

## Document Citation

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NORDISK TONEFILM presents

INGMAR BERGMAN'S

"BRINK OF LIFE"  
(Nara Livet)

The Cast:

Stine Anderson . . . . .	EVA DAHLBECK
Cecilia Ellius . . . . .	INGRID THULIN
Hjordis . . . . .	BIBI ANDERSSON
Sister Brita . . . . .	BARBRO HIORT af ORNAS
Anders Ellius . . . . .	ERLAND JOSEPHSON
Harry Andersson . . . . .	MAX VON SYDOW
Chief Doctor . . . . .	GUNNAR SJOBERG
Assistant Social worker . . . . .	ANN-MARIE GYLLENSPETZ

Credits:

Directed by . . . . .	INGMAR BERGMAN
Original screenplay by . . . . .	Ella Isaksson
Photography by . . . . .	Max Wilen
Sets by . . . . .	Bibi Lindstrom
Montage . . . . .	Charol-Olov Skeppstedt
Technical consultant . . . . .	Dr. Lars Engstrom
Sound . . . . .	Lennart Svensson

Produced by NORDISK TONEFILM

Running time: 82 minutes.

Distributed by AJAY FILM CO., 247 Park Ave., New York 17, N.Y.

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"There is a secret about life, about birth and death, a secret about why some are called to live, and others are called to die. We can assail Heaven and science with questions -- all answers will only be half-truths, while life pursues its course, crowning the living with suffering or happiness.

There is the one who yearns for tenderness, yet is forced to repress her longing and accept her childlessness -- the healthy, vital one who is deprived of her long-desired child -- then the little immature and ignorant creature, suddenly overwhelmed by life, and placed among the mothers. Life crowns them all but asks no questions, gives no answers, is ever on the march towards new births, new life.... Humanity alone is left questioning."

-- ULLA ISAKSSON.

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The Story:

B R I N K   O F   L I F E

This is the story about three women in a delivery ward. Cecilia (Ingrid Thulin) yearns for tenderness, but must forget her longing and accept her childlessness. Stina (Eva Dahlbeck) is fit to live, but is unable to keep her eagerly-awaited child. Hjordis (Bibi Andersson) is the immature and much too young girl who is suddenly taken by surprise of life itself and is put among those who bear children.

Early morning in the emergency ward of a big hospital: Cecilia, pregnant three months, has suddenly started bleeding, and is brought in by her husband, Anders (Erland Josephson). Before the nurse takes her away, Cecilia asks her husband if he really wants the child. He avoids answering, and she is carried away. However, nothing can be done and she miscarries. Still in narcosis she is brought into Room E.

In this room are Stina, a healthy and happy woman, expecting the birth of her child, and Hjordis, young and trying hard to be tough. Half awake, Cecilia starts rambling feverishly. Nurse Brita (Barbro Hiort af Ornas) tries to calm her down, but to no avail. Cecilia accuses herself of weakness, useless and a failure as a wife. She has proved that she is incapable of bearing children.

When she awakens from the narcosis Stina takes care of her. Stina is good-tempered; she makes other people forget their troubles. Cecilia's husband visits her, and for the first time she speaks openly to him. Her crisis has made her sure that their marriage is a failure. Her husband objects to her reasoning, but he cannot convince her, perhaps because he is not so sure himself....

Meanwhile, Hjordis slinks away from the hall and stops in front of a window of the room where newborn children are asleep. She does not want to like them, but..... She strolls away to a 'phone booth and dials a number. An irritated voice of a young boy is heard. No, he has no intention of visiting her, and furthermore they shall make another attempt at an abortion, hoping that the second one will be successful. Hjordis walks away, in the direction of the window through which she

again examines the babies. The social supervisor (Ann-Marie Gyllenspetz) catches sight of Hjordis and takes her to her office. She wishes to help Hjordis, who returns this desire with a sullen look. The supervisor tells her about all the advantages that are to-day given to unmarried mothers, such as maternity and family allowances, free hospital treatment, etc. Furthermore, the law secures her support from the child's father. Hjordis rejects this sympathy and enlightenment. She does not wish to have the child. She blazes up and tears away straight into the arms of Brita who tries to console her....

Stina is given medicine to hasten her delivery. When her husband visits her she tells him that soon she and the baby will be home....

Night and bedtime. In the darkened room, the light outside Room E starts blinking. Stina is calling. Quickly she is taken to the delivery room. Her child-birth starts in the normal way, but soon it is obvious that something has gone wrong. The head physician is called and with all known means battles for the child's life...

In Room E Hjordis and Cecilia find it impossible to sleep. In the morning Brita tells them that Stina's baby died.

Stina, back in her old bed, is now aware of her baby's death. The two other women feel their helplessness. When the doctors come Stina sits up in bed and accusingly asks why her child died. They offer no consolation except that perhaps it was due to the fact that her last birth-throes were too hard. But nothing indicates that it shouldn't be better next time....

Hjordis is told she can now leave the hospital. After what has happened during the last 24 hours she decides to call her parents. She tells her mother everything, that she is expecting a child, that she has tried to have it aborted, but that she has made up her mind to have it, in spite of the fact that she will have to take care of it alone. Her mother asks her to come home....

Cecilia's sister-in-law visits her. She asks Cecilia to reconsider her decision to live alone. She makes Cecilia promise that her brother will be allowed to visit her, so that they can talk the matter over again....

Stina is asleep, when Hjordis sneaks away after a quick good-bye to Cecilia. For a moment the young girl stops in front of the window and looks at the babies. Then she hurries away on clattering high heels....

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