

Being in Love with a "Ghost"

MARA - average looking young girl, with brown hair, green eyes, shy and self-conscious

RON (invisible to others) - long brown hair scraggy and disordered, black T-shirt tight torn jeans, gym shoes, smooth skin

LARISSA - spoiled young blond woman, long hair, stylish, neighbor from Mara, self-absorbed person

SALESWOMAN - older woman, irritated and unfriendly

DRUNK MAN - looking in the park for money and a fun time

Fashion shop - DAY in December 17:30 pm

Mara fishes the olive green jacket from the clothes stand and shows it to Ron. The shop assistant with a forced friendly expression tries to help Mara, but Mara doesn't want her help. The saleswoman is angry. Mara is annoyed because everyone thinks she is crazy and talks to herself. Later they leave the shop together without buying anything.

MARA

Well, I think the green one is better

SALESWOMAN

Excuse me, can I help you?

MARA

No thanks, I actually do know what I'd like. Do you also think the olive would be the right one?

RON

Yes, it's perfect

SALESWOMAN

(mumbles)

There are always crazies!

MARA

(snorts)

Oh man, why is she gawking so stupidly?

RON

(chuckles)

Well, they certainly think it's a bit strange when you talk to yourself

MARA

(sighs heavily)

Yes, sometimes I think myself I'm crazy

RON

(sadly)

You know that's not right

MARA

Maybe I am just the world's loneliest woman who has an imaginary friend she cannot touch, only see and hear

Street - Same DAY in December 17:50 pm

RON and Mara walking down the busy streets, MARA is covered in a thick winter overcoat, and RON is walking beside her in a T-shirt

RON

What are you thinking, Mara?

MARA

Man, it's mean that despite my overcoat I'm freezing and you're getting about half-naked!

RON

(laughing)

I'm just not so sensitive, because of my situation. You even use three blankets when you're sleeping, so it's no wonder you're freezing now. There is only one overcoat protecting your body
MARA

I need the three blankets, one is for my feet, otherwise they get cold and I hate that. The other I need for my head because there is nothing worse than imagining something is creeping into my ear, ugh! And the last one is for snuggling up

RON

Snuggling up? You lie all rolled up like an embryo and cling to the third blanket ... you practically crawl into it

MARA

So what? It calms me down. I like holding on to something firmly
Sorry, Ron!

RON

(sad and quiet)
That's okay
You're sunk in thought again

MARA

Mmm ... among other things I'm wondering why I never think things through before talking when I'm with you

RON

Because you feel good

MARA

Yes, you're right. And why do I feel so good?

RON

Because I'm uncomplicated and take you just as you are

MARA

Peep! Please define uncomplicated. And yes, the second thing you said is correct

RON

(Raises eyebrow)

So do you find me complicated?

MARA

I have to find you complicated, or else I'd have to actually accept that I'm complicated, and that will not do at all

RON

Have I got to understand that now? Why are you always so illogical?

Let's go home. The fresh air is not good for you

They go silently

MARA

What about a film? Do you think we should borrow a film?

RON

(grins)

What sort of film?

MARA

A love film?

RON

(rolls his eyes)

One where you again dissolve in tears and whine:

'O, ooh! I want to, I want to too'?

Mara

(harumphs)

Okay, then let it be a horror film

RON

(laughs loudly)

That you only half understand because your face is hidden behind a cushion, and during which you yell

'Ugh! How nauseating!'

MARA (sighs annoyingly)

Okay then, an action film

RON

(sighs deeply)

Mara, in an action film you suffer so much that you hit out at everything around you because you want to join in fighting the criminals

MARA

(nods unhappily and sighs)
Okay, what about a comedy?

RON

(laughs loud)
Where we have to watch the best bits two or three times because you laugh so loud that you miss the next jokes?

MARA

(shouts)
I'll tell you something. You're a quibbler!

RON

(chuckles softly)
No, I did not say a single word about not wanting to watch any of the films with you. I'm just reminding you of your ... characteristics in relation to the various genres

Mara

(dramatically)
Your way of carrying on shakes me to my core

Ron

(amused)
Hey, actress, choose a film and I'll be with you. Anyway I can't change anything. I couldn't even chuck it out of the window if I didn't like it

MARA

(forceful)
You've never really tried that

RON

(sad and a little annoyed)

I haven't got a real body. Why should I try something I would certainly fail at?

MARA

Who doesn't try, doesn't win

RON

I'm not going to discuss that with you again

Mara

I remember our first meeting...

It was Christmas, almost a year ago. I had just met Thomas and accidentally slept with his brother. While I was walking depressed and filled with guilt along the streets you happened: I talked loudly to myself and wondered why I am always so impulsive, and then you were suddenly standing in front of me and said to me: "Being impulsive is nothing bad. What has she got against that?"

I looked directly into your beautiful, sad eyes and said you should be so kind as to mind your own business.

I'll never forget the look which you then gave me. It was an astonished, incredulous and at the same time relieved, indeed almost a happy look.

"You can hear and see me?" you asked in astonishment, and I thought only: man, what sort of crackpot is he?

You followed me and seemed so incredibly relieved that I thought: okay, I'll listen to what he has to say, and then we'll see what gives. And then it did not take long before it became clear to me that I was in fact the only person who could see you.

RON

I remember

MARA

(shivers)

I don't want you to be mad at me. And a part of me really does not want you to research your fate, because then I would perhaps lose you.

RON

Mara, what's up? Have you got visions of horror again? I won't just simply go up in smoke

MARA

But how can you be so sure of that?

RON

Trust me, I just know it

MARA

Are you still mad at me?

RON

I'm never mad at you. And I don't know why I can't summon the energy to start researching, but at the moment I simply don't want to. Can you accept that?

MARA

Yes

RON

It's already pretty dark. It's time we went home

MARA

(nods)

Okay

Street/outside MARAs HOUSE - Same DAY on December 18:30 pm

LARISSA is crying in front of the house and MARA consoles her. RON is annoyed, he dislikes the neighbor

MARA

Larissa, hey, everything will work out again!

What is it?

LARISSA

(sniffling)

I wanted to see him!

MARA

And?

LARISSA

He wasn't there, so I drove to his house, and there I saw him. He kissed his daughter and looked so happy. Then his wife joined them - a regular ideal family!

MARA

We went through all that at Thanksgiving! You knew he wanted to spend Christmas with his family as well. You're just an affair for him, kiddo, I've said that to you a zillion times! Let him go, he doesn't deserve you!

LARISSA

But he is always so sweet and he pays so much for me ...

MARA

(interrupts her)

He's just playing you

RON

(snorts)

LARISSA

No, he loves me, he told me that. It's just that he can't get away from her because he loves his daughter so much and he's scared of losing the little one

MARA

Poppycock, in that case, he should claim the right to custody!

LARISSA

He said the woman automatically gets the children

MARA

You know we have a different set of laws. He has as many rights as she has. He only has to try it. But he doesn't want to separate, and I don't know, to be honest, why you are doing this to yourself. He'll never leave her; he'll just continue telling his lies

RON

Exactly

MARA

(glares at RON)

RON

So what's up

She really lets that man lead her about. It's not as though she didn't deserve it. I don't understand why he deceives his wife with her

MARA

(glares icier and harumphs and consoles LARISSA again)

Okay, I'll print the law texts for you again, and then you can talk with him again. But if he keeps on with his bullshit, then send him to the devil at last

LARISSA

(nods)

MARA

(sighs)

Would you like to watch a funny film, I mean, to distract you

LARISSA

Sure I would

MARA

So come over. At seven?

LARISSA

Thanks for the car! By the way, the fuel supply is again very low, and unfortunately, I had no cash to top up. Sorry

MARA

That's okay, I think I'll fill up tomorrow

LARISSA

Great, see you soon

MARA HOUSE inside - Same DAY in December 19:00 pm
MARA opens the door and RON is angry with her,
because of LARISSA. MARA gets a phone call later,
where LARISSA says she can't come to watch the
movie. MARA is sad and disappointed

RON

That I don't get! You'll fill up? She's driven the
car dry

MARA

(sighs)

We went driving too

RON

You went by car to the shopping center and back.
How far was that? Four Kilometers? And oh, you
didn't bring her all of the fruit that she just
had to have? Did she pay at all for that

MARA

No, she probably forgot that

RON

(snickers)

Well, well, forgot

MARA

(snaps)

Why not? I'd completely forgotten it too. Not
everyone can have such a superbrain as Mr. Ron
Mastermind

RON

Larissa is a selfish cow! Understand that you'll
never get as much back from her as you give her,
and I don't mean that in a material sense

MARA

Do you always have to get something back?

RON

No, you shouldn't always expect something back,
but I don't want you to manoeuvre yourself into a

dead end with her. You can't count on her, and I mean that in every respect. She will always only take

MARA

(stubbornly)

We will see

The phone rings

MARA

Mara Schroder

LARISSA

It's me, Larissa. Mara, I can't come over. You see, I'm going right now to eat with Shani. She's just rung

MARA

Aha

LARISSA

Sorry, we'll meet up some time - BYE

MARA

Bye

MARA

(on the edge - crying)

Okay, you're right

RON (sad)

I don't want to be right, damn it! I want you to be happy

MARA

(says unconvincingly)

I am happy

RON

(Furrows his brow)

I know you're not happy

MARA

(tentative, slightly pained smile)

I am so

I have a roommate who's always there for me, and that makes me the least lonely woman in the world

RON

(Sure and steady)

Mara, you really are one of a kind

MARA

Don't you mean I'm weird?

RON

(says affectionately)

No, I find you really unique! And not only because you're the only one who can talk with me and sees me. You know, I'm got to know some people, I mean, of course, without their knowing it ... and you are quite different

MARA

Thanks, Ron, you're unique too and also for being the first man who can put up with me day and night

RON

(smiles)

You should have a bath now. You look tense

MARA

(grins)

Oh you man, you just want to see me naked

RON

Always a pleasure

MARA HOUSE inside Bath room - Same DAY in December
20:00 pm

MARA lies in a bathtub full of water. RON is also inside, but he is not getting wet

Mara

(sighs)

RON

(softly)

It feels good, doesn't it?

MARA

Yes. Can you feel it?

RON

I can feel through you. It's so calming, I like it

MARA

Why do you believe you can see, hear, smell some things, but neither touch nor taste?

RON

(sadly)

I can't tell you

MARA

(whispers)

Ron, are you sad about it?

RON

Yes, and no. Some things I really desire and I miss them, in as much as you can talk about missing. After all, I don't know what they are like

MARA

That sounds complicated

RON

Yes, it is that, and very much so. I'm pleased that through you I can feel something. You are a very touchy-feely woman, and through you I feel very much alive

MARA

(surprised)

Wow, that's the first time you've said that

RON

Perhaps because I've become aware of it again today. Your heart is so big and you give so much to others. Unfortunately you forget that you're here too. I feel that you're lonely although I'm here

MARA

(shocked)

I'm not lonely, how come you have that idea?

RON

You can be with somebody and still be lonely. I can't fulfil a whole certain part of your wishes, and you know that perfectly well. I can support

you, but I can't give you what you really yearn for, and that breaks my heart

MARA

(defensibly)

It's not always just about sex

RON

But it is about caresses. They are good for the soul, but I can't give them to you

MARA

Oh yes, so other men would be good for me?

RON

(Sighs and whispers)

If they make you happy, yes

MARA

It wouldn't make me happy to sleep with other guys if I had you before my eyes

RON

(says hastily)

I would disappear then

MARA

No, that's not what I meant. If I slept with another guy, I would still be thinking only of you and that doesn't make me happy. It would seem like a betrayal to me." While looking at his puzzled face I add: "Don't look so flabbergasted, there are lots of other things that are important apart from caresses and sex. For a start I could get myself a dog

RON

(smiles)

Does that mean that if I don't go away at some time you'll never bring a man home?

MARA

(appaled)

Why? Do you want to go away?

RON

(calmly)

No, I don't

I have only come to life through you, why should I want to give up that feeling?

MARA

(sighs)

Because I'm complicated

RON

(laughs loudly)

Can I please have that in writing?

MARA

You're laughing at me

RON

No I'm not! I just like kidding you. Oh Mara, you've got so many complexes. Do you seriously think there's a better woman in the whole world than you?

MARA

(not believing a word he says)

Very witty

RON

Look, you don't even notice when I place my heart at your feet

MARA

I don't find that amusing at all

RON

(seriously)

I am quite serious about it. Come on, look at me

MARA

(sniffels)

RON

(firmly convinced)

Please believe me, I'd never leave you

MARA

(turns around crying)

RON

I didn't want that, I'm sorry. I don't know why I said all that

MARA

If I was a hundred percent certain you're a ghost I'd kill myself just to be with you

RON

(scared)

Oh Mara, you mustn't even think such a thing! I shouldn't have said that to you. I'm sorry

MARA

(wipes her tears away)

Don't be scared, I won't do anything to end my life prematurely. But why did you say all that to me? I mean you absolutely want me to get to know a man, and then you say something like that

RON

I thought it would make you happy. But when you said you would be imagining only my face when you with someone else, I felt such a hot feeling and had to tell you I can't leave you any more

MARA

(harumphs)

That is nice of you, but you don't know so many women that you could see in me the non plus ultra

RON

(sighs dramatically)

Those are the words of a woman with self-doubts
(comes nearer until he is only inches of MARAs face)

How can I prove to you that I have perceived more women than you can imagine? Before I met you I watched them, I saw and studied them in their thousands, but none are like you

(something lightly bumps into MARAs lip and they both look shocked)

MARA

(mumbles)

Only an electrical discharge

RON

(whispers)

Or a sign

(says louder)

Let's watch a film and forget the whole conversation

MARA

I don't want to see the film anymore. I want to go to bed and dream of you

RON

(grins)

Okay

Dream - Night

MARA dreams of a beach, where she sees RON the wind is blowing through his hair and they hold each other. RON wants to kiss MARA but she feels like she betrays RON, but RON encourages her to go on and they kiss.

RON

(looks around and touches Mara and sighs)

It all seems so real

MARA

(breathlessly)

Yes

(annoyed at her dreams she inches away)

RON

No, Mara, enjoy it. I can feel it too!

MARA

(thinking)

But that can't be! After all, I'm only dreaming

RON

That's right, but I really can feel everything Please, Mara, enjoy it the way I am. Something has happened. Perhaps through your feelings for me. I can't say why, but it's so intense!

(Wraps his arms around her and sighs heathy)

MARA

How is that possible?

RON

No idea

MARA

Can you feel my hands too?

(caress RON)

RON

(whispers)

Yes

Can I kiss you

MARA

(Challengingly)

Just try it

RON

(looks with an expression like undisguised curiosity and excitement)

MARA

(nervous and giddy)

RON

(laughs huskily)

Calm down, everything's okay

(He steps closer and sighs and takes her in his arms)

Do you know how lovely it is to hold you at last and smell you? I can hardly wait to taste you

MARA

(eyes wide nods only)

Then they kiss intensely

MARAs Bedroom - Night

The kiss feels so real that both are breathless when they are suddenly awake.

Ron is lying over me, hovering in the air and they argue about the kiss

RON

It's over

(He jerks away and sits on her be)

MARA

(happy)

So you really felt it too. Ron, it was marvellous
RON

(smiles)

Yes

MARA

How can such a thing be possible?

RON

I haven't the faintest idea, but I want to
experience it again

MARA

I do too. Do you think I was on a ... ah ... spiritual
level?

RON

I don't think ghosts can feel so intensely
On top of that, it has not been explained that I
really am one. And if I really think it over I've
already several times had the feeling of touching
you. Only teeny-weeny impulses, not like what we
just experienced, but still something

MARA

Ron, I have felt that too. Do you think it's
possible for you to ... materialize

RON

Till yesterday that seemed to me totally
impossible, but now I'm thinking about it in
another way. Now I want it! I thought it would be
enough for me just to exist at your side without
touching you. But now I know what it means to
really feel you. I want to experience that again

MARA

I want it too! I want you! And don't believe my
feelings for you were less intense before

RON

I heard your thoughts, Mara

And it doesn't hurt me that you wish I could hug
and kiss you. I myself want that since the day
when you leaned spewing over the toilet basin

MARA

(makes a face)

Yuk! What's that supposed to mean?

RON

(laughs)

Hm, well, at that time I would have been happy to support you or at least hold your hair away from your face

(Mara looks shocked)

So much I haven't told you. I don't know why just today we've admitted our feelings, maybe it's the season. But I was serious about everything. You are the most marvellous woman in the world and I want you, all of you

MARA

Me too

Mmm, listen. It's now 4 a.m. and we're not going to make further progress. I'm really hungry, so what about a tasty bread roll fresh from the baker?

RON

(snorts dryly)

Haha, very witty

MARA

Come on, I don't want to go alone

RON

(sighs)

Get dressed. Of course I'm going with you

Park outside - 4 am

RON and MARA walk through the park chattering easily and carefree, until an drunk man approaches them and tries to rape MARA. RON feels helpless and watches and MARA tells him to leave because she loves him. With her words something magical happens and the earth moves like there has been an earthquake then RON stays there in real and punches the drunk. The drunk runs away and RON takes MARA into his arms.

RON

That's quite a distance

MARA

(Hunggrily)

Oh, come on, if somebody's feet hurt, it won't be yours and I want these huge sweet cheese bread rolls

RON

(nods and Laughs)

MARA

(strolls happily beside him)

RON

You're like a young dog being taken for a walk

MARA

This morning I find everything glorious! I've experienced so many good things and, oh man, we kissed! And ... do you know how good you were?

DRUNK MAN:

Hey, sweetie, what are you up to? You're a bit confused, eh?

RON

Don't stop, keep going

DRUNK MAN

(grabs MARA by her jacket)

Hey, okay, I won't do anything to you, I just need a bit of money. Have you got some?

MARA

I've got no money

DRUNK MAN

(slurs and grabs her harder)

You're real pretty

MARA

(tries to get away for no avail)

I want to go, let go of me

DRUNK MAN

Are you being funny? You'll keep me a little company now

RON

(desperate calling)

Mara, you're strong enough, you can pull free. Do it now

MARA

(struggles to get free)

You're hurting me

DRUNK MAN

(laughs)

Relax, sweetie, we'll have all the more fun together

MARA

Let me go

DRUNK MAN

You can yell all you want, nobody will hear you here. At the earliest the first ones will get out of bed in half an hour, and till then you belong to me

(He throws MARA down and RON tries to get him off her but he can't do anything, Mara looks at him with tearstained face)

MARA

Ron, please go away, I don't want you to see this! I love you

(earthquake and RON stays there quivering for anger and gives the DRUNK MAN a powerful punch in the face. The man runs away)

RON

(reaches his hand to MARA)

Don't look so terrified, now it's all okay

MARA

But ... but how is this possible?

RON

(sighs)

Do you believe in magic

MARA

From today I believe in everything

(Sees RON shivering)

Do you feel the cold?

RON

(nods)

Yes, as from today I feel everything

MARA

Then let's go home before we both freeze to death

RON

(laughs)

What sort of irony would that be?

MARA

(opens her jacket and warms RON on her way back home)

RON

I'll explain everything to you on the way. Now I remember that it was more than twenty years ago.

MARA

Twenty years? So how old are you?

RON

Still twenty-five

MARA

But how is that possible? Were you really a ghost?

RON

(shakes his head)

I was rather an idiot in those days, superficial and in love with myself. Well, one day there was this fair. A charming magic fair, but at that time I did not see it that way. My eyes landed on a couple. I saw a frightfully skinny man and an extremely fat woman. In my eyes it was so ridiculous that they kissed each other so passionately. I remember that I even found it disgusting. How could anyone love such a fat woman or even desire her? I think I even laughed at the two of them and told them how disgusted I was by them.

However that was, the woman suddenly stood beside me. Despite her bulk she had moved so briskly and nimbly that I had not even noticed it. I remember I looked at her in horror.

"You have no idea what it's like when you are loved without qualifications!" she snorted.

I think I answered with something stupid. In any case she became very angry.

,Very well then, laddie,' she snarled, 'you're going to learn what it's like to be loved for your

own sake. But before that you'll be alone for a long time. Nobody will be able to perceive you except the woman who fills your life with happiness. Not until you've found her will you know what suffering is! Because you'll be able only to sense and smell her when her feelings are with you, otherwise you'll not be able to touch or taste her. If some day she gets stronger feelings for you, even though you don't have a firm body, then your suffering will get worse because you'll have to watch how she looks for closeness and fulfilment with other men, and then for the first time in your miserable existence you'll wish to be stuck again in a body with all of its senses. But that wish will not be fulfilled until the woman says the magic words: I love you! Till then you'll pine away in unfulfilled yearning for her. 'But you'll forget all of my words now and set out in search of that woman. And as long as the search lasts your body will not change. And now - lots of luck!'

"When the fat woman had finished I became giddy, and when I woke up I was alone and knew nothing about the fair - until then, when you said 'I love you'. And I'm more than happy even if the search has lasted a rather long time (maybe filming in flashbacks?)

(He sighs)

MARA

I CANT BELIEVE THAT

(Anxiously)

Will you stay on as my flatmate?

RON

(shakes his head and MARAs face fells. Takes her in his arms)

Why do you have such self-doubts? I'll not be just your flatmate, but your husband who accompanies you as long as you accept me as a genuine man

MARA

(breathless)

Are you serious?

RON

I don't know the point of the question. Mara, I love you ... with my body to

MARA

Do you think you could repeat the kiss of this morning?

ROHN

(grins)

And I thought you were never going to ask

(kissing scene)

THE END