VIS VITAE

Written by

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Based on, “As You Like It” by William Shakespeare,
Jaques Act 2 Scene 7

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INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

CLARA (50s) and her daughter, JACQUELINE (9), enter, taking in the room with fresh eyes as JAKE (40s) playfully receives a running hug from Jacqueline, catching her and spinning.

CLARA
Jake, the place looks incredible; better than when we were kids!

JAKE
Good ol' paint. What's better, I found an old treasure for our newest thespian...

Jake sits Jacqueline on the couch and has Clara cover her eyes.

JAKE (CONT'D)
...who, I heard, just got the lead in the school play.

Jake places an old box set on Jacqueline's lap. Jacqueline opens her eyes and examines it, fascinated.

CLARA
It's Grandpa's Shakespeare set.

JAKE
He used to teach us whole monologues.

JACQUELINE
(skimming the book)
How about this one?

CLARA
(hesitant at first)
"All the world's a stage, And all the men [and women] merely players."

JAKE
"They have their exits and entrances, And one man in their time plays many parts, Their acts being seven ages."

Clara and Jake take turns playing off Jacqueline.

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CLARA
“At first the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse’s
arms.”

JAKE
“Then the whining schoolgirl, with
her satchel
And shining morning face,
creeping like a snail
Unwilling to school.”

CLARA
“And then the lover,
Sighing like a furnace, with a
woeful ballad
Made to his mistress’ eyebrow.”

JAKE
“Then a soldier,
Full of strange oaths and bearded
like the pard,
Jealous in honor, sudden, and quick
in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon’s mouth.”

Jacqueline wants to do one. She takes the book.

JACQUELINE
“And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capon
lined,
With eyes severe and beard of
formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern
instances,
And so he plays his part.”

Jack and Jake cheer as Jacqueline bows with satisfaction.

A PICTURE falls out of the pages. Jake and Clara pick it up and look at it wistfully on the couch. Jacqueline joins them, snuggling in.

JAKE
“The sixth age slips
Into the lean and slippered
pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch
on side”

Jake becomes a bit emotional thinking of his dad.

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CLARA
"His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank; and his big manly voice,
(getting choked up)
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound."

JACQUELINE
"Last scene of all[?]
(Clara nods tenderly)
That ends this strange, eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere ob--

JACK
"oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything."

Jack gathers Clara and Jacqueline close as they share a moment of remembrance.

THE END

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