

Five reasons not to die

Written by  
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INT. Funeral - afternoon

[Scene 1]

Lights on to reveal a funeral. FIONA is lying beside the casket. There are several other people wearing black seated on chairs looking sad. MOM and DAD are also there.

FIONA

(puts flower on her sister's grave  
and cries in anger and frustration)

Why the heck did you die?

(clenches her fist, kicks the  
flowers and shouts)

You didn't listen to me!

(Kneels down and  
looks at the grave)

I'm so sorry, I didn't know this  
would happen to you

(cries)

I love you so much  
(stands up and walks back home)

Lights off.

INT. Cliff - afternoon

[Scene 2]

Lights on to reveal FIONA sitting on the edge of a cliff. There are windy sounds heard, and seagulls in the distance. There are a pair of men's shoes at the side of stage.

FIONA

(moves her leg over the cliff)  
I just need to move my other leg,  
and everything will be over.

(takes a deep breath)

You can do this Fiona, it's just a  
little cold, and you'll see jie  
again.

(Fiona felt herself falling to her  
side, she prepared herself for the  
impact but instead she fell to the  
ground)

JAZE

(shouts)

What do you think you're doing?

(Fiona gets up from the ground)

FIONA

Isn't it obvious enough?

(Fiona brushes her shirt)

FIONA

Everything was going fine until you  
interrupted me!

JAZE

Do you really think I'm just gonna  
sit here and watch you jump?

(Fiona walks away)

FIONA

You don't know me, just leave me  
alone!

(looks down, turns around and still  
sees JAZE there)

FIONA

I'll give you five seconds to  
leave.

(JAZE folds his arms)

FIONA

(snaps at JAZE)

Is that how's it going to be?  
Congrats, you're going to be the  
witness of my suicide.

(FIONA is about to jump, but  
JAZE tugged on her wrist)

FIONA  
(shouts)  
What the hell is wrong with you?  
Just leave me alone!

JAZE  
I'm not going to let you die.

(FIONA starts crying)

FIONA  
Why do you even care?  
You don't even know me!

JAZE  
You're Fiona Amari, You sit behind  
me during English.

FIONA  
Is that it? You're gonna confess?  
Pathetic.

(FIONA pulls her hand away from him  
but he grabs her shoulder)

FIONA  
Get away from me-

JAZE  
Give me 5 days. I'll give you five  
reasons not to die. Do we have a  
deal?

(FIONA tries to shake free of  
JAZE's grasp)

FIONA  
Just let me go!

JAZE  
Five reasons, five days.  
Do we have a deal?

(Fiona stayed silent for a while)

FIONA  
Fine. Deal. I'm going home.

FIONA leaves the stage. JAZE looks at her leave, and then goes and retrieves his shoes at the side of stage and exit as the lights go off.

INT. Carnival - afternoon [Scene 3]

Lights on to reveal a carnival with carnival music. JAZE is at the center of stage, waiting patiently at the entrance of the carnival for FIONA. FIONA enters from backstage.

JAZE  
(Waves his hand)  
Hey!

FIONA  
(Smiling reluctantly and weakly  
(trying her best not to show her  
teeth). Very reluctant to go to the  
carnival.)

JAZE  
Shall we?  
(arches out his arm, inviting her  
to interlock)

FIONA  
(Does not respond and walks past  
him. After she walks past him, JAZE

shoots out his hands up)

JAZE

Welcome to the Grand Carnival!

Lights off.

EXT. Carnival - afternoon

[Scene 3]

Lights on to reveal the water gun game stall. There is a man manning the stall, encouraging people to play the water gun game... At the side there is a championship board with past champions on it. FIONA and her SISTER are at the 10<sup>th</sup> rank. JAZE and FIONA come in through the backstage door.

FIONA

(stops and stares at the water gun stall. She pauses and feels sad. Tears started to fill her eyes)

JAZE

(Hands in his pockets, confronted Fiona)  
You wanna play- hey what's wrong?

FIONA

(tears went down her cheeks)  
Nothing. It's just that I used to come here with my sister. And now, there's no point coming here. You know, I think I'm just gonna go.  
(she turned her back and started walking away.

JAZE

(sounds abit worried, then tries something)  
Yeah I understand. It's ok to be afraid.

FIONA  
Afraid? Afraid of what?

JAZE  
It's ok don't have to explain. I mean, your pictures have been on the top for so long, it was only a matter of time before someone came along and got higher.

FIONA  
(accidental chuckle) Ha. What did you just say?

JAZE  
Watch this.  
(Approaches the guy, beats FIONA's high score)

GAME STALL OWNER  
Congrats! You made it to the top 10 rankings!  
(goes to take down the picture)

FIONA  
Hold it. (turns to JAZE) That's it. I challenge you to water gun fight.

JAZE  
Challenge accepted.  
(both pick up water guns and start to aim at the bottles as the lights go off.)

EXT. Carnival - Evening [Scene 4]

Lights on to reveal FIONA holding a stuffed unicorn and both JAZE and FIONA holding some candy floss walking across the stage. There are others playing games at the stalls. CARNIVAL ATTENDANT comes out of stage door and starts telling people to go home because its closing.

CARNIVAL ATTENDANT  
Come on boys and girls, the  
carnival is about to close!

FIONA  
(turns to JAZE, smiling sincerely)  
Thanks.

JAZE  
For what?

FIONA  
Helping me feel better in a long  
time. I had no one to turn to until  
you came along.

JAZE  
Why did you wanted to die?

FIONA  
(She stopped for awhile but  
continued walking after.)  
I was stressed. Same reason why my  
sister killed herself. Stress about  
school, family. Everything.

JAZE  
I'm sorry

FIONA  
It's alright. Look anyway my bus is  
here already so I'm going to go  
first alright.

JAZE  
Wait. One more thing.

FIONA  
What?

JAZE  
Reason number one: Carnivals.



FIONA smiles and lights off.

INT. Dance Studio - evening [Scene 5]  
Lights on to reveal a dance studio. There are people dancing in the background. JAZE and FIONA enter.

JAZE

And... we're here!

FIONA

(Looks around the dance studio  
feeling uncomfortable)

Why are we at a dance studio? I  
haven't danced in 3 years, ever  
since 0 levels!

(Fiona rolls her eyes and walks  
away)

JAZE

No Fiona .. stay

Fiona

( suddenly scolds jaze )  
You don't understand.. It's too  
late for me and-

(JAZE grabs FIONA by the hand)  
It's never too late to try again!

(JAZE brings FIONA into the group  
of DANCERS just as they start their  
routine)

FIONA

Whhaaaaattt!

(music starts)

(JAZE also joins in, but clumsily)

JAZE

Help me! I don't know what I'm  
doing!

FIONA

(chuckles)

You look like an idiot. Come I show  
you la!

Pulls JAZE out of the routine and she shows him how to dance.  
Lights off.

INT. Dance Studio - evening [Scene 6]

Lights on to reveal FIONA and JAZE dancing in the same dance  
studio. FIONA lets go of JAZE and turns her back to him)

FIONA

We should stop.

JAZE

Why?

FIONA

I can't be happy Jaze, look at my  
life: My sister died, my grades  
suck, and my parents don't give a  
damn about me. My life is just sad.

JAZE

Fiona, I promise you, it will all  
make sense again. These little  
things will help you get pass all  
of these troubles, c'mon dance with  
me.

(Fiona turns to look at JAZE)

FIONA

okay..

JAZE

Reason number two, dancing.

INT. Fiona's House's living room - evening [Scene 7]

FIONA and JAZE appear between the doorway of the back stage door so the audience can see them. There is a piano. On stage is FIONA's House's living room. There is a piano.

FIONA

Thanks for dinner!

JAZE

No problem! Hey, do you like playing the piano?

FIONA

(scratches head)

Why do you ask?

JAZE

Nothing, I heard someone playing the piano when I arrived and thought it was you.

FIONA

Oh, that must've been the neighbours.

JAZE

Well, that's a bummer I love playing the piano, but I stopped playing since high school, I was too busy.

FIONA

Well I actually have a piano at my house wanna go play?

JAZE

\*laughs\*

Sure

(both enter FIONA's House)

FIONA

Here's my girl

(Fiona says as she touched the  
edges of the piano)

Show me what you got.

JAZE

Watch this.

(Jaze plays the Piano as Fiona sits  
at the side and watch)

JAZE

Join me, show me what you got.

FIONA

Fine

(Fiona plays the piano)

JAZE

You lied.

FIONA

What?

JAZE

It was you who played the piano, it  
wasn't your neighbours. Nobody  
could play it as beautifully as  
you.

FIONA

Haha thanks.. But my sister played  
it better. She was the best.

JAZE

I'm sure you can be as good as her.  
(Jaze pulls Fiona's hand onto the  
keys)

JAZE

Let's play a song together. You  
know Jay Chou's Duet Concerto?

FIONA

Yea! My sister and I used to play  
it when we were young..  
(Together FIONA and JAZE played a  
song. After playing Fiona started  
tearing up before she hitting the  
keys aggressively)

FIONA

Why did she have to go?  
Why? Didn't she think about me?  
I have no one left!  
(FIONA bursts into tears while JAZE  
tries his best to comfort her)

JAZE

At least I'm here now.  
(JAZE rubbed her shoulders and  
FIONA began to calm down)

FIONA

Thanks. Thanks for re-living the  
moment with me.

JAZE

(smiles)  
Reason number three, music.

Lights off.

INT. Coffee Shop - evening

[Scene 8]

Lights on to reveal a coffee shop. JAZE and FIONA are sitting  
together at a table. Others are hanging around doing their own

things, eating food etc.

JAZE

I guess I have one more day huh.

FIONA

I guess so.

JAZE

The days went by a lot quicker  
than I thought it would.

FIONA

(low chuckle)

It did.

JAZE

I wish it hadn't though.

(Jaze takes a sip of his coffee,  
abit more pensive than usual)

JAZE

(a little nervous)

I got something to tell you, but  
you got to promise me not to get  
angry.

FIONA

What did you do this time.

(He tucked his hand behind his neck  
as JAZE scratched it nervously)

JAZE

I kinda persuaded your parents to  
meet up with you.

FIONA

(angrily)

What-

JAZE

Please don't get mad, I just  
really want you to get back with  
your parents and let things slowly  
return-  
(Stands up in frustration)

FIONA

You know nothing about my parents!

JAZE

Look I'm trying to help you!

(FIONA walks away, then turns and  
says)

FIONA

My parents weren't there for me or  
for Emily, apparently their jobs  
are more important than their  
children, except when their  
children's grades suffer! They were  
the ones that caused her to commit  
suicide! Seeing her come home  
everyday, so stressed with life in  
University. They didn't care!

JAZE

Wait, Fiona!

FIONA ignores and is about to leave when MOM and DAD enter the  
stage. FIONA slowly retreats back to her seat. MOM and DAD sit  
down at the table. Both look tired and worn out.

MOM

How have you been? We haven't  
spoken since-  
(MOM pauses, FIONA looks down at  
her food angrily)

FIONA

(Tried to hold back her tears)  
Yea, since jie died because of you.

DAD

Come on, Fiona, you can't blame  
your mom for what happened. We  
didn't know she was that stressed.

FIONA

Yea of course you guys didn't know.  
You guys don't know anything.

DAD

Look, why do you think we work-  
(MOM puts hand on DAD's shoulder)

MOM

We understand, Fiona.  
How have you been coping?

FIONA

\*sarcastically\*  
Yeah I totally am coping so very  
well  
(Wipe tears)

DAD

Look we are all upset. But you  
can't grieve by putting blame on  
us, thinking that we caused her  
death! It's just not fair to us!

FIONA

Not fair? You think we're both  
blind? You think we can't see how  
our grades make you feel? Huh,  
during Chinese New Year how your  
faces both glow when you boast of  
how Jie got the law scholarship.



DAD

(outburst)

She was the one that committed  
suicide! She was the one that left,  
not us!  
(puts head in hands)

FIONA

She was there for me at my worst  
times! Where were you two huh,  
where were you two when she started  
crying herself to sleep?

(Stands up and walks out the stage)

JAZE

Fiona, wait.

(turns to MOM and DAD)

Sorry Aunty and Uncle.

JAZE runs after FIONA, MOM and DAD comfort each other. Lights  
off.

EXT. Street - evening

[Scene 9]

Lights on to reveal FIONA walking along the street. JAZE comes  
in and catches up with her.

JAZE

Hey.

(Taps on Fiona shoulder)

(Fiona looks up, then looks away  
angrily)

FIONA

What do you want? Hope you had fun  
watching us fight. Thanks again for  
bringing my parents back.  
(Pushes JAZE's hand)

JAZE

I know. I'm sorry. I thought it  
would make things better. Maybe  
now's not the time-

FIONA

Can you please stop helping me?  
Just leave me alone! Stop trying to  
fix me!

JAZE

Fiona listen-

FIONA

Just get out from my life. I don't  
need your sympathy! I can fix  
things on my own ... please, just..  
go away!

JAZE

I just wanted to show-

FIONA

Just leave me alone!  
(walks off)

JAZE

(shouts, causing FIONA to pause)  
I just wanted to show you reason  
number four:  
there are people around you who  
care ...

(FIONA thinks for a while, then  
runs off, lights off and there is  
car accident sound)

FIONA

(in the dark)

Jaze! Jaze! Wake up! Someone call  
an ambulance!

EXT. Hospital - Evening

[Scene 10]

Lights on to reveal JAZE lying in a hospital bed. FIONA is sitting beside him. JAZE is covered in bandages.

JAZE

(Whispers)

F..Fiona... what happened.

FIONA

You're awake! Why did you do that?

JAZE

Do what..?

FIONA

I ran onto the road, there was a speeding car.. you pushed me aside and got hit instead... Why did you do that! You could have been killed!

JAZE

Its... it's the fifth reason.

FIONA

The fifth reason?

JAZE

Did you know why I was at the cliff the other day?

FIONA

Why?

Jaze

I.. I actually wanted to die too...  
(Jaze pulled his hair as he tried his best not to cry, as he spoke he choked on his words)

JAZE

I was so sick of doing what my parents wanted, I never got a say in anything! My whole life was about what they wanted: good PSLE, good O levels, good A levels, apply for law degree... Living a life that I didn't want made my uni stress twice as bad. I just couldn't take it anymore. I was about to jump, then I saw you. And I saw the sorrow in your heart, and how it mirrored mine. And in that moment my sorrow was gone, replaced by a need to save you. You woke me up.

You saved me Fiona.

So the fifth reason, is You, and what you mean to me.

(hug and lights off)

The end