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TÖRST ~~THIRST~~ THREE STRANGE LOVES
1949

Script: Herbert Grevenius from a collection of short stories by Birgit Tengroth.

Direction: Ingmar Bergman

Photography: Gunnar Fischer

Editing: Oscar Rosander

Music: Erik Nordgren

Art Direction: Nils Svenwall

Cast: Eva Henning (Rut), Birger Malmsten (Bertil), Birgit Tengroth (Viola), Mimi Nelson (Valborg), Hasse Ekman (Dr. Rosengren), Bengt Eklund (Raoul, the Captain), Gaby Stenberg (Astrid, his wife), Naima Wifstrand (Miss Henriksson, dancing instructress), Sven-Eric Gamble (The worker) a.o.

Produced for Svensk Filmindustri, 88 min., color.

Basle, 1946. Rut and Bertil prepare, in an atmosphere of boredom and vindictiveness, to return to Stockholm after a trip. They are married. Bertil is an art historian. Rut is a former ballet dancer, and is apparently unable to bear children on account of a clumsy abortion after an affair with a ship's captain. In a parallel story, Bertil's former wife, Viola, is seen trying to overcome her loneliness. She visits a psychiatrist, Dr. Rosengren, who tries to seduce her, and later meets another woman, Valborg (who was also a friend of Rut's when they were both learning ballet). But when Viola finds that Valborg is a lesbian who wishes to exploit her, she breaks away and, during Midsummer's Eve, goes down to the harbor to commit suicide. Meanwhile Rut and Bertil move nearer to Stockholm, and their bickering reaches a climax when Bertil dreams that he has murdered his wife. They both realise that they cannot live in loneliness and they decide to face the future with a more sensible outlook.