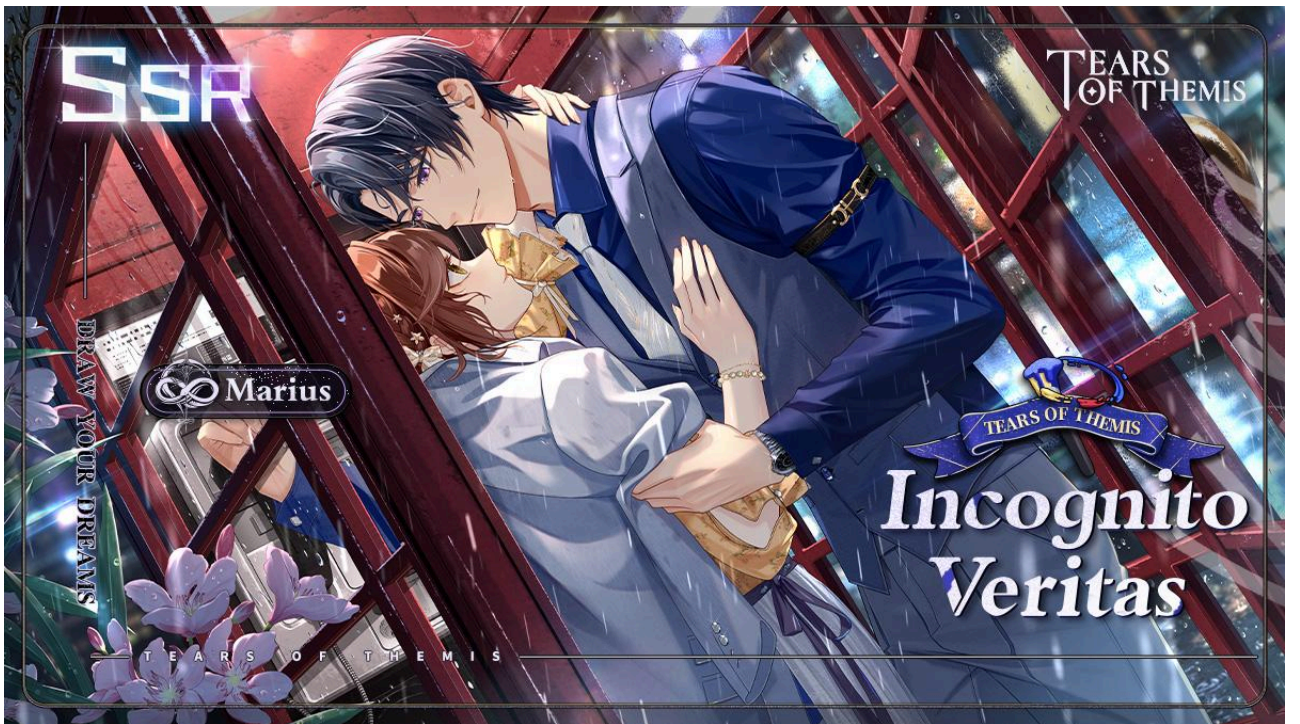


# Card review : Marius - Incognito

Veritas



## Notation (very subjective) out of 20 :

- **Art : 3/5**
  - **Reason** : I don't really, really like the first art for some reason (the art doesn't look bad at all but, idk, he looks wayyy older) but the second is very cute and they both look very soft. Came back after the card to add a bit more because of the animation in the second evolution, that made me smile so much.
- **Story plot (the idea of the story, how interesting/emotional and good it was) :**  
8/8
- **Story writing (flow of sentences, of the story, translation, how it's written, how the characters behaved) : 7/7**
- **Special bonus point (for the card I especially liked) : 1/1**
  - **Reason for the bonus point** : The characterisation of Rosa and Marius was insanely good, the core issue of the card being Marius and his masks and how strongly I can relate to Marius. It touches on something so very important about Marius and I think it's good to remember that this part of him kind of causes him problems.

**Total : 19/20**

**Lore card, Fluff card or both ?** : Lore card (= in lore, I include relationship/personal development too).

## Story Keywords :

#painting

#fog

#mask

#secrets

## Act per act summary :

## **Act 1**

At the law firm, in the file room. Kiki is talking with Rosa, commenting on how her work increased very much so Marius might feel a bit lonely. Kiki then adds that it's obvious seeing the gift she received that they are after gossip about Marius, not caring much about their cases. Rosa says it'll be fine as long as she does everything right, so there's no need to talk to him about that. Kiki points out that because they are so in love, she is growing to be more like Marius, who hides his troubles and tells her only when most is solved. After this, Rosa exits Themis and meets Marius who came to pick her up with his car. He immediately notices she looks worried but Rosa vaguely answers, so he tells her to try to relax still. He makes everything so she can be comfortable during the ride but obviously tiptoe around what to say. Marius starts commenting about the weather, which is very foggy, telling Rosa about once when it was so thick people mistook one another. He says that such misunderstandings are made because of too much complacency and only after the fog is cleared up, new understanding will arise. Rosa comments that it's good to get new understandings and Marius concludes the talk saying he looks forward to the fog in that case. Some days later, at a coffee shop, Rosa is giving legal counsel to a classmate's friend, Joseph Fisher, an art collector. He immediately starts to talk about Pax and Marius and how Rosa is being deceived by his façade. Rosa stays professional, but then, Marius calls her. Suddenly, she notices that Joseph might have a recorder on him so she decides to not answer her phone and decides to listen to what the "client" has to say about Marius' "dark secrets".

## **Act 2**

Back at their home, Rosa is sorting out her documents but is still lingering on her conversation with Fisher. Marius calls out to her, gives her a blanket and warm milk, asking if she is alright. She simply says it's work and he asks if it's something confidential so she can't share her worries with him. Marius adds that she has been mysterious and even hung up several times on him lately, so she explains it's something related to him and she is still piecing everything to explain carefully later. Marius tells her she doesn't have to be overly cautious with him and she can tell him everything, so she decides to reveal the content of the meeting with Fisher. He explained that Marius stole a painting from him months ago. When he saw it during an exhibition, he commented that the brushwork looked different than other work from the author so, since people thought it was a fake, Fisher sold it in a rush. Later, at a Pax auction, he saw the painting being sold much more, as the original painting. He was certain they were the same and had all the right documentation. Back to the present,

Rosa asks Marius if the one he saw was indeed a forgery and he confirms it with no hesitation. She mentions how Fisher had 3 different authentication seals from renowned art appraisers but Marius says the forgery was very obvious. After talking together for a while, she understands that it was a deliberate trap Marius willingly fell into. Rosz tells him that even if he is aware it's a trap, it could hurt him but Marius reassures her. Despite this, she tells him how Fisher was trying his best to paint him as a fraud masking everything from her and her uneasiness sweeps into her voice. She asks if he met the guy before and Marius says he thinks he is actually Lloyd Fisher, who was in a corruption case involving a Pax subsidiary. He adds that when he took over, he rooted out everything but still, some grudges remain. Marius then tells her he is going to deal with it and not to worry. Rosa understands that Marius is indeed masking, but only to head into the trap on his own. She insists on fighting with him and he agrees seeing her resolve. They plan to fake a fight to make Fisher lower his guard so Rosa immediately starts packing, to act as if they are separated. Marius tries to stop her, worried despite it being an act, so Rosa reassures him. While trying to hide his worry, he tells her he will be waiting for her.

### **Act 3**

At a banquet hall, a Pax's product exhibition. A staff member informs Rosa that Marius has finished his work and is now available, but instead of going to see him she gives documents to the staff. The staff is puzzled because she knows of their relationship, but seeing Rosa's looks, she takes the documents and leaves. Marius suddenly comes into the room as he is leaving, but ignores her, playing his part. But Rosa feels like since she has been made aware of Marius' mask, she has some uneasy feelings within her. She also leaves shortly after since she agreed with Marius to see each other in the car. She opens the door with her fingerprint and hears Marius talking to Vincent, not having heard her coming. Rosa hears him talk about the clients she has been getting lately, making her realize how attentive and caring he is, but she feels like since it's her job, she should deal with it. Marius finally notices her and awkwardly ends his phone call. As he starts the car, he asks her about Fisher and she informs him he is still trying to instill doubts in her mind. She points out it seems like a personal revenge more than business one and Marius explains that some people just don't separate the two, so she shouldn't worry and leave Vincent to handle it. Rosa firmly tells him that anything related to him is major to her so she will get involved. As Rosa is wondering if their act today was convincing, Marius suggests arguing in public and frankly expressing what doubts they both feel to make it believable. Rosa says it's a bit too far and she doesn't have any doubts about him. Marius seriously asks her what she would do if he confirmed what Fisher said, that he is wearing a mask around her. The car stops and as Rosa gets



closer to see his expression, he kisses her, then tells her when the fog will be lifted, they will get to understand each other better. He gets out of the car, in a Pax Business street and so she does. He raises his voice so that passerby can hear them, telling her he indeed has been wearing a mask. She knows it is an act so she starts answering back, telling him he indeed still has reservations with her. He asks if she is disappointed and she disagrees but cannot explain what she feels. They both understand that the “fake fight” is a cover for them to reveal their true feelings. Marius continues and asks her why she looks this much in pain but Rosa stops him, saying she is going home. He looks like he wants to follow her but she soon disappears among the fog.

#### **Act 4**

The days in Stellis are still foggy. Back at her own place, Rosa receives a message from Fisher, inviting her for coffee. As she was about to call Marius, Vincent calls her. As she inquires about her fiancé's well being, Vincent is relieved to know they aren't really fighting. He tells her that Marius has been really distracted but then, she hears Marius speaking to him. He finally takes the phone and Vincent exits the room, leaving them alone for their phone talk. They both are awkward, so Rosa decides to postpone their talk after everything is finished. Marius sighs, then laughs a bit before asking about Fisher. She confirms they are meeting, so Marius tells her he will follow her with Vincent and to keep an earpiece so that she can stay safe. She comments on how it feels like a spy movie and Marius highlights the fact they need to stay cautious. After she receives instructions, she heads to her meeting. Marius, guiding her through the earpiece, tells her where to sit so that he can monitor them. She spots him outside, well concealed among the environment and fog. Fisher soon arrives after. Rosa uses the script they prepared in advance, making Fisher talk more and more about how Marius is indeed concealing a lot of things. He finally shows her a picture of one of Marius' early works called the snake and the tree. Expert pictorial psychologists indicate emptiness within one's heart. Marius sighs in the earpiece, making Rosa nervous. She looks at the second picture, which shows a sentence with Marius' handwriting : “Be genuine in a fictitious world and portray falsehoods in reality”. After this, Fisher leaves, so Marius comes over, not explaining anything as she is still looking at the pictures. He tells her not to worry but she dismisses it, saying even scars long healed would make her hurt if they are his, especially since he always smiles and tells her everything is fine. Rosa tells him she knows he is strong, but she is his fiancée. Marius, sensing a shift in her tone, confirms it immediately. She adds that she doesn't only want to be a safe place for him, but she wants to break through the fog with him and it's the reason why she gets emotional when people try to hurt him and expose his wounds. Rosa feels angry towards those people and helpless

towards Marius who hides his negative emotions. A bit taken aback, Marius tries to reassure her and make her calm down, but it only makes her more aware of how hard he hides his pain and how used he is to do so. She takes his face in her hands and firmly tells him she is going to find the truth behind the forged painting and prove his innocence. She mentions going to a gallery which might give her more clues towards this goal.

## **Act 5**

Days later, at Pax. Rosa is still investigating the case but she hasn't found anything proving Marius' innocence. An employee informs her that he called a taxi for her because of the bad weather. As she hops into it, she tries to picture everything and see what is the heart of the issue. Fisher doesn't seem to have a clear goal, only testing Marius, who is staying silent. Since he is doing so, it means he is waiting for Rosa to uncover the truth, to remove his mask herself. She tells the taxi she needs to go back inside so he should leave and messages Marius so that they could see each other after his meetings and he answers with one of the stickers they have drawn together. She looks up and sees Marius in front of her, sweating, having rushed out to catch up to her before she left. Right before Marius can talk to her, rain starts to pour. He puts his suit jacket above her head and they go into a phone booth nearby. Close to one another, Marius asks Rosa why she wanted to meet. She mentions their fake argument and asks him if he meant what he said about thinking she is disappointed in him. He hesitates for a while before agreeing, uneasy. He explains that he is used to the role of Marius von Hagen. Whether it be a good or bad impression, as long as the other party is satisfied, he keeps on acting. But since he wears it for too long, he ends up putting it on even when they are together. He doesn't even know how to explain that sometimes, the words he says aren't the ones in his heart. She asks if it's when he speaks like a pouty little brother to try not to upset her or when he is like Pax CEO and tries to keep her out of danger. Marius says both and it's like it's instinctual, thinking it's the best for them both, but even the good intentions can push our closest away. Rosa tells him she was never disappointed with him, nor did she think he was pushing her away. She says she wants to be close to the real you, the vulnerable, the one with spikes. Rosa tells him this is a lifelong commitment she is making right now. Marius, surprised, tells her he might become more stubborn than she imagined, acting spoiled. He leans even more towards her, telling her he will hold her tightly and never let go. She playfully nibbles on his lips and says they should give it a try. Marius says they should go back home once the rain stops. Back at their house, Rosa recalls the painting she saw and mentions how she never saw it among his works, which are compiled by Vincent in a catalog since they get sold. He tells her he painted that right after taking over Pax but once the chaotic period settled, he revised it and left it in the

studio. Rosa is surprised to hear you can do that with a painting and then she finally understands the truth behind the forgery.

## **Act 6**

Rosa sends an invitation to Fisher after having resolved the case and she meets him with Marius. She explains that during the war, people hid masterpieces under forgeries and he did the same. He restored the artwork with special techniques and set it up for auction through Pax then. But she says his goal wasn't to harm Marius nor was it revenge. Fisher agrees and asks him if he understood who he was. Marius confirms and reflects back on his immature decisions when the issues with the subsidiaries happened. Fisher says that no matter how he disguises himself, he is always the same person with a kind heart. Marius looks surprised and Fisher continues. He explains his family was struggling because of the corruption issue he was mixed with so he cut ties with them as he was riddled with debts. He says that without his decisive actions in how he dealt with the subsidiaries, he might have killed himself already. Marius says it was his duty but Fisher objects, saying he could have acted differently in Pax best interests. Marius asks the real reason behind his actions. Fisher says it's because of a promise to himself. He wanted to thank him but couldn't until he saw Marius' painting at an art exhibition. They both met at the time, but Marius acted coldly. Fisher expressed how he came from a personal standpoint and started talking about The Snake and the Tree, Marius' painting. He tells her that if he keeps on wearing a mask, it could affect everyone who enters his life starting now. Except for his close family he always had during the past until the present, his well intentioned mask could hurt a new, important person of his. Marius paused and told him that he hasn't met anyone like this yet so he shouldn't worry. Fisher says that conversation was like a promise for him since he always felt indebted. He hoped Marius could open up to the one who would show him kindness. Since Marius is intelligent and not easily influenced, he went through Rosa, thinking it would go better. He apologizes and assures them he hasn't followed her or recorded her. Marius looks at her so she can be the one to make the final decision and she accepts the apology since he acted with good intentions. Marius says he should thank him instead and Fisher smiles, saying he was worried for nothing since Rosa was strong and wise. He gets up and bows to them, then leaves. Rosa tells Marius all this made her feel closer to him and she doesn't believe he wears a mask. She says he built a shell instead to protect everyone and she has one too, so she tries to solve everything on her own and it probably made him worried. He agrees, saying he is always anxious. He says every facet of her being fascinating to him. She is the one and only love of his life. A ray of light finally pierces through Stellis' clouds as Rosa expresses how she loves all of him, past, present, future, all of Marius von Hagen.

## Personal opinion

### General (made along my reading) :

The summary was long, sorry, but they talked about important things all long 😭

Anyways, my opinion : only 5 minutes in the vid and I knew the card was going to be good. But what I didn't expect was how emotional I felt when Marius opened up to Rosa.

In order : I really liked how everything progressed during this. Rosa was determined to find the truth and defend Marius but uneasy because she didn't understand properly what was the feeling she felt. And Marius wanted to handle everything but ultimately decided to let Rosa do what she felt like doing, using also this opportunity to let out his true feelings. Marius is conscious about the fact he tends to wear a mask naturally (hence why he is so good at acting), but he never really expressed how he felt about it when he subconsciously uses them with Rosa. He is genuine, but sometimes, force of habit, he instinctively uses them because he thinks it's the best. The fact she told him by the end he doesn't wear masks but it's mostly different sides of Marius von Hagen must have lifted so much weight. Also, I loved how tenacious and strong Rosa was, showing how much she cares about him and how she wants to act with him too. I really liked when she expressed how angry she was when people hurt Marius and added she felt helpless when he felt forced to hide his pain. I really like how this card showed all of their feelings bare and how they managed to talk to each other about this. I'm glad Marius too isn't under the impression Rosa will be disappointed in him and I loved how she expressed so freely that she wants to see all of his sides. They are beautiful and I'm rooting so much for them.

And, and, and : the disappointment I had about the card (the whole case of the forged painting and how Fisher insisted Marius wore a mask (which technically shouldn't be this much of a deal), which seemed a bit light and indeed too personal to be 100% the truth) was solved with the answers in the last part, making the card waaaaay better, way more logical.

I really like this card, I related to Marius and it was very touching. I found it very, very well written, with the constant reminders of the fog, bad weather, rain (and I have bad weather as I'm writing this). Look, if it wasn't for the pre-evo art and I gave a 4 or a 5, this card would have gotten full marks from me (even though I believe I'm not very very strict when I'm noting the cards) so I really think the card is good.



What I liked (bullet points) :

- Marius talking about his masking issues directly like that to Rosa omg it was powerful. I really liked the pause and hesitation before he revealed that he feared disappointing her and sometimes he didn't know he had a mask/he doesn't know how to remove it. I found it relatable, real, touching.
- Rosa. Rosa in this card was incredible. I really liked, loved the support she gave to Marius and despite not knowing how to name her feelings, she was 100% steadfast in her trust towards Marius. The way she assured him TWICE that every single one of his scars, every time he was hurt count for her even when it's long past was touching and comforting.
- I liked how it didn't end up with someone being out to get Marius. I was fully ready to give it lower marks if it was this. But no, the story happening because someone, a "random", felt a debt towards Marius, saw him as a human, and wanted to make sure he wasn't hiding things from an important person in his life was really, really surprising (in a good way). It added depth to a character we will never see again and it made the story less "dramatic", more "grounded" and more emotional. I really liked that.

What I disliked (bullet points) :

- Fake fight should have lasted a bit longer but they are so cute together they didn't want to go too far (it's not a dislike per say but I lowkey want to see them fight for real and their reactions 🤔)

Would I recommend getting this story ?

Absolutely, 100% yes. That card was really good in my opinion, this is a good one to own or if not owning (like me) read somewhere. Marius and Rosa were adorable in subtle ways and grew closer because they shared deep feelings together. It's a really good card to get.