

# CLOUD ILLUSIONS



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# Cloud Illusions

I've looked at clouds from both sides now  
From up and down and still somehow  
It's cloud illusions I recall  
I really don't know clouds at all

--Joni Mitchell (Both Sides Now)

In 1969, the Joni Mitchell album "Clouds" was released and included the song, "Both Sides Now". The song is, at first glance, just a simple meditation on clouds and the way a child might see them, as "ice-cream castles in the air". But as the song makes clear, there are two sides to everything, and as we get older, we stop seeing clouds for their simple beauty, but as a sign of rain or of bad weather. Ultimately, this song is about the ambiguity of life and how the world comes to be interpreted differently depending on how you see things.

In 1972, the Joni Mitchell album "For the Roses" came out. Inside the album, there was a cover art photo of Joni, standing in the nude on a cliff, staring out into the horizon. At age, 14, this was surely the first nude photo I'd ever seen, and it was love at first sight.

In this series, Anna Johansson, a Swedish model, poses against the backdrop of various cloud images. These images are offered in the spirit of the way a child might see clouds and the way that I, at age 14, was overwhelmed by the natural beauty of the 1969 Joni Mitchell album-art. The series concludes with a fragment of that famous album-art image.



























































































































































































































































































































































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