

# Princess

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SMALL CAPS

2015

**SMALL CAPS** is a multimedia chapbook series published by

**THE  
CAPILANO  
REVIEW**

[www.thecapilanoreview.ca](http://www.thecapilanoreview.ca)

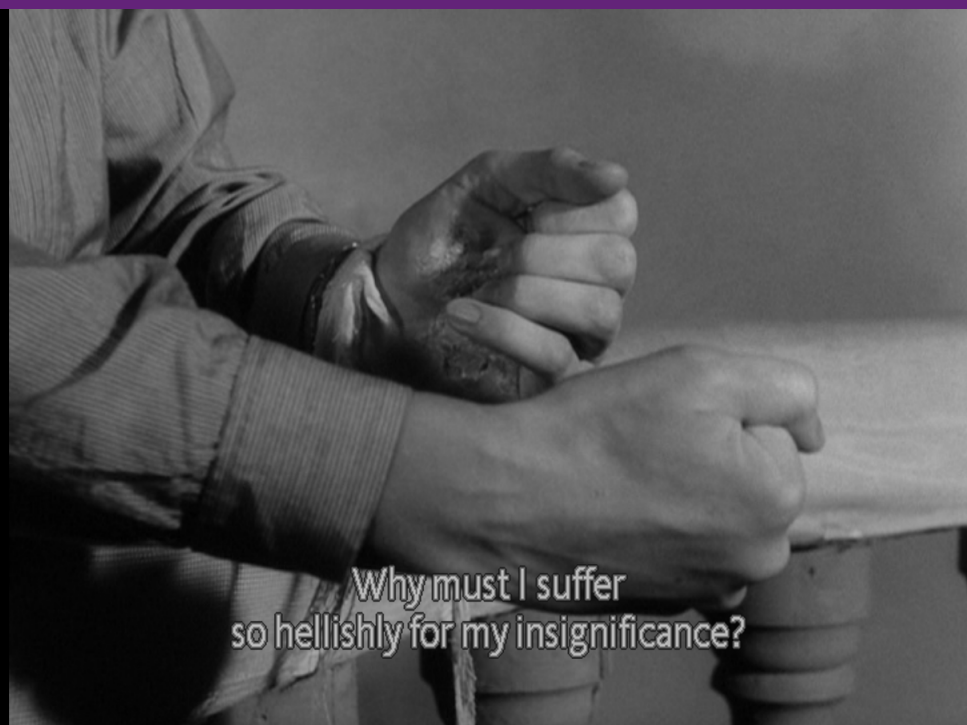


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# The Princess and the Forest

Once upon a time, a princess got lost in a forest and was never heard from again, which is exactly what she wanted, though she knew it would cause the king and queen, her father and mother, great distress and ultimately grief. The princess may or may not have lived happily ever after.



Why must I suffer  
so hellishly for my insignificance?

# The Princess and the Peasant Girl

Once upon a time, a princess fell in love with a peasant girl, which took her by surprise. The princess knew of only one obstacle to the fulfillment of her love: public and royal disapprobation. She decided to elope and have done with it, but then the peasant girl wanted nothing to do with her. That really took her by surprise.



# The Princess and the Landscape Painter

Once upon a time, a princess went walking in the hills behind the castle and inadvertently caught the eye of a landscape painter, who took a shining to the figure she cut in the afternoon light. When the king and queen discovered their daughter's likeness in the picture they'd commissioned, they were embarrassed that it hadn't been their idea.





# The Princess and the Phenomenon

Once upon a time, a princess discovered how to generate tiny lightning storms by peeling the cotton blanket on her bed away from the wool blanket underneath. She especially liked to practice this magic on summer nights when the moon was hid behind the earth and thunder boomed in the distance, lending her pleasure gravity.



# The Princess and the Book

Once upon a time, a princess read a book in which were expressed such crystalline obscurities and hazy illuminations that she began, for the first time in her spotless life, to brood. Her education benighted her; she might have otherwise passed all her days in sunshine. When the time came, she commenced her reign from inside a cloud.



# The Princess and the Pauper

Once upon a time, a princess blessed with the usual stock of common sense declined a young pauper's invitation to trade places for a day. Instead, she arranged to have a loaf of bread and a bowl of pea soup sent to the pauper's house every day for as long as she lived, which turned out not to be long, since the poor in those days were miserable.



# The Princess and the Servant Boy

Once upon a time, a princess commanded the prettiest servant boy to attend to her in her private chambers. She ordered him to undress and then, since she wasn't quite sure what to do next, she told him to forget himself so that she could lose herself in him. He lay down on her bed and closed his eyes. She laughed and laughed.





# The Princess and the Bank

Once upon a time, a princess walked into a bank and asked for a loan so that she could take a week's journey by ship. The teller stared at her until a fly wandered into his open mouth, at which point he spluttered and called for the manager, who gently explained to the princess that she was rich beyond measure.



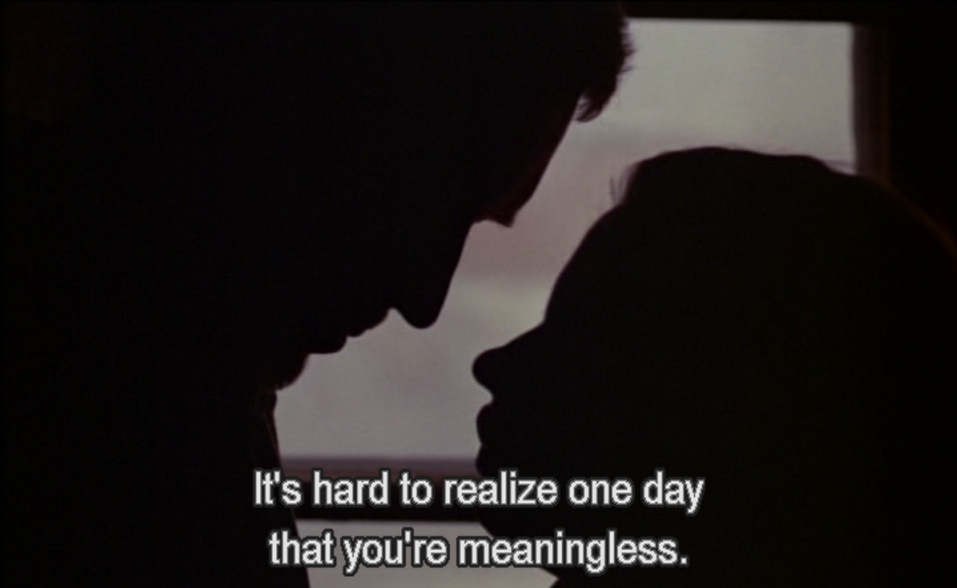
# The Princess and the Police

Once upon a time, a princess broke the law. (Don't mind how; it wouldn't be proper to dwell on particulars.) When the police knocked on the door of the castle, the princess naively invited them inside. They proceeded to handle her roughly, but her father, the king, soon appeared and had the officers hanged.



# The Princess and the Breadline

Once upon a time, a princess who could go anywhere she pleased, unlike her subjects, went and watched a breadline. She observed every sullen expression, every hunched shoulder, every upturned collar and threadbare garment, every injury, every desperate and defeated look. She fell to her knees weeping, and the line advanced.

A black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of a man and a woman in profile, facing each other and about to kiss. The background is a bright, out-of-focus light source, possibly a window. The image is framed by a thick black border.

It's hard to realize one day  
that you're meaningless.

# The Princess and the Party

Once upon a time, a princess snuck out at night to attend a party in the village. She and the other revelers drank and danced and made love well into the night. When the royal guard tried to send them home, they took up arms and stormed the castle, forcing the royal family into exile. The princess helped her comrades establish a new egalitarian society. They lived happily for a few years.





# The Princess and the Principle

Once upon a time, a princess learned to value independence and decided never to marry or attach herself to anyone for too long. For years she did whatever she felt like doing and enjoyed it immensely. As she got older, however, she grew lonely and longed for a devoted companion. But her habitual solitude had left her ill-suited for partnership and she died alone.



# The Princess and the Panacea

Once upon a time, a princess was of two minds about death. If she were dead, she'd never feel ugly again, but she'd also never feel beautiful again. Since she couldn't make up her mind about whether it was more important to stop feeling ugly or to continue feeling beautiful, she went on living, feeling ugly one day and beautiful the next.



# The Princess and the Pain

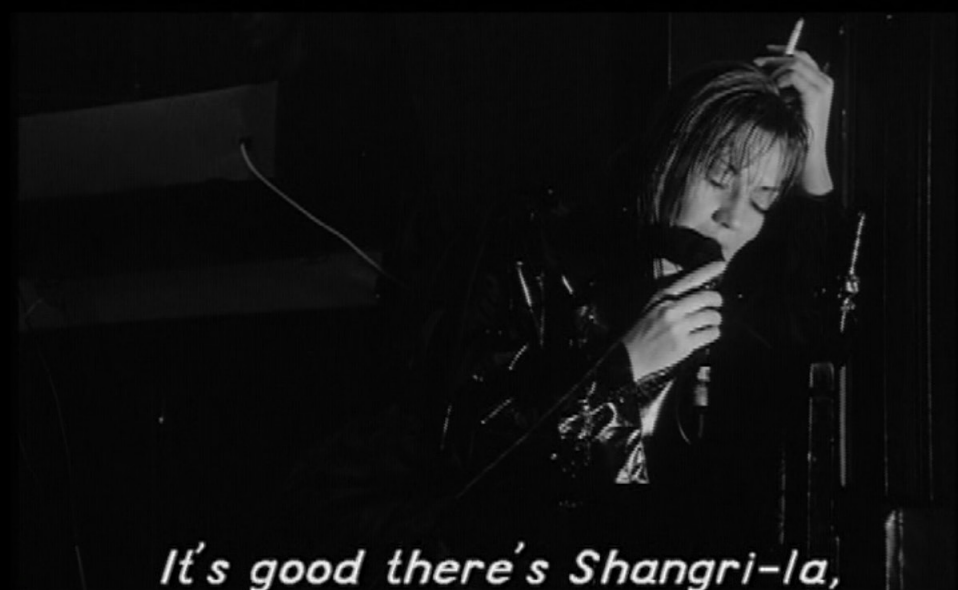
Once upon a time, a princess noticed that pain and pleasure were always trading places and getting mixed up together in such a way that she never knew whether she'd had too much of one or not enough of the other. Sometimes she stood before a mirror holding a razor blade to her throat, but most of the time she delighted in all she surveyed.



# The Princess and Her Prepubescent Cousin

Once upon a time, a princess took her young cousin to visit a slaughterhouse. He had never seen blood, let alone a dead animal. “Don’t worry,” said the princess. “If it’s your destiny to accept the wounds of this injustice, then you may as well accept them now. If not, then you’ll soon forget. Either way, the grit of suffering will filter down to the bottom of your soul, collecting there until you die from it.”






*It's good there's Shangri-la,*

# The Princess and the Witch

Once upon a time, a princess asked a witch to tell her about the future. "In the future, almost everyone curses like a sailor, dresses like a whore, and lives like a king," said the witch. The princess wanted to know whether that had made it a happier era. The witch frowned dismissively. "I'm a witch, not a wise woman. Go home and say your prayers."

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a purple patterned sweater, is seated in a room. The room features traditional Japanese-style furniture, including a wooden shelf and a window with a lattice pattern. The lighting is soft, and the overall atmosphere is calm.

The world isn't  
as pure as you think.

Fin

## IMAGES:

3. Béla Tarr, *The Turin Horse* (2011)
5. Ingmar Bergman, *Winter Light* (1963)
7. William A. Wellman, *Wings* (1927)
9. Josef von Sternberg, *Shanghai Express* (1932)
11. Ingmar Bergman, *The Magician* (1959)
13. William Wyler, *Roman Holiday* (1953)
15. Charles Chaplin, *Limelight* (1952)
17. Yasujir Ozu, *Tokyo Story* (1950)
19. Yasujir Ozu, *A Story of Floating Weeds* (1934)
21. Georges Franju, *Eyes Without a Face* (1960)
23. Ingmar Bergman, *The Passion of Anna* (1970)
25. Carl Th. Dreyer, *Gertrud* (1964)
27. Yasujir Ozu, *Late Spring* (1949)
29. Wim Wenders, *Wings of Desire* (1988)
31. Josef von Sternberg, *The Scarlet Empress* (1934)
33. Béla Tarr, *Damnation* (1988)
35. Yasujir Ozu, *Late Autumn* (1973)

Music: “Fuller’s Earth” by Weak Stream

*Damnation* © Facets

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*The Turin Horse* © Cinema Guild

*Wings, Shanghai Express, Roman Holiday* © Paramount

*Winter Light, The Magician, A Story of Floating Weeds, Late Spring, Tokyo Story, Late Autumn, Eyes Without a Face, Gertrud, Wings of Desire, The Scarlet Empress, Limelight* © Criterion