FADE IN:

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

VALERIE, ELLIOT, and TYLER, all of them 16, stand at the very end of a moderate line to the ticket booth. As they speak, they move forward, progressively reaching the front.

ELLiot
What's this movie even about?

VALERIE
I forgot, but I remember it sounding like a three-hour BDSM.

ELLiot
Really? Tyler, are you trying to tell us something?

TYLER
What do you mean?

VALERIE
You dragged us here.

ELLiot
Yeah. Enlighten us.

TYLER
What? I didn't drag anyone here.

VALERIE
Really? You think I'd be going to see some foreign movie with subtitles because I wanted to?

TYLER
Well, the Batman movie's sold out and I really don't feel like doing family game night. So let's just try this out, okay?

ELLiot
Okay. But what is "this", exactly?

Valerie takes out her phone and does a search.

VALERIE
It's about a married couple that gets separated by a war. The wife gets involved with some enemy soldier who (MORE)
CONTINUED:

VALERIE (cont'd)
ends up taking her hostage in a
chicken coop for two years.

ELLIOT
Sounds like we're gonna have some fun
entertainment on a Saturday night. I
bet the critics are eating its ass.

VALERIE
(checks, then nods)
All of 'em.
(to Tyler)
I think you are trying to tell us
something. It's that you're
pretentious.

ELLIOT
He's trying to infect us, Val.

TYLER
You know what? We can see The Bunny
Boppers instead. How's that for
pretentious?

VALERIE
Oh, god, no. My sister sings the
songs non-stop and I think about
putting my head through a wood-
chipper.

ELLIOT
My brother's the same way.

TYLER
Sounds like that's the real
infection.

VALERIE
True. I think we should start
keeping an eye on Disney. If they
wanted it to happen, they could make
all kids in the world slit their
parents' throats and become part of
their cult.

ELLIOT
You've obviously thought of this
before.

VALERIE
I can't help it. My dad keeps making
me paranoid. He's one of those
conspiracy theorists, or whatever.
(MORE)
VALERIE (cont'd)
You know - 9/11, the Illuminati, hidden dicks in cartoons.

TYLER
I'm so sick of that word. Illuminati. I don't think it's a secret group anymore if, like, everyone knows about them.

ELLIOT
They still rule the world.

VALERIE
I want that kind of power.

They have reached the front of the line. Tyler leads them to the ticket booth, where there's a TICKET VENDOR.

TYLER
(slightly deeper voice)
Uh, yeah, three tickets to...
(tries to pronounce it)
Den hubsha tag hat...sick...

TICKET VENDOR
The German one?

TYLER
Yeah.

TICKET VENDOR
That'll be 36 dollars.

TYLER
(to Val and Elliot)
12 each?

Valerie and Elliot nod, pull out their money, and hand it to Tyler. Tyler struggles a little getting money out of his pocket, then hands everything to the ticket vendor. The tickets print and the vendor hands them over to Tyler.

TICKET VENDOR
Three tickets.

TYLER
Thanks.

The gang moves along to the --
INT. SNACK STAND - CONTINUOUS

-- where they get behind another moderate line. Tyler distributes the tickets.

ELLIOT
What time is it?

Valerie takes out her phone and checks the time.

VALERIE
7:26.

TYLER
What would you be doing at 7:26 if we weren't standing here?

VALERIE
Sleeping, probably.

TYLER
Really? At 7?

ELLIOT
Are you 70-years-old or something?

VALERIE
(sarcastic)
That was so funny. Making fun of old people is just so funny.

ELLIOT
Who said 70 is old?

VALERIE
Well, you guys are still ignorant. You don't understand how working long shifts can seriously fuck you up.

TYLER
No, I don't.

ELLIOT
(smiles)
One of the perks of being unemployed.

VALERIE
(rolls her eyes)
Toddlers.
(beat)
I really need to pee.
CONTINUED:

ELLIOT
Well, don't do it here!

VALERIE
(mocking voice)
I wasn't gonna do it here.
(normal voice)
If I'm not back, can you get me Sour Patch Kids?

ELLIOT
Okay, I will get you Sour Patch Kids, also known as the nastiest candy ever.

Valerie flips him off playfully and leaves the line.

ELLIOT (cont'd)
(to Tyler)
She takes her candy to the heart.

TYLER
I don't know why she wouldn't be back in like two seconds. Does it take her that long to pee?

ELLIOT
I don't know, man. Maybe she is 70.

They laugh a little. A beat.

TYLER
So, Elliot, what would you be doing at 7:26?

ELLIOT
I don't know. Watching TV. It's boring being a privileged teen.

TYLER
Tell me about it. My parents are probably breaking out Monopoly right now.

ELLIOT
C'mon. Is game night really that bad? I wish my family did more stuff like that, believe it or not.

TYLER
Well, I guess it's not too bad. But we only do it 'cause they keep fighting and it's like the only time (MORE)
CONTINUED:

TYLER (cont'd)
they actually seem to get along --
probably because it's competitive.

ELLIOT
(sarcastic)
Oh, yeah, that makes total sense.

They laugh a little.

TYLER
I don't know. It's just really
awkward and I don't want to be around
it.

ELLIOT
Maybe they need you there.

A beat. Elliot tries to change the subject.

ELLIOT (cont'd)
Why'd you do that thing with your
voice?

TYLER
What do you mean?

ELLIOT
At the ticket booth. It sounded like
you made your voice deeper.

TYLER
I have no idea what you're talking
about.

He does. Elliot smirks.

ELLIOT
You made your voice deeper because
you thought they were gonna ask for
ID, right?

TYLER
Well, it is rated R. Don't you have
to be 17 or something?

ELLIOT
You're such a nerd.

TYLER
I know.

They look at each other and share a smile.
Suddenly, a WOMAN behind them in the line taps their shoulders. She has an abrasive voice.

WOMAN
Are you two gonna move?

TYLER
Sorry, I --

ELLiot
Oh, uh, sorry, ma'am --

They notice they've reached the front. Tyler and Elliot approach the CASHIER behind the counter.

CASHIER
What can I get for you?

TYLER
(to Elliot)
Should we share a large popcorn?

ELLiot
Yeah, that'll work.

TYLER
(to cashier)
One large popcorn.
(to Elliot)
Uh, drinks?

ELLiot
A small Sprite.

TYLER
(to cashier)
Also can I get a small Sprite, a medium Coke, and...
(to Elliot)
What about Val?

Elliot shrugs. Tyler shrugs back.

TYLER (cont'd)
(to cashier)
And a water.

The cashier punches numbers on the cash register.

CASHIER
Okay. Are these gonna be separate?

TYLER
No.
(to Elliot)
I'll get this.
ELLIOT
Are you sure?

TYLER
Yeah.

ELLIOT
Okay. Thanks.

CASHIER
It's $15.87.

Tyler pulls out money and hands it to the cashier. They wait a little as the snacks are put together. During this time, Elliot sneaks a look at Tyler as he looks ahead.

INT. THEATER HALLWAY - LITTLE LATER

Tyler and Elliot walk down the hallway looking for their theater number. Valerie appears behind them.

ELLIOT
How was your pee?

VALERIE
Refreshing.

TYLER
It took you long enough.

VALERIE
Whatever. Did you get my Sour Patch Kids?

ELLIOT
(disgusted)
How could I forget 'em?

He hands her the candy. Tyler spots their theater.

TYLER
Here we are.

But before they enter --

ELLIOT
Hey, Val, do you mind if I talk to you for a sec?

Valerie raises an eyebrow.
CONTINUED:

VALERIE
Okay...

ELLIO(T
(to Tyler)
You can go inside. We'll catch up with you.

TYLER
Okay...

Tyler disappears into the theater. Elliot turns to Valerie.

ELLIO(T
I think I'm in love.

VALERIE
(sarcastic)
Shocking.

ELLIO(T
Huh?

VALERIE
With Tyler, right? It's obvious.

ELLIO(T
Is it?

VALERIE
Uh, yeah.

ELLIO(T
(sighs)
Fuck.

VALERIE
What's wrong with being obvious?

ELLIO(T
Well, I don't want to freak him out.

VALERIE
You won't freak him out. I think he likes you too.

ELLIO(T
(surprised)
Really?...

Valerie gives him a look. "Are you kidding?"
VALERIE
(nods)
You're forgetting I'm basically the third wheel here. Why don't you tell him you like him?

ELLIOT
Because -- I don't know -- because I'm ugly.

VALERIE
Ugly? Okay, listen. Do you know what the word 'ugly' is in French?

ELLIOT
Huh?

VALERIE
The word 'ugly' in French.

ELLIOT
No, I take Spanish. Why would I know what 'ugly' is in --

VALERIE
In French, the word 'ugly' becomes 'laid', and if that doesn't give you hope then I don't know what will.

ELLIOT
(sarcastic)
Because all relationships depend on sex, right?

VALERIE
Not at all. But if you're gonna keep worrying about what's skin-deep, then all of yours might. Now let's just go into that theater and enjoy...

She looks at the film's poster near the entrance. The movie's title: "Die hübsche tag hat sich zu einem albtraum".

VALERIE (cont'd)
I'm not even going to attempt that. C'mon.

ELLIOT
(re: poster, under his breath)
It's in black-and-white, too?

Valerie leads Elliot into --
INT. THEATER - CONTINUOUS

They reach Tyler in the very back. The seats surrounding would be totally empty if there wasn't a MAN sleeping with a popcorn bucket over his head.

ELLIOT
(re: man)
Looks like this'll be some exciting cinema.

VALERIE
I'm gonna go take a picture with him.

TYLER
Be careful.

Valerie goes, leaving Tyler and Elliot together.

ELLIOT
So. You ready for a three-hour German lesson?

TYLER
Sure, I guess.

ELLIOT
We should speak over them and make our own dialogue.

TYLER
We should.

They watch Valerie take a picture with the sleeping man. Even though the flash goes off, he doesn't wake.

Tyler and Elliot laugh, then reach for the popcorn. Their hands brush. They chuckle nervously, blushing, then look into each other's eyes as the lights dim and the screen comes to life.

FADE OUT:

THE END