

# Lisa Simpson and Roya Shams

In the chapter "Lisa Simpson and Roya Shams," the story begins with Lisa encountering Roya, Cyrus's mother, in a surreal and stark white room that contrasts with their vibrant appearances. Roya expresses surprise at meeting Lisa, who introduces herself as Cyrus's friend. Their conversation reveals that Cyrus has been absent from Roya's life for years, prompting Lisa to wonder whether Roya can see him. Roya's reply implies a deeper understanding of existence: she cannot witness the living world in the way Lisa expects.

As their dialogue unfolds, they explore the idea of the butterfly effect and the complex nature of time. Roya argues that people often overlook the significance of their present-day decisions, focusing instead on past and future decisions, while constantly neglecting how their actions ripple through time. The room begins to morph, transforming into a familiar space for Lisa, seemingly representing her childhood bedroom, as they discuss the nature of influence and consequence.

Roya shares a poignant anecdote about her childhood ambition of becoming an "oceanographer florist," inspired by her uncle's flower-selling business and her fascination with coral reefs. This revelation brings forth the harsh truth about the deterioration of corals, linking their discussion to broader environmental consequences. Lisa, now visibly smaller and more childlike, tackles the nuanced conversation about the relationship between beauty and destruction.

In a moment of introspection, Roya ponders how to navigate beauty without causing harm, while Lisa urges her to refrain from trying to reduce everything to mere symbols or meanings. The story hints at the complexities of existence, the fleeting nature of life, and the impact of human actions on the world around them. Their conversation is layered with metaphysical themes, illustrating the connections between past, present, and future, ultimately reflecting on the difficulties of understanding life's intricate web and the responsibility it entails.

The chapter ends with Lisa engaging in a mysterious action, playing a saxophone that signifies a deeper connection to the world around them and the mercy of animals, leaving readers to ponder life's complexities alongside them.