

Seasons

“One season following another, laden with happiness and tears” – from “Sunrise, Sunset”
Fiddler on the Roof

Take a day in early May
Add brilliant sunshine and lilac-scented air
Throw in apple trees raining pink petals on the ground
Add a convertible and put it on a country road
Make it candy-apple red
Put a young couple in the front seat
Color her beautiful; color him besotted
Make her gaze at him adoringly
Put a blue scarf in her blond hair
Put sunglasses and a huge smile on his face
Place a picnic basket in the back seat
and a golden retriever beside it
Let the wind part his fur and blow his ears inside out.

Fast forward twenty years
but make it December
Add sleet and snow
Swap out the convertible for a mini-van
Make it silver, no, make it beige
Put a middle aged couple in the front seat.
Color her resentful; color him stubborn
Make her turn away from him and look out the window,
arms crossed in front of her
Put a frown on his face
Put two sullen teenagers in the back seat
Have them argue with each other
Make the woman turn around and scold
while the man stares straight ahead.

Fast forward another twenty years
Make it July this time
Make the sun hot and the countryside lush and green
Substitute a convertible for the mini-van
Make it fire engine red, no, electric blue
Put an elderly couple in the front seat
Color him happy; color her content
Put a yellow scarf in her gray hair
Put a suntan and creases on his face
Make him smile at her
Put two lively children in the back seat

Make them chatter non-stop and ask
“Are we there yet?”
Make the woman turn around and answer them
Have the man laugh.

Fast forward again twenty years
Make it an October day
Color the leaves scarlet and gold and yellow
Make the car black
Have a motorcycle ride in front of it and
several other cars follow.
Color the woman inside grieving
Color the others sad
Have them wipe away tears and
speak in hushed tones.
Then have them smile as she talks
about all the other times she’s been
down this road -
so many cars, so many seasons, so much
happiness, so many tears.