INT. BEDROOM - HALLWAY - BATHROOM - DAY

Bedroom.

It's morning. Georges is helping Anne to get out of bed into her wheelchair. As he does it, he notices that the bed and her nightgown are wet.

GEORGES
You're soaked through.

ANNE
What do you mean?

Brief PAUSE.

GEORGES
Hold on.

He sits her back on the bed and goes out of the room.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
I'll be right back.

During this time, she remains seated, feeling embarrassed, and waits. He comes back with a towel and puts it on the seat of the wheelchair.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

It's no big deal. Come on.

He lifts her out of the bed into the wheelchair and pushes her through the hallway into the bathroom.

He lifts her out of the wheelchair, sits her on the stool and takes off her wet nightgown, pulling it over her head. She starts to SOB inconsolably. He caresses her face.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Come on, darling. It's nothing serious. Things like that happen..

ANNE

(sobbing)
I can't... take it any more.

He holds her tightly against him, strokes her hair, feeling helpless.

GEORGES

My love. My darling.

SCENE 36 - INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Anne is in bed. She's on a drip. Eva is seated on a chair beside the bed.

EVA

... thinking about whether it wouldn't be better to invest the money in an apartment block. If inflation gets going again, property is the only sure thing. Right now, savings accounts pay 1.75% at best. Four years ago, Geoff bought some stocks with a small sum of money and the whole thing collapsed. So now we're obviously worried. Unfortunately, in the meantime, other people have had the same idea, and property prices are going through the roof. Since we came back from Scandinavia, I spend all my spare time looking through newspaper ads.

To put an end to the PAUSE that follows, she adds:

EVA (CONT'D)

It takes time, that's all. We'll find something in the end.

Another oppressive PAUSE.

ANNE

(slowly) Yes yes I have... I have... the grandmother... woman with house... not... the house then ... money

EVA

I don't understand you, I'm afraid.

ANNE

... yes... now... it's all... house sel... sel... sel... was... in two strokes of... so quickly... god it's hard... to say... sell... money gone... left... there too...

PAUSE. Eva has tears in her eyes.

SCENE 37 - INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Georges and Eva's husband, GEOFF, around fifty. He speaks with a British accent.

GEORGES

... three times a week... I'm not experienced enough. We'll see if that's enough.

GEOFF

How much is she asking?

GEORGES

It's paid by the hour. We'll see.

GEOFF

And her?

GEORGES

Anne?

Geoff nods. Georges shrugs.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

It's hard to say. Sometimes I get the feeling she's totally unaware of the state she's in. And then I feel the opposite. It's... I don't know.

GEOFF

And what about the doctor? What does he say?

GEORGES

He's...

Eva comes in through the door. She's in floods of tears.

EVA

(crying)
She only talks gibberish. I don't
know what...

Geoff gets up, hesitantly.

GEOFF

Hey, dear...

He goes toward her and leads her to the armchair where he was sitting.

GEOFF (CONT'D)

...come here, sit down, it's OK.

She shakes him off, irritated, and sits down.

EVA

Nothing is OK.

At first he's vexed by her brusque response, but then goes to sit down on the sofa. Meanwhile, Eva turns to Georges:

EVA (CONT'D)

What's going on, actually? You
can't just leave her lying on her
bed like that! She's
unrecognizable! It's ridiculous!

GEORGES

We can't do anything for the
moment. Calm down, darling. She's
getting medical treatment, they
give her the necessary medication,
and there are no other options
right now.

EVA

What does that mean, "no other
options"? Why isn't she in a
hospital?

GEORGES

She had a second stroke. Bertier
examined her and felt we could
spare her all the hospital
inpatient procedures.

(MORE)

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Anyway, they wouldn't keep her,
they'd send her to a care home.
What they do in those places, we
can do here.

Eva looks at him, amazed.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
And she won't be put in a care
home. I promised her that.

GEOFF
Don't you think you're taking on
too much?

GEORGES
Have you got a better idea?

Geoff doesn't know what to say. Eva has composed herself
somewhat and blows her nose.

EVA
I can't believe that these days
there's no way of handling this
efficiently.

GEORGES
(curtly)
No one's stopping you from finding
out.

Eva gets up, furious, and goes to the window. Georges follows
her with his eyes.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
(peaceably)
Believe me, I love your mother as
much as you do. So please, don't
treat me as if I was a total idiot
incapable of doing the obvious.

EVA
I didn't say that. I'm simply
questioning whether what I see
going on here is the answer to
everything!

GEOFF
(to Georges)
Don't you want to get a second
opinion?

GEORGES

Now you two had better stop, OK?
Another doctor did come. He said
Bertier was right. From Monday, a
nurse will come three times a week.
Now can we talk about something
else?

EVA

Like what?

SCENE 38 - INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Georges washes the tea cups that he used for Eva and Geoff.
On the radio, the EVENING NEWS.

SCENE 39 - INT. BEDROOM - DAY

With expert gestures, a nurse shows Georges how to lie Anne
down and put an incontinence pad on her. She's now almost
incapable of moving, and has to be turned over like an
object, as tears flow silently down her face.

SCENE 40 - INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Anne is at the piano and plays the piece from the Scene 3. We
watch her and listen to her for a while.

Georges is seated in his armchair and looks at the piano.
Finally he leans over toward the CD player and stops it. The
MUSIC suddenly stops. Georges remains silently seated.

SCENE 41 - INT. KITCHEN - HALLWAY - BEDROOM - DAY

He prepares a bowl of muesli, fills a sipping cup with water
and brings both into the bedroom. Sits down on the bed close
to Anne to feed her her food.

GEORGES

There, my love, I hope you like it.

ANNE

OK...

He begins to feed her.

GEORGES

I added a little orange juice. I
find it tastes quite good.

She can only swallow slowly, and so something keeps running
back out of her mouth. He wipes it with a tea towel,
continues to feed her. Finally, after a few mouthfuls, she
keeps her mouth shut.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Come on, Anne, you have to eat some more. You've only swallowed three mouthfuls.

Anne continues to keep her lips sealed.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Please, darling. A bit more.

Anne doesn't move. He puts the muesli on the night stand and holds the sipping cup to her lips. She drinks slowly, one sip after the other. He pulls the cup back between each sip, to give her more time. Suddenly she says:

ANNE
...Mom to the concert...

GEORGES
Yes?

ANNE
...Mom to the concert... no dress...

GEORGES
Mom has no dress for the concert?

ANNE
...Mom to concert... no ... uuu... no...

GEORGES
Yes?

Long PAUSE. Georges waits.

SCENE 42 - INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Georges and the nurse install Anne on a metal armchair in the shower.

As she does so, the nurse keeps talking reassuringly to Anne. Finally, she turns on the tap.

ANNE
(in a monotone)
Help! Help! Help! Help! Help!
Help!...

Without being phased, the nurse continues to speak reassuringly. Georges remains standing there, helpless.

SCENE 43 - INT. KITCHEN - HALLWAY - BEDROOM - DAY

Kitchen.

Georges and the nurse are seated at the table with a cup of coffee. In front of the nurse, on the table, is a sum of money. As they speak, we hear, coming from the room, Anne's CALLS FOR HELP.

NURSE

... we could take turns. She'd come from 8 till 12 and I'd do 2 until 6, or 3 to 7. That would certainly relieve the pressure on you.

GEORGES

I'll think about it.

NURSE

She just has to know in time so she can arrange it in her schedule.

GEORGES

Yes, of course, I'll let you know in the next few days.

NURSE

Very well. I have to go now...

She takes the money on the table, pockets it and gets up.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Thanks for the coffee.

GEORGES

My pleasure. I'll see you out.

They both leave the kitchen. As the nurse, in the hallway, takes her jacket off the hook in the closet and puts it on, she comments on Anne's continuing CALLS FOR HELP.

NURSE

You mustn't take it too seriously. Usually they always say something. She might just as well say "Mom, Mom, Mom". It's just mechanical.

GEORGES

(nodding, softly)
I know.

They've reached the door.

NURSE

Goodbye, sir.

GEORGES

Goodbye.

He closes the door behind her. Remains motionless a moment, then goes into the bedroom, where Anne's CALLS FOR HELP, unaltered, continue.

Georges sits down beside Anne on the bed, takes her hand, holds her. After a while, Anne calms down, her CALLS FOR HELP become quieter and finally stop altogether.

After a long PAUSE:

GEORGES (CONT'D)

(slowly, softly)

I'd like to hire a second nurse. The two could take turns. That would make everything a bit simpler. What do you think?

Long PAUSE. Then:

ANNE

(softly) ...Help...Help...

SCENE 44 - INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

They are both lying in bed. Georges SNORES noisily. Anne's eyes are open.

SCENE 45 - INT. HALLWAY - KITCHEN - DAY

The front door. We hear the key in the lock. Georges enters with a shopping bag, and behind him is the superintendent. He carries bigger and heavier bags. Georges holds the door open for him.

GEORGES

Would you mind putting them in the kitchen.

The superintendent precedes him into the kitchen with the bags. Georges calls toward the bedroom:

GEORGES (CONT'D)

I'm ba-aack!

He then follows the superintendent into the kitchen.

The superintendent has put the bags on the work surface.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Thanks very much.

SUPERINTENDENT

Can I do anything else for you,
sir?

GEORGES

No, thanks, Mr. Méry. You've been a
big help.

SUPERINTENDENT

Oh, it's nothing, sir.

Georges has already taken out his wallet and gives some money
to the superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT (CONT'D)

Thanks a lot, sir.

GEORGES

I'll let you know if I need you
again.

SUPERINTENDENT

With pleasure, sir.

He gets ready to leave. He stops again in the doorway and
turns around.

SUPERINTENDENT (CONT'D)

May I say something, sir?

GEORGES

What is it?

SUPERINTENDENT

My wife and I, we're very impressed
by the way you're managing
everything. I take my hat off to
you.

As he speaks, Georges' mobile phone has started to ring.

GEORGES

(taking the mobile phone from the
pocket of his jacket)
That's very kind of you. Thanks.
See you soon.

SUPERINTENDENT

Give my regards to your wife.

GEORGES

I certainly will. Thanks.

As the superintendent leaves the apartment, Georges looks at the display on his mobile phone and makes a call.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Hello Eva, how are you?... Things
are fine.

SCENE 46 - INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Georges, standing at the foot of the bed, faces Anne and starts singing.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
(insistently)...Sur le pont ...

ANNE
... Ssssur...

GEORGES
...Sur le pont...

ANNE
po ... pont ... sss

GEORGES
...Sur le pont ... Sur le pont ...

ANNE
... Ssssur le pont ...

GEORGES
(smiling to encourage her): ... Sur
le pont d'Avignon...

ANNE
... ssur... le ..

GEORGES
... pont... Sur le pont
d'Avignon... (he begins to sing):
Sur le pont d'Avignon on y danse,
on y danse, sur le pont d'Avignon
tout le monde y danse en rond...

He encourages her to sing with him. Starts singing again:

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Sur le pont d' Avignon, on y danse,
on y danse ...

Anne tries to sing too, she has a hint of a smile on her face, but she produces only isolated SOUNDS.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
 (singing to encourage Anne,
 accompanied by the sounds that she
 produces): Sur le pont d'Avignon on
 y danse, on y danse ... Sur le pont
 d'Avignon tout le monde y danse en
 rond ...

SCENE 47 - INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A second nurse is doing Anne's hair roughly. The brush sticks
 in her tangled hair.

SECOND NURSE
 ("cheery")
 ... there we are...now we're all
 beautiful again...so everybody will
 admire us...there...you see...
 wait...

She takes a mirror that she has placed within reach. Holds it
 in front of Anne's face.

SECOND NURSE (CONT'D)
 Well?... What do we say to that?
 Aren't we a pretty sight?

Anne, sickened, averts her eyes. Emits a muffled SOUND. The
 nurse ignores it.

SECOND NURSE (CONT'D)
 You'll see, Monsieur will be
 dazzled by you...

Furious SOUND from Anne.

SCENE 48 - INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

The window opening onto the light well is open. A pigeon has
 landed on the window ledge.

It walks to and fro, then finally dares to jump down inside,
 onto the floor. It starts to explore the surroundings.

We hear the TOILET FLUSH. Georges comes out of the toilet.
 The door opening frightens the pigeon. Alarmed, flapping its
 wings, it flutters about the room.

After a moment of surprise, Georges tries to shoo it back
 toward the window. But the bird escapes in the opposite
 direction. George follows it.

He closes the doors of the other rooms. Coming from the
 bedroom, we faintly hear ANNE'S VOICE.

Georges fetches a towel from the bathroom. He chases the bird. He hits out at the bird for so long that it escapes back out through the window. Georges, visibly exhausted, has to sit down on the chest in the hallway.

SCENE 49 - INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Georges and the second nurse.

NURSE

... as you wish, sir. I don't know what you were expecting. I gave up another job to come and work here. You should have thought it over before deciding whether you wanted a second nurse or not.

GEORGES

But I've only just found out how incompetent you are.

NURSE

(furious)
What's that supposed to mean?

GEORGES

I don't want to discuss it with you. Anyway, you wouldn't understand.

NURSE

No one has ever complained.

GEORGES

Good for you. (To get rid of her)
How much do I owe you?

NURSE

(after a brief calculation)
Seven hundred and eighty euros.

Georges takes his wallet from his jacket hanging on the armchair and takes out eight one-hundred euro bills. The nurse is hopping mad.

NURSE (CONT'D)

I've never had anything like this happen to me before. Who do you think you are?! I've been doing this job for ten years. I don't need you to teach me how to do it.

GEORGES

Do you have twenty euros?

The nurse takes out her purse angrily, looks inside.

NURSE

No.

GEORGES

Then take the eight hundred euros.
You can go now.

The nurse pockets the money.

NURSE

You're a nasty old man. I feel
sorry for you.

Georges has put back his wallet, turns to her again and looks at her.

GEORGES

I hope from the bottom of my heart
that one day someone treats you the
way you treat your patients, and
that you too will have no way of
defending yourself. Now get out.

She looks at him, at first doesn't know what to answer, then:

NURSE

Go fuck yourself, you old fart!

She leaves, slamming the door behind her. A few seconds later, we hear the front door of the apartment fall shut. Georges sits down in his armchair, looks straight ahead. Then he lights a cigarette, his hands shake, he smokes.

SCENE 50 - INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

He tries to pour some tea into her mouth with the sipping cup. She won't loosen her lips.

GEORGES

... Please, open your mouth... go
on... open it... Anne! Please!...
come on... stop that!...

He sits upright.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

If you don't drink, you'll die.

Indecipherable SOUND from ANNE.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Is that what you want?

PAUSE. She looks at him. He bends over her again, presents the cup in front of her sealed lips.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Come on, Anne, please.

She doesn't react. He opens her lips with his fingers and tries carefully, but using some force, to separate her teeth. Pours a little tea in. The liquid runs out of her mouth.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
(angrily)
Goddammit!

He puts down the cup, takes a towel and wipes the liquid, some of which has run down onto the pillow. He tries to mop it up. She watches him the whole time. Finally he puts the towel down beside the cup and looks at her. Tries not to show his helplessness and his anger.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Anne! ... You can't force me to let you die of thirst. If you persist, I'll call Bertier and he'll put you in hospital. They can force-feed you there. Is that what you want?

BRIEF PAUSE.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
I promised to spare you that. But you must help me. I'm out of my depth.

He takes the cup again and puts it against her lips.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Please, Anne!

Her lips remain sealed. He presses the cup hard against them.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Drink that, now!

It hurts her, so she opens her mouth and lets in a little liquid.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
There!

She closes her mouth again and he puts down the cup.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Good.

Then she spits it all out like a fountain. After a moment of bewilderment, he slaps her.

SILENCE. He's frightened by his own gesture. Then he puts down the cup and sits on the chair beside the bed. They don't look at each other.

LONG PAUSE.

ANNE

(softly)
Help... help...

PAUSE.

GEORGES

(softly)
Please, forgive me.

PAUSE.

ANNE

(softly) Help... Help... Help...
Help...

SCENE 51 - INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The various paintings hanging in the apartment. Without their frames. Like views on various realities.

SILENCE. Sometimes, the REMOTE sound of TRAFFIC in the distance.

SCENE 52 - INT. HALLWAY - LIVING ROOM - DINING ROOM - DAY

Living room.

Georges is drinking tea and reading the newspaper. SILENCE. Suddenly, the DOORBELL RINGS.

Georges, annoyed, puts down his newspaper, gets up, goes into the hallway and goes to the front door.

GEORGES

Who's there?

EVA'S VOICE

It's me.

GEORGES

Eva?

EVA'S VOICE

(a bit irritated) Yes.

Georges, panicked, thinks for a few seconds.

GEORGES

Just a minute.

He goes toward the bedroom door, locks it and puts the key in his pocket. He goes into the dining room, also closes the door leading to the bedroom. He comes back. He is about to go toward the front door, but remains motionless an instant, opens the door of the toilet that is located just nearby, flushes the toilet, closes the toilet door again and opens the front door.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Hello.

A brief kiss hello.

EVA

Hello. What was going on?

GEORGES

I was in the toilet. Sorry.

He closes the front door behind Eva, indicates the direction of the living room.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Come in.

Eva points to the bedroom with a questioning look. He shakes his head as if to play down the question, and indicates back in the direction of the living room, as if to say: "You understand, huh?". Eva is slightly irritated, but follows him into the living room.

He closes the door.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

Why this unannounced visit? Where have you come from?

EVA

What's going on with Mom?

GEORGES

Nothing. What should be going on?

EVA

Well... (gesture toward the
bedroom)

GEORGES

Don't you want to sit down first?

Eva wants to answer, but finally gives in and sits down.
Georges does the same.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

So why are you in Paris?

EVA

What's going on with Mom? Why don't
you answer the phone? After our
last conversation, I left four
messages on your answering machine.
Why don't you call back?

GEORGES

Sorry. I didn't listen to it.
Forgive me.

EVA

Don't you realize we're worried?

GEORGES

Your worries are no use to me.

Eva glares at him.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

No, don't get me wrong. I'm not
criticizing you. I just don't have
the time to deal with your worries,
that's all.

EVA

Dad...

GEORGES

No. Let's stop this conversation
right there. I'm taking care of
your mother. It's a full-time job.
And I'm not saying that to
complain, just to explain why I
didn't answer your phone calls and
why I don't want to have any
pointless discussions on the
subject. Your mother is just as
could have been expected: bad the
whole time.

(MORE)

GEORGES (CONT'D)

She is turning more and more into a helpless child, and it's sad and humiliating, for her and for me. And she doesn't want to be seen in that state either. Even the last time you visited, she didn't want you to come. You two have your own life. Nothing wrong with that. But let us have our life too. Even though it's a lousy one. OK?

EVA

Dad, what's the matter?

GEORGES

Nothing's the matter; your visit caught me by surprise. And I'm annoyed that you show up here to check that everything's OK. Who do you think you are?

PAUSE. Eva is speechless.

EVA

I...

Then she gets up and makes to go to the door.

GEORGES

Stay here, will you!

She stops short, looks at him.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

(softly, but insistently)
Please!

She hesitates a moment, but winds up leaving the living room.

WE HEAR HER PASS IN THE HALLWAY TO GO INTO THE BEDROOM AND HER VAIN ATTEMPT TO OPEN THE DOOR.

EVA (O.S.)

Mom? ... Mom??

Georges remains seated, motionless, until she comes back. She seems upset by the situation, as one would expect.

EVA (CONT'D)

Tell me, what's going on? Have you gone crazy?

GEORGES

Please, sit down.

EVA

I don't want to sit down. What's going on here?

GEORGES

(quietly)
Nothing's going on. I want to spare us all a pointless drama. I presume your mother is asleep. She mostly sleeps the whole day. And then she wakes up at night. If you really want to, we'll go and see her in a little while. Now, sit down. OK?

They look at each other.

Reluctantly, Eva heads toward her armchair and sits down. PAUSE. Then Georges goes on in a quiet voice:

GEORGES (CONT'D)

We do our speech exercises every day, or we sing together. Most of the time, I wake up around 5. At that time, she's still awake. Then we change her incontinence pad. I rub cream on her to avoid sores. Then, around 7, I try to persuade her to eat and drink. Sometimes it works, sometimes not. Sometimes she tells me things from her childhood, then for hours she calls for help, and then an instant later she's giggling away to herself, or crying. Nothing of any of that is worth showing to anyone.

SILENCE. Eva looks down. Finally, she says:

EVA

(softly)
You can't stop me from seeing her.

GEORGES

(also softly)
No.

They remain seated for a moment, finally Eva gets up. Georges follows her into the hallway.

He unlocks the door and they enter the bedroom.

The bright light from outside filters through the blinds.

Eva goes over to the bed, looks at Anne. Finally, she caresses her face, shyly and clumsily. Anne opens her eyes. Looks at her. No movement.

EVA

It's me, Mom.

Anne emits a FURIOUS SOUND.

EVA (CONT'D)

(helpless)

Can I do something for you? Mom...

ANNE

Mom... Mom... Mom... Mom... Mom...

SILENCE.

Georges has remained by the door. After a while, they both leave the bedroom, cross the hallway to come back in the living room.

Georges closes the door. For an instant he puts a consoling hand on Eva's shoulder. Then he sits down.

Eva, trying to compose herself, goes toward the window and looks outside. Suddenly she starts sobbing.

After a while, Georges gets up and goes out of the room. Eva, vexed, blows her nose.

Shortly after, Georges comes back. He has another teacup in his hand, puts it down beside his on the table and sits down.

GEORGES

The tea isn't very hot any more.

Eva turns toward him.

GEORGES (CONT'D)

But it does make you feel better.

After a short PAUSE, Eva comes toward the table. Sits down. He fills her cup.

EVA

Thanks.

She takes the cup, drinks. Replaces it. Still can't bring herself to look at him.

GEORGES

It was silly of me to lock the door. I'm sorry. You took me by surprise, that's all. I'm sorry.

She nods her head, indicating she understands. Finally she looks at him:

EVA

What's going to happen now?

GEORGES

(with a little ironic laugh)
What's going to happen now? The nurse comes twice a week, and every two weeks Dr. Bertier and the hairdresser come. That's what you want to know, right?
Things will go on as they have done up until now. They'll go from bad to worse. Things will go on, and then one day it will all be over.

Brief PAUSE.

EVA

You can't go on like this, Dad.

GEORGES

Can't I? What do you suggest?

EVA

Can't we have a serious talk, you and me?

GEORGES

What do you call "a serious talk"?
What do you want to suggest? Do you want to have Mom live with you? Do you want to pack her off to a care home? Do you? What do you want? Go on, talk to me "seriously"!

Eva looks at him.

SCENE 53 - INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Georges is seated on the bed beside Anne, who is still bedridden.

ANNE

(in a rush)... short... short dress... only I... only I... all long... it was... (with a small gesture to imitate a bell): ding... dong...

GEORGES

(smiling)
Yes, it swung to and fro.

ANNE

(still rushed) ... yes... to ... fro ... you... very serious... like that... (she imitates a serious countenance, continues in a low voice): like that... serious...

GEORGES

(unable to keep from laughing a little) Yes. I think I was pretty uptight.

ANNE

(smiling) yes... up... tight...

PAUSE. Anne puts her hand on Georges'.

ANNE (CONT'D)

... it was n...nice...

SILENCE.

SCENE 54 - INT. BATHROOM - HALLWAY - BEDROOM - DAY

BATHROOM

Georges is shaving. Suddenly we hear, coming from the bedroom,

ANNE'S VOICE

(loud) Help... Help... Help...
Help... Help...

Georges wipes his face and, to the sound of Anne's cries, crosses the hallway and enters the bedroom.

Anne continues to cry out in a monotone to herself.

Georges goes over to her bed.

GEORGES

(trying to calm her like a sick child) What is it?..

(MORE)

GEORGES (CONT'D)
Are you in pain?... What's the
matter?... Is your pad full?

He raises her blanket for an instant and sniffs, then
replaces it.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
No... So what's hurting you?

He sits down beside her on the bed. Takes her hand.

GEORGES (CONT'D)
It's all right... it's all right ...
I'm here... everything's fine...
we'll... Hold on, I'll tell you a
story... but you must be quiet, I
can't talk too loud, it wears me
out... Here we go: when I was
little... well, I wasn't as little
as all that... it was toward the
end of primary school, so I was
about ten, Dad and Mom sent me to a
holiday camp. They thought it would
do me good to spend the summer with
kids my own age... We were lodged
in an old castle in the midst of a
magnificent wooded landscape... I
think it was in the Auvergne... I
don't know... in any case it was
the opposite of what I'd
expected... We had to get up at 6
and go for a morning swim. Not far
from the castle, there was a pond
fed by an icy mountain stream. We
entered it running, in a double
file. You know, I was never very
sporty. They had a program to keep
us on the go all day, probably to
nip any potential pubescent
impulses in the bud ... But the
worst thing was the food. The third
day after our arrival, there was
rice pudding for lunch. I hate rice
pudding. We sat at long tables in a
huge hall. I didn't want to eat the
stuff and the housemaster said to
me: You won't get up until you've
cleared your plate. So after the
meal everybody left the room, and I
remained seated, in tears. I had
made a secret pact with Mom. I was
to send her a postcard every week.

(MORE)

GEORGES (CONT'D)

If I was pleased with the place I was to draw some flowers on it, or if not, some stars. She kept the card; it was covered all over in stars. After three hours, I was allowed to leave the table. I went up to my room, got into bed and had a fever of 42 degrees. It was diphtheria. They took me to the nearest hospital where I was put in an isolation ward, which meant that Mom, when she came to visit me, could only wave at me through a window. At some point I lost that postcard. It's a pity.

Anne has become ever calmer during Georges' story. He still holds her hand.

LONG SILENCE.

Then Georges reaches across Anne's body to get hold of his pillow and presses it over her face. STIFLED SOUNDS from Anne. Everything that can still move in her body starts to move. Georges presses down heavily on the pillow, lies on it with his whole weight, for a long time, until all Anne's movements stop. Then he sits up, exhausted, and without removing the pillow from her face, remains seated beside her.

SILENCE.

SCENE 55 - INT. HALLWAY - KITCHEN - DAY

Hallway.

The front door of the apartment is unlocked. Georges, in city clothes, enters with two big shopping bags full of cut flowers. He puts down the bags, takes off his coat, hangs it in the closet.

The TELEPHONE RINGS. Georges takes the bags and carries them in the kitchen, puts them in the sink, fills it with water. He starts to cut the stems and put the flowers in the water. We watch him doing so for a while. Meanwhile, the TELEPHONE HAS STOPPED RINGING.

SCENE 56 - INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Georges has opened one of the sections of the large wall closet. He is looking for a specific dress. He takes some out, puts them back inside. One of the dresses slips off its hanger and falls to the floor. He picks it up, hangs it up again. He ends up finding the one he was looking for. He takes it out on its hanger. Closes the closet again.

Looks at the dress. Then he lowers his arm a little and is about to leave the bedroom. He catches his feet in the dress.

He just saves himself from tripping up by grabbing on to the wheelchair that is parked there. Exhausted, he flops down into it.

SCENE 57 - INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

With wide adhesive tape, Georges seals up the door frame of the bedroom.

SCENE 58 - INT. KITCHEN - ADJOINING BEDROOM - HALLWAY - DAY

Georges is seated at the kitchen table where he had breakfast with Anne in Scene 8, and writes a letter. PAUSES for reflection. GENTLE COOING OF PIGEONS, scarcely audible. Suddenly, Georges starts.

At the far end of the long kitchen, beside the door between the kitchen units, a pigeon is walking. Georges stares at it. For a long time.

Then he gets up slowly and, via the door located beside the kitchen table, he goes into the adjoining room.

On the sofa there, he has set up his new bed. He takes the wool blanket from the bed and comes back into the kitchen, carefully approaches the pigeon that then runs off in alarm. Georges carefully opens up the blanket and finally throws it over the pigeon. But it manages to escape into the hallway.

Georges follows it. This action is repeated several times. The pigeon is more and more panicky, starts to fly up, flutters about in all directions. Georges closes the light-well window to cut off its escape route. This lasts an exhausting amount of time, but he ends up capturing it. He cuddles it against him, rolled up in the blanket, leans against a wall, then holds it as if it were a baby.

SCENE 59 - INT. ADJOINING ROOM - KITCHEN - NIGHT

From the adjoining room, we see Georges seated at the kitchen table, writing. Finally we see what he is writing:

... you won't believe it. A pigeon came in, for the second time already, through the light well. This time I caught it. In fact it wasn't difficult at all. But I set it free again. I'm going to ...

SCENE 60 - INT. ADJOINING ROOM - KITCHEN - HALLWAY - DAY

Georges is lying on his bed in the adjoining room, staring at the ceiling. O.S., we faintly hear the SOUND of running water, and from time to time the CLATTERING OF DISHES.

After a while, Georges gets up and goes into the kitchen.

He remains in the doorway and watches Anne who, doing the dishes, at first doesn't pay attention to him, then notices his presence and shoots him a quick glance, saying casually:

ANNE

I'm almost done.

Georges continues to look at her unwaveringly.

ANNE'S VOICE

You can put your shoes on if you want.

Georges looks at her an instant longer, passes beside her, goes into the hallway, sits down on a stool beside the closet and puts on his shoes. O.S. we hear Anne finishing her work. She comes out, hangs up her apron in the closet, disappears for a few moments into the bathroom. Meanwhile, Georges has got up, and looks in the bathroom where, clearly, Anne is tidying her hair and sprucing herself up. When she comes out again, he takes her coat from the closet and helps her put it on.

ANNE

Thanks.

They head for the front door.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Aren't you taking a coat?

Georges thinks a few seconds, then takes his trench-coat from the hook and they leave the apartment.

SCENE 61 - INT. HALLWAY - BEDROOM - DINING ROOM - LIVING ROOM
- DAY

Four long shots: all the windows are open. The sun is shining. It is fairly bright.

Hallway.

SILENCE. Then the SOUND OF A LOCK BEING OPENED. Eva comes into the apartment. Remains a long time beside the door. Looks around her, ill at ease. Finally she hesitantly goes into the bedroom.

Anne's twin bed isn't there any more. On Georges' bed lies only the bare mattress. Eva remains there a moment, then goes through the partition door into the dining room.

There, everything is as usual. Eva continues into the living room.

There too, everything is as usual. Eva stops by the piano stool. Looks out of the window, feeling at a loss. Then she heads toward the sofa and armchairs in the corner. On the table lie the remains of a snack. Eva looks at the table, turns again toward the open windows, through which we hear STREET NOISE. Then she sits down, exhausted, in one of the armchairs. Her diminutive frame seems lost in the big room.

END CREDITS (white on a black background)