

Poor Taste

A short film written by Kajsa Philipsson

Scene 1. Ext. Forest - Midday

Lake, nature sounds and in the far distance the voice of a woman. She is coming closer and closer, but we only hear her.

LILLY

...I was like, this is not happening! The guy just literally started brushing off the wasp from my blouse! (very excited)
I was like: I don't know you, random-S-bahn dude! And he just kept punching and brushing, HYSTER-I-CA-LLY! (laughs)

Silence

The panic in his face... AND then, the strangest thing; as the wasp fell to the ground and I thought it was over, he started stamping on it. Not normal amounts but like TOOOO much, his face turned all red and he even looked like he enjoyed the killing.

We see threes. And the title.

Then he just sat back on his seat and stared out the window as if nothing had happened! And I was like... What the fuck! Thanks for helping me?

DENNIS

Sorry, who was this guy again?

LILLY

Dennis! Where are you?

Note: now we see both Lilly and Dennis.

DENNIS

Sorry! I'm a bit stressed about finding the way. I feel responsible, sorry!

Dennis and Lilly are on their first date. They are walking through a beautiful forest on their way to a beach for a picnic. Dennis is carrying a picnic

basket over his shoulder and Lilly is in the middle of telling a story.

Lilly continues walking. Dennis stops walking and looks at one of the path leading in another direction.

DENNIS

Hey, you!

Lilly stops, turns around, Dennis closes the gap between them with a few steps. Lilly smiles as a response, they are close, kissing-distance.

DENNIS

I think we have to get down here.

Points sideways to a path, not turning his body or breaking eye contact with Lilly.

LILLY

This way?

Points playful in a similar sideways manner, while keeping the eye contact, smiles. She takes one more step towards him.

The forest is beautiful and they are "in the moment" standing still.

DENNIS

Uhum(smiles flirty, removes pollen-fluff from Lilly's hair) Will you tell me about the wasp attack again?

LILLY

I'm not sure if I would call it that. It was more like me and a wasp getting attacked by a man.

DENNIS

White middle age men...

LILLY

(silence)

I like that you are so aware. The guys I usually date wouldn't say that.

(deep eye contact)

Dennis and Lilly at the same time:

DENNIS

shoul...

LILLY

He also...

DENNIS

No you go!...I interrupted you.

LILLY

...he said the strangest thing - The wasp man.

(Focused face tries to remember something)
I MUST be making this up. ..I think he said that I should keep the windows closed, cause of safety. (holds hands in front of mouth, outraged, silent laugh)

DENNIS

Nooo!
But didn't he open them?!

LILLY

Yes!...Exactly! He created a problem, panicked, violated my personal space, enjoyed killing a wasp and then he sat down and gave ME advice.

(Dennis smiles. They start walking slowly, but this time next to each other, looking up towards trees.)

(Silence)

Scene 2 EXT path -point of view

Lilly is running on the path. We hear her breath. Watch her feet on the ground. Feeling of excitement and freedom. Dennis back is seen in the distance.

Scene 3 EXT. Beach. Lake - Midday

Dennis runs into the frame (facing the water) and puts down the picknick basket in the sand, continues running towards the water.

DENNIS

AAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!
(shout of joy, then makes acrobatics, capoeira, handstands?)
WUHUUUUUU!

Lilly falls on her knees. Catches her heavy breath.
She looks towards the water, both her hands are rooted
in the sand on the sides of her body.
(in the back ground Dennis is making joyful noises).
POW towards the water, Dennis is moving closer to her,
but in the direction of the picknick basket)
She examines the sand with her hand, she sees and
touches, in a way that people that feel safe and
present does. Suddenly Dennis jumps into her space and
leans his hand on his upper legs.

DENNIS

WouldUmarrykillfuckme?!

LILLY

Whaat?

DENNIS

Would you marry, fuck or kill me?

Scene 4 - EXT-Midday-Beach

The picknick basket is unpacked, Lilly and Dennis are
sitting on a blanket. They are drinking champagne and
eating. Dennis is waiting for Lilly to reply to
something.

LILLY

I'm not saying! You HAVE to guess.

DENNIS

(Makes theatrical facial expression of
thinking)

I mean the name Lilly could come from all
over the place...And with the accent.. My
best guess would be... that you are from...all
over!

LILLY

(laughs)
That's actually kinda true!
I was Born In Switzerland and...,
(starts speaking in auto pilot, has repeated
this story 100 times before)
...my mom is Brazilian. And my dad is US
American. They met in boarding school in
Switzerland, and when I was 3, they moved to
Cape town, where I lived until I eventually
moved back to Europe. And now I'm here!
(High pitch voice)!

DENNIS

On this blanket with me.

(Goes from sitting to leaning on the elbow into a lying position, touches the blanket between them)

South Africa..

(eats something)

..does that mean your parents are doing some kind of NGO-work?

LILLY

Actually not. My Mother is a correctional Psychiatrist and my father is an architect that works in correctional-development.

(eats something)

At one point they even worked at the same Justice confinement.

(chews)

DENNIS

Like prison?

LILLY

Yes. Prison. But I see it a bit different.... It's more a place of Un-learning, prison sounds so.. off Somehow. So..

(scratches her underarm)

so...judgmental.

Dennis is uncomfortable, he sprays whipped creme on a slice of water melon and takes a bite, in an attempt to hide his stress and south himself.

DENNIS

But do you think everyone that is in prison needs to learn something?

LILLY

Definitely. People are not born violent or evil. I would at least like to think so.

Silence

Silence

Silence

DENNIS

I don't think it's that simple though. I mean for example in the US, maybe not here in Germany so much, But there; The police are doing racial profiling on the streets and...

(Lilly looks as if she is being personally insulted, want to interrupt him)
 ..So black and brown people are therefor..
 eh.. also over represented in prison.
 What kind of justice is that?

LILLY

Come on!
 (Goes from comfortable leaning to sitting straight up) Racism is another discussion! I know where you are going with this. Racism should of course not be tolerated anywhere but I don't understand why people always end up there.
 I'm thankful that devoted people, like my parents (points toward herself) are making prisons more humane. They make it possible for people to change.
 (silence)
 I believe in second chances.

DENNIS

But you don't though! Cause maybe the people that ended up there shouldn't be in prison in the first place!

LILLY

What are you saying Dennis? Are you like 'against the law' (sarcasm)? Or prisons? The police?!

DENNIS

Not exactly..aber...

LILLY

(Interrupts)
 How could we protect ourselves, or democracy for that matter, if we don't have somewhere to rehabilitate people?
 To be frank I don't understand this "fuck the police vibe I get"
 ..as a woman..
 (touches her heart)
 ..I wouldn't feel safe in a world without punishment...

DENNIS

YOU wouldn't feel safe? Is YOUR safety more important than the safety of the people that has their freedom taken for RANDOM reasons?

LILLY

But why do you assume they are not guilty?!
Whats your solution then?

DENNIS

Re-forming... Like re-fund ja, genau, Re-funding the police like in the US...eh..when like the black lives matters thing kicked off.

(Silence)

Because the way it is now. It's not fair.
You know what...to be honest...It should be okay for e-x-am-p-l-e..

..to do party drugs, if you know how to behave.

Come on Lilly!

(responds to Lilly's judgmental facial expression)

It's not like YOU don't do it! I mean we met at a party, so I KNOW...

LILLY

(Interrupts) BUT THAT.. Or whatever, go on..

DENNIS

I don't know what the exact solution is. But for example, my friends where stopped by the police, and got treated like real criminals - like animals to be honest. And for no reason! Just because of some stupid cocaine.

(Silence)

What's the good in that?

And now they have to pay really high fines, and it will be in their record for 10 years or something. I mean, at least there should be some division, right?

(Silence)

And for some self-disclosure, I also did things like shoplifting or, or.. graffiti... What?!

(reacts to Lilly's judgmental stare that we can't see)

LILLY

You shoplift?!(falls to the side laughing)
Seriously?(laughs)
You Naughty Berlin boy!

Sorry! (Laughs, covers her mouth)
 I have to laugh! (Holds hand in front of
 mouth tries to constrain herself a bit)
 ...but please DO go on confessing.

DENNIS

(smiles embarrassed)
 Did I just let too much out of the sack? I
 did, didn't I?
 (shy smile)
 It's not like I always shoplift...but we
 also did do some lines in a toilet together.
 Just to remind you..

Moment of romantic staring. They both break in to a
 smile. They share being caught off guard.

DENNIS

But I'm sure you agree with me that it makes
 a huge difference if you're an educated,
 none violent person.
 Or a...let's say... a passed out junkie or
 some unemployed wife-beater.

(Silence)

Right?

Lilly is still lying down, inspecting him. Smiles.

LILLY

I can't get over your bad boy confessions.
 You are definitely not my normal type.

(Silence)

DENNIS

(Looking at Lilly lovingly)
 Hey, I'm sorry if I made you feel attacked
 or something. I'm sure your parents are
 doing a great job.
 (Looks down at his hands)
 And...and...could we stop this? My hands are
 all sweaty (cute smile)
 You are a real girl-boss sometimes. Did
 anyone ever tell you that?

LILLY

Am I, making you nervous?

(Silence)

Sorry. I get defensive..

(Silence)

When people imply that incarceration would be something inherently evil (shakes her head, feels misunderstood)
I mean you should meet my parents, they are the nicest people, I promise you!

DENNIS

But could you agree that the law should be more.. let's say... flexible?

LILLY

What is that?(points toward water)

DENNIS

(Looks where Lilly pointed)
Nothing. It's nothing.
(Grabs food and chews)
I bet your mother must have met some really screwed up people.

Lilly looks back at Dennis. She's distracted and uneasy.

LILLY

My mom has. For sure.
(looks back toward the water one more time)

DENNIS

She must be around gang members and rapists every day. Like Monday to Friday.
(Giggles and continues eating)

LILLY

Yeah, she work with some really horrible people.
(Grabs a cracker and smears creme cheese on it)
And parents!...a lot of the inmates are actually have kids.

DENNIS

It's so fucked up that people that can't take care of themselves has children.
(chews)

LILLY

But you would actually be surprised to find out there are not only horrible people, but also..
(grabs food, chews)
..some like really smart people in prison too.

DENNIS

Sorry for saying this but why is it that especially poor women don't know how to use condoms?! I mean even I do. And I'm a white (looks down on his own body as if expecting himself) CIS male...I don't know.. a stupid hetero man. And I would be a better woman than them!

LILLY

(laughs).. Maybe it's bad of me to say but I think it might be true.

DENNIS

Wait a minute. Which part?!

They both laugh.

LILLY

Its poor taste. That is what it is.
(Puts food on top of food and swallow it like a dragon)

LILLY

(Suddenly reacts to something in the water)
...what IS that?!

DENNIS

What?

LILLY

(hard to speak cause of food)
That thing in the water. That moves.

DENNIS

Come on! It's nothing. We are having a moment here. At least I am, talking about all this deep political stuff.

LILLY

I'm sorry. It's just that.. it really looked like a mermaid.

DENNIS

What?! (laughs compensatory to hide anger, he is visibly annoyed)
A mermaid?! Come one Lilly. I thought you were a smart girl.

They sit in awkward silence

Lilly feels torn. On one hand she feels ashamed in front of Dennis, and on the other hand she's really worried and weird-ed out.

Dennis is pissed off for having "opened up" emotionally and for Lilly ruining the moment with nonsense.

Scene 5 EXT. Beach - Day- Shallow waters

Dennis walking backwards into the water he is leading Lilly holding her hands, they are fully dressed, she is hesitating but feels exited. Their phones, keys, shoes are left visibly next to the water.

They are watching their steps. Moves slow. They are giggly about their adventure, but also hyper focused, because of the unpleasant cold water.

LILLY

I can't believe we are doing this!

DENNIS

One, two...and?

(looks at Lilly to see if she's with him on the action toward taking a swim stroke)

Scene 5 EXT. Beach - Day

Lilly is sitting with her feet in the water, she has changed her clothes into towel and a hoodie. Dennis is standing a meter in front of her, wearing his wet clothes. He is playing with his feet, enjoying the sensation of water. They are slightly out of breath as if they have just moved a lot.

They are laughing

Silence

LILLY

(cheeky smile)

But I have to say that you are really good at asking boring questions.

Dennis smiles.

DENNIS

God!

(makes big gesture towards sky, looks back at Lilly appreciatively)

We are so similar!

Silence

-Intershot-CU-Under water-

Mermaid tails under water. Dennis internal vision.

DENNIS

What was that!?
(Suddenly stands up)

Looks out to the water and then around his feet, he is visibly upset, he walks out of the water.

LILLY

Are you okay? (stays where she is, confused)
Dennis...? (looks over shoulder, towards Dennis)

Dennis is sitting back on the picknick blanket again. Lilly comes and sits down on her knees in front of him, She looks into his face. Similarly to when an adult sits down close in front of a child that just had fell.

DENNIS

That was weird. Fucked up. I saw something, but it was like a... like a future-memory? Lilly is supporting him with her presence. They look at each other and smile softly.

LILLY

Dennis, are you okay?
(Leans her forehead into his)

They are serious. He nods that he is okay, and move both their heads with his movement

LILLY

About what you said before. You are right, we ARE similar.
(Removes her forehead from his, looks out in space to gather her thought, as if she was about to share a philosophical reasoning, then looks back at Dennis)
Most people are soo stupid.
(deep eye contact)
I... When it comes down to it, I just want to spread the knowledge and...

Said at the same time:

LILLY

...help people

DENNIS

To help people

They start breathing heavy (horny breathing.)

DENNIS

Oh Lilly!

(Dennis eyes tears up he grabs a baguette lying next to him and breaks it in half, then he fills his own and Lilly's mouth with one half each, he spits it out again)
This goes so deep.

Lilly breaths even heavier, tries to chew. She spits out the baguette and grabs a handful of chips and shoves them into their mouths until they are completely filled, not breaking eye contact. Faces are close.

Dennis grabs Lilly's shoulders and falls on his back, and pulls Lilly on top of him. Lilly sits on Dennis and looks for food around Dennis's Head, she grabs the plate with pineapple, puts two hand full in her own mouth.

LILLY

I feel so connected to you!
(Lilly fills her mouth with more pineapple, Dennis opens his mouth to receive, like a bird baby and a bird mom)
I think we could make a difference!
(she simultaneously spits pineapple)

-Inter cut From water-

The backsides of two heads are visible in the shallow waters, close to Lilly and Dennis. They are being watched.

DENNIS

OOH Lilly! Ah! Ah ah! Making...a difference!
(he sprays his own mouth with spray-whipped creme)

LILLY

Oh yeah! (Moans, chews)..and helping..

DENNIS

Women and children

LILLY

Those VERY poor women and..(moans)children
(Lilly pours champagne in Dennis mouth and
then her own).

DENNIS

Aaaahh (moans really a lot)

Oh yeah!

(takes the whipped creme and sprays Lilly's
mouth, fills up with strawberry)

Ooh Lilly!

-Wide shot-

Behind Lilly and Dennis: The two heads rises up out of
the water, until upper body revealed. They have
vengeful/pissed off facial expressions.

LILLY

Fair trade.. and, and.. the.. global south.
(Moans and licks pineapple from his face and
spits it out again.)

DENNIS

I feel like you're the only woman that has
ever been on my level.

LILLY

(Moans) Oh Dennis.

(Lilly fills Dennis and her own mouth with
food, then she takes a zip of champagne)

I'm the only woman on your level.

DENNIS

(Lilly grabs a tray of canapés and places
them on Dennis face and then she licks them
up)

People are so stupid...

LILLY

Aah yes! (Moans and chews)

(Lilly grabs a bowl of lose guacamole and
pours it in Dennis mouth and over his face)

Everyone is so so stupid

(Dennis puts his fingers in Lilly's mouth
and keeps them there)

Ah ...and justice

(continues to spear the guacamole, and sucks Dennis fingers)

DENNIS

Oh yeah, social and .. (moans)
 (He puts his fingers in the bowl Lilly is holding and then he starts finger fucking her mouth)
 And the global south ...

Lilly put down the bowl and shifts her gaze, she suddenly Freeze. She stares out, towards the water. Paralyzed.

Dennis continues finger fucking her mouth.

DENNIS

(Moans) I love strong women.
 (Keeps finger fucking, Lilly is mentally gone)
 No weak women... I love strong, strong women!
 (He finger fucks with more intensity)

SOUND: SPLASH (sound of mermaid tail splashing (leather-whip sound?))

Dennis hears the sound and turns his head towards the water.

-Wideshot -

The two "women" are now five zombie-Mermaids lying in army-like symmetry, long visible Mermaid tails. Staring at Lilly and Dennis from the water.

DENNIS throws Lilly off of himself and starts backing away. He is in panic, he breaths heavily, his gaze-is paralyzed - fixed towards the water.

He continues crawling backwards.

Zombie-Mermaid-1 is lying in the grass like a waiting crocodile, and Dennis is unknowingly backing into him.

Zombie-Mermaid-2 comes tackling him from the side and lands on Dennis (she comes from outside of frame and they both leave the frame as he gets tackled).

SOUND: hit the ground + (cat scream?).

LILLY is sitting on the blanket like a paralyzed sad little girl, she is making herself smaller, hugging her knees. She's breath heavily while **Zombie-Mermaid-3-4-5** are crawling on their elbows, over the beach, toward her.

LILLY

I'm being violated!

(Shapes her hands around her mouth to overlap the hearing distance from a potential by-passer)

As the Zombie-Mermaids are coming closer Lilly turns around and makes an attempt to get up/crawl/run away. But she is being pulled back by **Zombie-Mermaids-3-4-5**. They are now holding on to her leg and getting on top of her from every angle. **Zombie-mermaid-5** takes a bite and Lilly screams of pain.

LILLY

I have rights..You can't do this..

(tries to kick away/wrestle the Zombie-Mermaids.

Zombie-mermaid-3 takes bite from her back, Lilly screams loud.

LILLY

Ouch! You can't do this to me!

Zombie-Mermaid-4 pulls out an intestines from Lilly back, like a long spaghetti that **Zombie-mermaid-3** start eating from. **Zombie-Mermaid-5** is licking Lilly's hand like a cat as blood is pumping out from Lillys back.

Sound: **DENNIS** makes awkward, complaining, monotone-zombie noise the entire time.

DENNIS is lying on the ground and is being eaten by **zombie-mermaid-1** and **Zombie-Mermaid-2** from his stomach, intestine and blood.

DENNIS moan gets louder.

The **zombie-mermaid-1** and **2** Interrupts their eating, and looks surprised at each other and then at Dennis, (cause of his odd noises). Dennis responds with being quiet (as if he got self-aware) and then they continue eating from his gut and throat.

zombie-Mermaid-2 digs in with her whole face to his very wet (bloody) stomach (like a parent making fart sounds on a child stomach, makes mouth-fart sounds) Dennis responds with his monotone-zombie sound again.

LILLY

SOUND: Bones cracking, Lilly screams loud from pain.

Zombie-Mermaid-5 spits out a finger and looks surprised at it as it is lying in the sand, then she joins other zombie-Mermaids on top of Lilly. More blood, intestate and eating

DENNIS

Zombie-Mermaid-1-2 falls down on Dennis like an American wrestler move. Dennis makes a moan of pain with the impact.

(No more Lilly crying in the background)

Closeup of strings being pulled out from Dennis throat wound. Engaged mermaid faces keeps eating.

-Wide shot-

slightly above. **Zombie-Mermaid-1-5** surround Lilly's and Dennis bodies. Green grass, and in the middle Dennis and Lilly with one or two meters apart. Their torsos are open and red like in the middle of a flower. The Zombie-mermaids finishes their eating and slowly moves back in the direction of the water.

- Back from wide shot -

They are visibly tired after their hard work, as they slowly crawl over the sand with bloody faces and bodies. Closeups.

Its visibly easier for them to move as they get into the water again. Freedom. They make some Zombie-Mermaid spins in the water.

Closeup of Lilly face.

SOUND: Loud nature sound in the background

The Zombie-Mermaids swim into the horizon, splashing their tails. Harmony.

THE END