

Lost in Translation (2003)

Bob, a 55 year old, looking bored, oblivious, is a still famous actor who comes to Tokyo to shoot a commercial for \$2 million. As soon he arrives and is greeted by a bunch of smiling overly friendly Japanese crew, he gets a fax from his wife Lynda, 45 years old, reminding him that he forgot his son's birthday. The next morning, he spots Charlotte, 25 years old, in the elevator full of expressionless Japanese people. Bob, feeling totally oblivious, shoots a whiskey commercial.

Charlotte is accompanying her husband John, who is 30 years old and a constantly busy photographer, who doesn't pay much attention to her. He goes to Tokyo to shoot for a few days. She feels sad, lost and alone in a luxurious hotel.

In the evening, Bob and Charlotte have a pleasant short conversation in a hotel bar. For the next few days they briefly meet, whether accidentally or on purpose. Their sympathy for one another grows.

Charlotte invites Bob to join her and friends for a party. They all have a great time together. Their understanding of each other's feelings deepens. Charlotte reveals to him her fear of not knowing what to do with her life, he tells her about the scary and troubling parts of his marriage. After going back to his room, Bob tries to share his emotions about the party with his wife over phone, but she remains cold and talks about her daily routine.

The next day, Charlotte travels to Kyoto and Bob appears as a guest in a popular but meaningless Japanese show. Still desperate about his appearance in that show, he finds himself again in the hotel bar. Charlotte is not there. The singer from a hotel aproaches him and the two have a brief affair. Charlotte is disappointed about the affair the next day. They spend a terrible lunch together.

The last evening he admits that he wishes to stay in Tokyo with her. They both know their wish is just a romantic fantasy. They stay without words, holding each other hand, and kiss gently goodbye.

Before Bob leaves the next morning, he calls to see her again. They say bye without a kiss, both embarrassed, not knowing exactly how to react. She walks away. On the way to the airport, he spots her from the car. He rushes toward her. They embrace warmly. He whispers to her. They kiss gently but passionately and say goodbye. He observes the city from the car, feeling happy.

Cast

Cast overview, first billed only:



[Scarlett Johansson](#)

... [Charlotte](#)



[Bill Murray](#)

... [Bob Harris](#)

[Akiko Takeshita](#) ... [Ms. Kawasaki](#)

[Kazuyoshi Minamimagoe](#) ... Press Agent

[Kazuko Shibata](#) ... Press Agent

[Take](#) ... Press Agent

[Ryuichiro Baba](#) ... Concierge

[Akira Yamaguchi](#) ... Bellboy



[Catherine Lambert](#) ... Jazz Singer



[François du Bois](#) ... Sausalito Piano (as Francois du Bois)

[Tim Leffman](#) ... Sausalito Guitar



[Gregory Pekar](#) ... American Businessman #1

[Richard Allen](#) ... American Businessman #2



[Giovanni Ribisi](#) ... [John](#)

[Diamond Yukai](#) ... Commercial Director (as Yutaka Tadokoro)

Bob: What are you doing?

Charlotte: My husband's a photographer, so he's here working. I wasn't doing anything so I came along.

Bob: What do you do?

Charlotte: I'm not sure yet, actually.

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Bob: Can you keep a secret? I'm trying to organize a prison break. I'm looking for, like, an accomplice. We have to first get out of this bar, then the hotel, then the city, and then the country. Are you in or you out?

Charlotte: I'm in. I'll go pack my stuff.

Bob: I hope that you've had enough to drink. It's going to take courage.

I'm trying to organize a prison break. I'm looking for, like, an accomplice. = sto cercando di organizzare la fuga dalla prigione. Sono alla ricerca di una specie di complice; **Are you in or you out?** = (qui) ci stai o no?

Charlotte: I just don't know what I'm supposed to be.

Bob: You'll figure that out. The more you know who you are, and what you want, the less you let things upset you.

You'll figure that out. = Lo scoprirai.

Stills Photographer: Are you drinking, no?

Bob: Am I drinking? As soon as I'm done.

As soon as I'm done. = Appena ho finito.

Premium Fantasy woman: Mr. Kazu sent me, premium fantasy. My stockings. Rip them.

[sounds like "lip them"]

Premium Fantasy woman: Rip my stockings. Yes, please, rip them.

Bob: What?

Premium Fantasy woman: Rip them. HEY! Rip my stocking!

Bob: Hey? Lip them? Lip them? What?

Rip them = strappare (gioco di parole tra 'rip', strappare, e 'lip', baciare).

Stills Photographer: You know double-O-7?

Bob: He drinks martinis, but all right.

You know double-O-7? = Mai sentito parlare di 007?

Bob: You're not hopeless.

You're not hopeless = non sei un disastro.

Bob: Enjoy your fright.

Enjoy your fright = Goditi le tue paure!

Director: [*in Japanese*] Mr. Bob-san, you are relaxing in your study. On the table is a bottle of Suntory whiskey. Got it? Look slowly, with feeling, at the camera, and say it gently - say it as if you were speaking to an old friend. Just like Bogie in Casablanca, "Here's looking at you, kid" - Suntory time.

Translator: Umm. He want you to turn, looking at camera. OK?

Bob: That's all he said?

Translator: Yes. Turn to camera.

Bob: All right. Does he want me to turn from the right, or turn from the left?

Translator: [*to director, in Japanese*] Uh, umm. He's ready now. He just wants to know if he's supposed to turn from the left or turn from the right when the camera rolls. What should I tell him?

Director: [*in Japanese*] What difference does it make! Makes no difference! Don't have time for that! Got it, Bob-san? Just psych yourself up, and quick! Look straight at the camera. At the camera. And slowly. With passion. Straight at the camera. And in your eyes there's... passion. Got it?

Translator: [*to Bob*] Right side. And with intensity. OK?

Bob: Is that everything? It seemed like he said quite a bit more than that.

Director: [*to Bob, in Japanese*] Listen, listen. This isn't just about whiskey. Understand? Imagine you're talking to an old friend. Gently. The emotions bubble up from the bottom of your heart. And don't forget, psych yourself up!

Translator: Like an old friend. And, into the camera.

Bob: OK.

Director: [*in Japanese*] Got it? You *love* whiskey. It's *Suntory* time. OK?

Bob: OK.

Director: OK?

Bob: [*nods*]

Director: [*to crew*] OK!

psych yourself up! = preparati mentalmente!

Charlotte: [*Bob is recollecting when he first saw Charlotte, in the elevator*] Did I scowl at you?

Bob: No, you smiled.

Charlotte: I did?

Bob: Yes, it was a complete accident. A freak. I haven't seen it since. Just that one time.

[*Charlotte smiles*]

Bob: Like that, but bigger... bigger... mm-hmm... well, not that big!

Did I scowl at you? = Ti ho guardato con espressione accigliata?
