

Creating Luuse

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Based on ATU 703\* "The Artificial Child"

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EXT. YARD BETWEEN THE APARTMENT BLOCKS - AFTERNOON

Grey winter day.

Snowy big yard with birch trees and playground in the middle of apartment blocks.

We close up to an older yellow private house nearby, surrounded by a green wooden fence.

ELLEN and EINO (in their 60ies, in dark winter clothes) sit in the garden on a bench with a distinctive gap between them, staring into nothing.

Ellen's face is empty.

We HEAR childrens' voices.

Ellen turns her head.

A group of children (aged 5 to 14) run around in the snow. Some of them are making snowmen.

A little boy TEO (5) stops.

Boy's POV: motionless couple sits on the bench.

Teo runs on.

Emotionless couple watch five snowmen of different size and children decorating them with carrots and charcoal pieces.

Children hug and pat the snowmen.

Ellen looks at the snowmen grumpily.

Street lamps turn on. It darkens.

Children run away towards apartment blocks.

The couple gets up slowly.

Looking older as they are, they walk into their house.

INT. PRIVATE HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING

Couple sits silently by the kitchen desk and drink tea.

We HEAR wind whistling quietly outside.

Eino gets up and leaves, leaving Ellen clean the table.

Ellen steps by the window.

Ellen's POV: five snowmen standing in distance in the yard, half-lit by street lamps.

EXT. YARD BETWEEN THE APARTMENT BLOCKS - MORNING

Children run in the yard, suddenly stopping to discover the broken down and smashed snowmen.

They are disappointed.

They collect the carrots and charcoal pieces.

Snowmen are being rebuilt.

EXT. GARDEN OF THE PRIVATE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Old couple sits in their garden.

SINGING of winter birds.

TEO is squatting and peeping through the fence rails.

Ellen's POV: rebuilt snowmen, with children playing in the background.

She turns her head to look into nothing.

Teo gets up, opens the gate and comes to the garden.

Ellen stands up to meet him, stopping him on the path.

She looks at Teo sternly.

Teo suddenly smiles.

Ellen did not expect this reaction.

Teo reaches out his hand.

He places something into Ellen's palm.

She opens her palm.

We see a broken piece of carrot and two charcoal pieces.

Ellen is surprised and confused.

Teo is gesturing for her to bend towards him.

Ellens' face is towering above him. They look at each other.

Smiling Teo reaches out his hand to caress her cheek.

Viewers' POV: as Teo's head moves away, we see Ellen's face completely change - it's open, tender, teary.

EXT. GARDEN OF THE PRIVATE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Ellen sits down next to Eino.

She opens her palm to show the gift from Teo.

Eino makes a surprise noise, takes the pieces to examine them.

Ellen's POV: Teo is leaving through snow towards the other children.

Suddenly Ellen gets up.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Ellen rolls a small snowball on the ground. Both roll their snowballs, moving in opposite direction. Snowman is patted into a child-like figure, buttons are put for eyes, carrot for nose, berries for a mouth. A brown checkered vest, brown skirt, blue coat and worn green hat are placed on. Boots are pushed into the lower snowball, and gloves pulled on branch-hands.

Ellen stands alone in front of the snowgirl, sighs and tenderly touches the snowy cheek.

INT. PRIVATE HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Ellen, teacup in hands, watches the snowgirl from her living room window.

Leaving room, she stretches her hand towards the light switch. With quiet KLICK, we

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN OF THE PRIVATE HOUSE - NIGHT

Dark sky, we pan wider to see the glow of the cityscape.

Panning more, there is moon shining on the yard, old house and high buildings.

Snowman is standing in the garden.

We glide slowly into snowman's eyes, until they seem to reflect the house.

We HEAR crackling noise, steps in the snow.

Someone is carefully touching the handle of the front door.

In snowman's eyes we see reflection of a thief lurking in front of the house.

Dark figure peeks into the window, then tries to open it.

He is trying harder.

We HEAR crackling snow, steps are coming closer and stop.

We close into thief's hairy face.

Thief looks around.

Viewer's POV from lower up: thief's face slowly becomes terrified.

He backs up gasping for breath and runs away screaming.

CUT TO:

INT. PRIVATE HOUSE, KITCHEN - MORNING

We HEAR loud squeaking from the teapot.

Water is poured into a teacup.

Ellen, cup in her hand, steps closer to the window.

The knocking on the door stops her.

INT./EXT. PRIVATE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Front door opens.

Luuse (10), with long blonde hair, wearing snowman's clothes, stands behind the door.

Ellen looks at her, amazed and confused.

Luuse smiles and opens her arms widely.

Ellen looks over the threshold into the garden.

Ellen's POV: there is no snowgirl to be seen.

She touches questioningly Luuse's open coat, vest, her hair and cheek.

Luuse holds Ellen's arm on her cheek.

Eino appears on threshold, they share a deep glance with Ellen.

Eino looks around in the garden.

Eino's POV: no snowgirl in the garden.

Ellen and Luuse hug strongly.

Luuse smiles to Eino, who replies with a warm smile.

Eino leads them both in.

INT. PRIVATE HOME, LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ellen tenderly pulls off Luuse's coat, hat and gloves.

Luuse looks around in the living room as Ellen and Eino watch on.

She is touching the furniture, couch, pillows.

In the background, Ellen pulls Eino to leave the room with her.

Luuse is feeling the canvas with her fingers.

She steps closer to the window, looking at the garden, amazed.

Casually, she places her hands on the central heating radiator, but pulls them back sharply.

Luuse stays by the window, looking around.

We HEAR dishes clatter in the kitchen.

Ellen rushes in with cups, Eino with teapot and cake.

Luuse looks down.

She holds up her palms - they are getting sweaty.

The couple quickly lay the table, smiling excitedly.

A paddle at Luuse's feet is getting bigger slowly.

Luuse looks up, embarrassed.

Ellen and Eino stop their action.

Ellen SIGHS caringly, rushes to the girl, touches her feet.

She looks at Eino worried.

Eino makes a "HMM" sound, raising his finger knowingly.

EXT. GARDEN OF THE PRIVATE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

They all step out into the snowfall, Ellen and Eino warmly dressed.

Luuse takes them both by hand and leads them out of the yard.

The couple smile at her and each other.

With music in the background, we see:

SERIES OF SHOTS:

All three walk in the forest; Luuse and the couple are throwing snowballs at each other in their garden; They walk around the apartment blocks with Ellen explaining the surroundings; They put up a tent in Ellen and Eino's garden. Inside the tent they place a carpet, folding bed, a small table with a storm lamp, pillow and blanket; They walk on pathway near forest, licking ice creams.

EXT. GARDEN OF THE PRIVATE HOUSE - LATE EVENING

Luuse is sitting in her tent, looking very pleased. She raises the door of her tent to look towards the house.

Luuse's POV: Ellen and Eino sit at the kitchen table, drinking tea, looking animated, talking and laughing together, Ellen is throwing her head back in fits of laughter,

Luuse is smiling with content, she lets the door down.

EXT. YARD BETWEEN THE APARTMENT BLOCKS - DAY

Eino and Ellen sit on a bench in the playground, watching Luuse play catch with others.

Ellen looks up, we follow her look into the bright-blue

winter sky.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Bright-blue early spring sky.

Patches of snow here and there.

Forest is bare.

*Hepatica* are blooming in the forest.

INT. LUUSE'S TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Ellen sits on the edge of ill-looking Luuse's folding bed and feeds her from spoon with ice-cream.

Luuse looks back at her thankfully.

Ellen looks worried.

EXT. GARDEN OF THE PRIVATE HOUSE - LATER

Luuse walks in the garden, feeling ill.

She wipes off sweat from her forehead and looks for shade from the sun near the house wall.

Children run by the house, some of them are gesturing invitingly to Luuse.

EXT. FOREST EDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Wide pan above the forest.

Children are running towards and into the forest, we HEAR a teen boy's voice calling: "**Luuse!**"

We can see Luuse running way behind the others.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

Children make a low pile from some of the dry branches.

One teen boy takes out a lighter and some paper from his coat's inner pocket and lights the fire.

Children laugh, start jumping around and over the fire.

Luuse is watching on, feeling excited through tiredness.

We HEAR a girl: "**Luuse, jump!**".

Luuse looks hesitant, but clearly wants to jump.

Children clap in a circle around the fire, cheering on:  
**"Luuse, Luuse!"**

Luuse picks up the courage and runs to jump.

SOUND of water sizzling.

Luuse's clothes fall down beside the fire.

Children look petrified.

A girl (11) then screams and runs away.

Then all scream and run away.

Luuse's clothes are left beside the wet fire.

EXT. GARDEN OF THE PRIVATE HOUSE - LATER

Ellen and Eino sit on their bench. Eino is holding his arm around Ellen.

Luuse's clothes lay on Ellen's lap.

She is inconsolable.

FADE OUT

EXT. YARD BETWEEN THE APARTMENT BLOCKS - DAY

Grey winter day.

Big yard with birch trees and playground in the middle of houses, the yard is covered in snow.

Sad-looking Ellen and Eino sit on the bench, very close to each other.

We HEAR childrens' voices.

Ellen turns her head.

Nearby, a group of children run around in the snow.

Ellen is kindly watching children play and run around.

Children leave by chasing one of them, it becomes silent.

Ellen looks in front of her.

Then turns to Eino.

The couple gets up.

They roll snowballs.

Snowballs are placed on top of each other.

Ellen and Eino sit down on the bench contentedly.

Couple's POV: a snowman reminding Luuse, except for an added colourful scarf, stands in the snow.

We see Ellen and Eino sit side by side.

Anticipation fills the scene.

Suddenly they are smiling happily.

Ellen is overjoyed.

They start to laugh.

Couple's POV: Luuse, one boy (8) and one girl (7), colourfully dressed, are looking at each other and towards the couple, giggling mischievously.