

The Five Seasons

written by

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Synopsis:

After a car crash, Luisa loses her son, Jacob while she was driving. She is left to deal with the guilt and loss of her son. This grief not only affects her but her husband, Vince, as well. Both come to terms with it in different ways. The five stages of grief are depicted as the seasons passing by. It begins in spring with denial, then summer with anger, fall with bargaining, winter with depression and coming full circle in spring with acceptance. In spring, Luisa has a therapy session and discusses the incident. Later on, she goes to the cemetery with her friend Anna. In summer, Luisa cries on the bus which leads to an argument with a passenger. Afterwards, she arrives home, grabs Jacob's things and throws them into the fireplace. Vince and Luisa start fighting. In fall, the point of view changes to Vince's. He witnesses Luisa's drinking and they have a talk. In winter, both Luisa and Vince start their depressive phase. Next spring, they look happier, healthier and finally start accepting what happened. Luisa has started driving again and Vince starts trusting her again.

ACT I. OPENING SCENE

INT. CAR - NIGHT

LUISA, distracted, drives her 6-year-old son, JACOB, to the movie theatre. Jacob is seated in the back seat.

Out of nowhere, a car appears from their side and crashes into Luisa's car.

Luisa hits her head in the commotion of the car crash. She's unconscious and blood comes out of her skull.

Red and blue lights flash in both of Luisa's and Jacob's faces.

INT. THERAPY OFFICE - ONE MONTH LATER

Luisa is on a couch in MARTIN's office. Her eyes are empty and numb. No emotion is present.

The sirens of an ambulance ring in the atmosphere. Her eye becomes bigger as if going inside it.

EXT. CRASH SCENE - ONE MONTH EARLIER, AFTER CAR CRASH

A strong medic takes Luisa out of the damaged car. He picks her up bridal style and brings her rapidly near the ambulance to another medic.

The medics put Luisa on a gurney. They quickly bandage her head. They put an oxygen mask on her as well. Luisa gains consciousness.

INTERN MEDIC

(from a distance)

Boss! There's someone else in the car.

The intern medic rushes to the other medics with a bloody Jacob in his arms.

We have to call the coroners, sir.

The realization hits Luisa as she takes the oxygen mask off and starts to sob.

LUISA

N00000! Jacob!

Luisa tries to get out of the gurney. She starts to see black spots and her vision of the medics start to fade. "Miss" is

repeatedly being said in a faint voice.

INT. THERAPY OFFICE - ONE MONTH LATER (PRESENT)

Luisa hears "Mama" being said until she is completely back from her flashback. She sees Jacob standing next to Martin.

JACOB

Mama, the mister asked you a question.

Luisa shakes her head and focuses back on Martin.

LUISA

Excuse me. Could you repeat that?

MARTIN

It's been around a month now, Luisa,
how do you feel?

Luisa plays with the hem of her skirt.

JACOB

Don't hesitate Mama. Tell him.

LUISA

I'm fine.

MARTIN

We both know you aren't Luisa. I'm
here to help you move on.

LUISA

(with sadness)

But what if I don't want to? I can't
just abandon him. He was my child.

MARTIN

I know it hurts, but you have to try.
We want you to be like you were
before...happy.

LUISA

I can never be happy without him. He
was the one who made me happy. You
wouldn't understand you never lost
someone, let alone your child!

Luisa breaks down and cries.

Martin hands her a tissue.

MARTIN

I'm sorry Luisa. I thought we were making progress. I shouldn't have pushed you too quickly.

LUISA

It's just that today is exactly one month since the accident. God, I feel like I'm wasting your time.

MARTIN

Don't worry about it Luisa. We're in this together. For now, it may seem hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we'll get there.

LUISA

You make it sound so easy. Like all this pain will just go away.

MARTIN

It takes time. If it would be easy, you wouldn't be here right now. I can assure you that you'll be better sooner or later.

Martin gives Luisa a reassuring smile.

(Pauses)

I think it's enough for today. We'll pick it up on Friday.

Luisa leaves the office.

EXT. SIDEWALK OF THE CITY - DAY, MOMENTS LATER

Luisa walks home with Jacob. He holds her hand.

JACOB

It's okay Mama, you can be happy soon.

LUISA

(Whispers)

Not without you Jacob. I need you with me. Promise me you'll stay?

JACOB

I promise Mama.

In my scene, I set the exposition. I show it by writing the line, "It's been around a month now, Luisa, how do you feel?" which is said by Martin, instead of just stating that a month has passed. To add, I developed Luisa's psychological state by incorporating her imagination of Jacob. It reveals that she is still in denial of the loss of her son.

Erika Coulombe

END OF ACT I

INT. LUISA AND VINCE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Vince is sleeping on the couch. Half of his body hangs off of it. He can't possibly be comfortable but it's his new normal.

The keys JINGLE in the doorknob before it opens and Luisa steps into the house looking distraught. Her face is red and streaked with tears. She stops in front of the door and stares at Vince. Beat. She contemplates something for a minute and then SLAMS the door shut.

Vince is startled and he wakes up suddenly.

VINCE

Luisa? What happened?

Luisa ignores him and walks straight to Jacob's room.

INT. JACOB'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It still looks like he's there, everything is still in place. She grabs whatever she can from the room: drawings, clothes, toys. She walks back to the living room and turns on the fireplace.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vince quickly gets up from the couch and rushes over to her. He knows what she's about to do.

Luisa begins throwing the objects into the fire. A shirt. A book. A drawing.

VINCE

Luisa. Luisa stop.

Luisa ignores him. She pauses when she picks up a teddy bear. It was Jacob's favourite.

VINCE

Think about what you're doing.

Luisa tosses the teddy bear into the fire.

VINCE

You're burning- BURNING all our memories of him! We can never get those back!

LUISA
I don't want them anymore!

VINCE
But what if I do? Because I do, Luisa.
I want the memories.

LUISA
I don't care what you want! I am so
sick and tired of thinking about what
happened! And all of this... stuff is
like a constant reminder and I'm just-
I'm done! I'm done Vince, I'm done.

VINCE
Please just stop.

LUISA
It should've been me.

VINCE
Luisa, stop it.

LUISA
It should've been me.

VINCE
Luisa. Luisa,
(yells)
stop it!

Luisa stops throwing things into the fire, startled, and
turns to face Vince.

LUISA
(quietly)
I was the one driving. I was the one
who didn't see the car coming towards
us. It was me.

Vince steps forward and tries to give Luisa a hug but she
pushes him away.

LUISA
Don't touch me! I don't want you near
me. I can't stand to look at you for
one more minute. I may have been the
one driving the car but I will never
forget that you, YOU were the reason
we went out in the first place.

VINCE

Excuse me? I was the reason?

Vince laughs in disbelief.

VINCE

Wow Luisa. We seem to have VERY different memories of what happened.

LUISA

Oh no. My memory is extremely clear Vince. You spent every minute of every day at work. You were NEVER home and then when you were you were... you were like a ghost! I left to get away from YOU.

VINCE

I wouldn't have had to take up extra hours at work if you didn't waste your money on useless things! I mean did you REALLY need another dress, Luisa? It's not like you ever go out anywhere anyway!

LUISA

Oh fuck you Vince. I bought it for ME. I wanted to feel good. You NEVER paid any attention to me, OR JACOB, for that matter.

VINCE

I cannot believe you just said that. I LOVED OUR SON. I love... I loved you.

Luisa picks up a picture in a frame. It's of her, Vince and Jacob from a much happier time. She throws it at Vince and it nearly hits him in the head before shattering on the floor.

LUISA

Take your fucking memories and get out!

Luisa begins pushing him towards the door. She's sobbing hysterically, but Vince is too tired to fight back. Besides, he would never lay a hand on his wife. No matter how angry she got.

VINCE

You were right.

LUISA

What?

VINCE

It should've been you.

Within this scene, I developed the characters by revealing where they are emotionally at this time in their grieving. At this point in the story, Vince and Luisa are in the anger phase, which I tried to bring forward in their argument. I also used exposition by revealing the reason for Luisa and Jacob leaving the house the night of the accident. This comes out when both Luisa and Vince are placing blame on each other towards the end of their argument.

Noa Jade Shuklinsky

ACT II. CLIMAX

The third season, FALL, which represents bargaining.

EXT. LUISA AND VINCE'S HOME. MIDDAY.

The leaves on the trees are changing colours and falling on the ground. There's a small breeze, but there's a certain warmth to it.

VINCE gets home from work, opens the door and walks in.

INT. LUISA AND VINCE'S HOME. MIDDAY.

Vince notices numerous empty bottles sitting on the table and the ground from the previous days. He then notices his wife, LUISA, sitting at the dining table. She's trying to drown herself with booze.

VINCE

(trying to clean up the bottles)
Look, I know it's hard but you can't
do this every day.

LUISA

I know you don't have to tell me.

VINCE

You have to get back to your life
Luisa. This isn't healthy. Start
seeing your friends again. I'm sure
they're worried.

Luisa pours herself another glass and Vince takes it from her. He pours it down the drain and sits down at the table.

VINCE

I know it's hard, but life does go on
and--

LUISA

No, it doesn't Vince. Your life
might've continued as nothing has
happened; like JACOB was still here,
but he isn't and that's not something
that I can just get over.

VINCE

I get it Luisa, but you can't stay
like this for the rest of your life.

LUISA

Did you not understand? My life stopped the second Jacob's heart stopped. I don't see the days passing by anymore, they all just fade together.

VINCE

You're responsible for your own actions Luisa and it cost Jacob his life.

LUISA

It wasn't my fault Vince, you know that. The guy driving the car was drunk, he skipped the red light. You have no right to blame me.

VINCE

Look at you now Luisa. You're drunk every day, just like the driver that killed our son. Ironic, isn't it?

LUISA

Stop talking Vince, this isn't going to end well.

VINCE

Look, I'm sorry but it's the truth. You're becoming your biggest fear.

LUISA

I understand Vince but I can't sleep anymore and I cut off my friends and family. What else am I supposed to do?

Vince gets up from his seat and starts pacing around the room. Luisa has a hard time keeping up with him.

LUISA

(starting to cry)

What if I had decided to stay home?
What if I hadn't been driving that night? He would still be here and life would normal. I didn't even get to say goodbye.

Luisa gets up from her seat.

LUISA

Do you know how much that hurts me? I

can't even remember the last thing I said to him or what he said to me.

VINCE

You know, he was my son too. You're not alone in this. I'm going through this too. I think about him every single moment of every day.

LUISA

I know--

VINCE

No, you don't know because you act like you were the only person that raised Jacob. I loved him more than anything and he was taken from me too. I can't imagine what it was like for him in his final moments, what he felt, what he saw.

Vince starts cleaning up more bottles from the table and throws them in the trash.

VINCE

But I don't drink it away, I want to feel everything. I want to remember what he was like. I want to remember every time he smiled when it was my turn to make diner and whenever I read him to sleep with those ridiculous stories.

Vince chuckles a little bit when he talks about his memories with Jacob.

LUISA

But it's too painful Vince, I was there. I saw him in his final moments and that's something I wish I never experienced. The only way it hurts less is by drinking and forgetting.

VINCE

You have to tell yourself that you were there for him that night. He was probably so terrified and you were the only comfort he had, the only thing that was familiar to him.

LUISA

That's one way to see it I guess.

VINCE

You're only postponing your pain. That
pit at the bottom of your stomach?
It's always going to be there.
Something will always be missing and
it's normal. Nothing will replace
Jacob, you just have to learn how to
live with it.

Luisa walks away from Vince and throws herself on the couch.

One of the dialogue characteristics used in this scene was character development/psychology. Psychology is the main focus of this script since our characters are going through something extremely emotional and that changes their way of acting and thinking. Another characteristic used in this scene is plot development, it was important to move the story forward and onto the next season (winter, depression). The characters had to go through certain troubles and obstacles in order to heal from the loss of their son. Every obstacle brings them closer to the last step (spring, acceptance).

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