

On Monsieur Hire
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“Monsieur Hire” is a 1989 French film directed by Patrice Leconte.
Dialogue from the film:

“I would like to know, Monsieur Hire, why people don’t like you.”

“They don’t, it’s true. But then, I don’t like them.”

“That’s no reason. What do you do to make them hate you so much?”

“Nothing. That’s the point. Conversations stop when I approach and resume after I’ve passed by. It doesn’t bother me. I prefer silence.”

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“Tell me, Monsieur Hire, how long is it since you came inside a woman?”

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“How old would she have been? Seventy? Eighty? She’d been around forever. People loved her, this little old lady who spent all her time feeding the pigeons. Feeding the pigeons. All day, going from park to park, distributing birdseed by the handful. All the park rangers knew her and were touched. A photographer wanted to market a postcard of her surrounded by pigeons. She agreed. In her own way, she was famous. One day—I don’t know how it emerged—people found out that the birdseed was poisoned. For years, smiling all the time, she’d been killing thousands of pigeons.”

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“You smell nice, Alice. Sorry I’m a bit late. Have you been waiting long?”

“No. I’m glad you came.”

“I often come here alone. But this is nicer. . . . Some evenings, alone at home, I find myself unable to stop crying. At those times, I come here. Scents and smells all mingle.”

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“I have a house in Switzerland. In Lausanne, actually. Not large, but nice, and I own it. I never go there, for now at least. Someday I’ll move there for good and won’t come back.”

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“I love you, Alice.”

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“We will be happy, Alice . . . we will be together and nothing else will matter.”

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“You’ll think me a fool, Alice, but I don’t feel any anger. Just a deathly sadness. But never mind. You gave me my greatest joy.”