

Stage 1

The Four Seasons of Love

A Taro & Ami Story



Dan's English Student Original Story

🌸 The Four Seasons of Love (愛の四季) ❄️

Characters (登場人物)

Taro: A quiet, young man.

Ami: A smart, quick-witted young woman.

Mr. Tanaka: Taro and Ami's kind, old neighbour.

1. Spring: A New Beginning (春: 新たな始まり)

Taro lives in a small, old house. He has a big, beautiful garden. He likes the peace. Spring is coming. The cherry trees are pink and white.

One day, a new neighbour comes. Her name is Ami. Ami is often outside. She plays loud music.

One Saturday, Taro is reading a very old book. The music is too loud. Taro goes to the fence.

"Hello," Taro says. "That music is very loud."

Ami smiles a little. "Oh, sorry. Is it too exciting for you, Taro? You look like you need a lot of quiet time."

Taro thinks: She is saying I am boring. But she is smiling.

"It is just loud, Ami," Taro says. "I must read this book for my work. It is an important old book."

"An old book! How wonderful," Ami says, but her voice is not happy. It is a little sarcastic. She does not really think the book is wonderful.

Taro looks at her. "Are you being sarcastic?" he asks.

Ami laughs. "Me? No, no. Never. But I can make the music quieter. Only for you." She turns the music down. She is still smiling that strange smile.

Taro walks back to his house. She is difficult, he thinks. But her smile is nice.

Ami comes to the fence again later. "Taro, you have many old plants. Can you help me with my garden? My flowers are dying."

Taro looks at her small, new garden. "You need to put them in the sun, Ami. Not under the big tree. That is a sarcastic idea, putting sun-flowers under a dark tree!"

Ami's smile is gone. "I am not a garden expert like you, Mr. Old-Book Man."

"I can help you tomorrow," Taro says. He does not know why he says it.

"Great," Ami says. "I must go now. I am going to meet some friends. But thank you for your kind offer, Taro. A very sarcastic thank you for your speed!" She runs into her house.

Taro smiles for the first time that day. Ami is very sarcastic. But I like her eyes. He must buy some new plant food for her tomorrow.

2. Summer: The Warm Feeling (夏: 熱い気持ち)

The summer is warm and long. Taro and Ami talk much more now. Every evening, they sit in Taro's garden. Taro teaches Ami about the plants. Ami tells Taro about her fast, modern life.

Ami still makes jokes. She likes to be sarcastic about Taro's quiet life.

One evening, Taro is wearing his big, old hat. It is good for the sun.

"Taro," Ami says, looking at the hat. "That hat is very modern. Did you buy it last century? Thank you for your wonderful fashion sense." Her voice is clearly sarcastic. She thinks the hat is very old.

Taro laughs. "Ami, this hat is good. It keeps the sun off my nose."

"Yes, and it keeps away all the young, modern friends too," Ami says, smiling.

Taro tries to be sarcastic back. "Your bright red shoes are very good for the garden, Ami. They help me find you in the green leaves."

Ami laughs loudly. "Taro, you are not very good at being sarcastic! You are just being nice."

"I can't be sarcastic with you, Ami," Taro says. "I like your red shoes."

Ami stops laughing. She looks at Taro. "Really, Taro? No sarcastic words?"

"No," he says. "I like you, Ami. I like talking to you."

Ami's face is a little red. "I like talking to you too, Taro. Even when you are not sarcastic."

One hot night, Ami comes to the fence. "Mr. Tanaka told me about a new café. He said they have good ice cream. I am going to go. Can you come?"

"Yes," Taro says quickly. "I must put on a better shirt. This one is old."

Ami laughs. "Don't be sarcastic about your clothes, Taro. You look fine. Hurry up!"

They go to the café. The ice cream is good. Taro thinks: I am very happy. Ami is not easy, but she is the best thing in my quiet summer.

3. Autumn: The Falling Leaves (秋: 落ち葉)

Autumn comes. The leaves are red and yellow. The days are getting shorter. Taro and Ami are much closer now. They have dinner together often. They watch old films in Taro's small living room.

Ami is less sarcastic with Taro now. She is more kind. She still makes jokes, but they are soft jokes.

One day, Ami is very angry. She comes to Taro's door.

"My boss is terrible," she says. "I was five minutes late this morning. Only five minutes! He said to me, 'Thank you for your very early arrival, Ami. I like my workers to start the day at lunchtime.' It was completely sarcastic."

Taro gives her a cup of tea. "Your boss mustn't talk to you like that. You work hard."

"I know," Ami says. "But I can't leave my job now."

Taro wants to tell Ami he loves her. But he is scared. He thinks: What if she is sarcastic about my love?

Taro talks to his neighbour, Mr. Tanaka, in the garden.

"Mr. Tanaka," Taro says. "I love Ami. I am going to tell her tomorrow. I must do it."

Mr. Tanaka smiles. He is an old, kind man. "Good, Taro. You are very fast. As fast as a snail in winter." His voice is gentle, but a little sarcastic. He means: You are taking a long, long time, Taro.

Taro laughs. "I know, Mr. Tanaka. I know I am slow."

Later that week, Ami sees a strange animal in Taro's garden.

"Look, Taro! Is that a small mouse?" she asks.

"No, Ami. That is a cat," Taro says.

Ami laughs. "Oh! Thank you for your wise words, Mr. Expert. That was a very sarcastic question from me, because that animal is clearly too big to be a mouse!"

Taro smiles. He knows her sarcastic questions are just a game. He loves her game.

The time is right. Tonight, he must tell her.

4. Winter: A Cold but Happy End (冬:寒いがハッピーエンド)

It is winter. White snow is on the ground. The trees are sleeping. Taro and Ami are sitting by the warm fire.

Ami is quiet. She looks sad.

"What is wrong, Ami?" Taro asks.

"Taro, I have a chance for a new job. In a different city. A big city, very far away," she says. "It is a very good job."

Taro's heart is cold. He thinks: She must go. The job is important. I can't stop her.

"You should go, Ami. It is a good chance for you. A very good chance," Taro says, trying to be strong.

Ami looks at him sadly. "Oh, thank you, Taro. That is a very sarcastic answer for a man who said he likes me."

Taro looks surprised. "No! I am not being sarcastic! I really mean it! The job is good."

Ami shakes her head. "Do you? Because I can't go without you. I mustn't go alone. I want you to come with me. Your old book work can be done anywhere."

Taro is very happy. He takes her cold hand. "Ami, I am sorry. I was stupid. I thought you would not want me."

"Taro, my new house in the new city is going to be very boring without you. I need you to be boring with me," she says. She is smiling now. This time, her joke is not sarcastic; it is just sweet.

"I will come," Taro says. "I will come with you, Ami."

He kisses her. It is a cold day, but they are warm.

Ami leans her head on his shoulder. "Thank you for deciding so quickly, Taro. You are very good at decisions. A sarcastic congratulations!"

Taro laughs. "I am not going to be slow anymore, Ami. I must be ready for our new life."

They look out at the snow. The old house is going to be empty. But their new life is going to be together. It is a happy winter.