

BBC SCREENPLAY FORMAT

by

(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

There should be one
contact address only
in the bottom left
hand corner.
Always include a phone
number and an e-mail
address if you have one.

THE BLACK RUN

INT. BEDROOM IN HOUSE TURNED INTO GYM - DAY

JOHN stares at a tv screen on the wall in front of him. He is in his sixties, dressed in black shorts and an old t-shirt that displays his curved stomach. He is exercising on a cross-skier machine, and is watching skiers race down a steep mountain on the tv. There is no sound from the monitor, but subtitles show the name of the skier, his time and his country.

LISA, 60, dressed in colourful gym gear, sits in a rowing machine rowing quite gently whilst watching a small monitor on the end of her rowing machine, which shows a cartoon character in a rowing boat being pursued by sharks.

JOHN

This time last year I was skiing
down a black run.

Lisa stops rowing. Looks at John and laughs. John sniffs and tries to go faster.

LISA

Skiing? Really?

JOHN

For the first ten yards. Then it
was bob-sleighting I guess.

LISA

Without the Bob. Or the sleigh. I'm
surprised you remember it.

John gives a sideways glance at Lisa as she has a drink from her trendy water bottle.

JOHN

I didn't pass out until I hit the
tree. I remember all of it until
then - in vivid technicolour.

On Lisa's screen, the sharks have surrounded the boat and a big sign saying DANGER is flashing up. She looks at it and clicks a button that resets the picture to still water.

LISA

Yes. Well, that tree was in the
right place at the right time
luckily. Unlike you. You could have
died.

JOHN

So you told me, repeatedly.

LISA

I still don't understand. Why did you do it? Why did you follow Amy?

John stops and swigs his drink from an old water bottle.

JOHN

I didn't mean to. I've told you.

LISA

But I don't believe you. I was behind and I watched you turn on to the black run.

There is a silence. John climbs off his skiing machine and leans against the window looking out.

JOHN

It wasn't like that.

There is a pause.

LISA

So what was it like? Were you that upset that you wanted to kill yourself.

John stares at Lisa open mouthed. She stares back, her eyes watering.

JOHN

Of course not. Is that what you think?

LISA nods and takes another sip of water. Then carries on rowing.

LISA

When Amy said she was giving up her course to be a chalet girl, I saw the look on your face. I was shocked too. She had such potential. Dentistry will be the poorer without her.

LISA gets off her rowing machine and sits on a large exercise ball.

LISA (CONT'D)

I was flabbergasted that Charlotte seemed to encourage her.

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

The way that girl pampers to her daughter's every whim. I couldn't believe it when she even raised a toast to Amy's new future that lunch time.

John turns and looks at Lisa, nodding sadly.

JOHN

Well, yes. That was how it struck me at the time. At first any way.

LISA looks up sharply. There is a glare in her eyes now.

JOHN (CONT'D)

After all that money we'd paid out for her fees, plus the work experience I'd arranged. It wasn't easy you know. Smiley's Dental Practice run a tight ship. They don't take just anyone.

LISA

Absolutely. Amy should have been grateful.

JOHN

But the truth is. The truth is Lisa, that when Amy told us she didn't want to be a dentist and was leaving the course to stay and do some skiing, I was sort of jealous.

Lisa looks shocked.

LISA

What?

JOHN

I didn't want to be a dentist. But I became one. It seemed the only way at the time.

LISA

And a very fine dentist you were too.

JOHN

Maybe. But it wasn't my life's dream Lisa. It wasn't what I wanted to do. You know that.

LISA

Yes, but you wanted to be a rock star. That was just a stupid fantasy.

JOHN

I know. A dream. I never went for it did I? Before I turned fifty, I thought about jacking it all in and getting my guitar out again. But, I didn't.

LISA

No. Of course not! You're not stupid. You're a responsible adult. A well respected dentist, not some long-haired hippy trying to recapture his youth.

JOHN

Exactly. And I'd missed the boat. I realised that fifty is not the new twenty, whatever people may say. But Sammi? She's twenty and has her life in front of her. If she can't follow her dreams now, when can she?

LISA looks unimpressed with JOHN's speech.

LISA

That still doesn't explain why you followed Sammi onto the black run. She could ski brilliantly. Even I could see that. But you're not telling me you could follow in her footsteps are you?

JOHN

Actually, the truth is I made a mistake. I didn't realise I was going on to the black run until I was on it. Then I thought I would die. And those few seconds, before I hit the tree, seemed to last for ever.

LISA

And is that why you changed your mind about everything.

JOHN nods.

JOHN

Sammi was right to take the course she wanted. Well, we both know that now of course.

JOHN points to his guitar, standing in a corner of the room.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I know you think I'm daft taking up guitar again after all this time. But I love it LISA. And if I'm going to go on stage with the band I need to look my best.

JOHN pulls his stomach in and pats it.

LISA shrugs and half nods. Then she glances at the tv screen, still showing skiing.

LISA

Hang on. Shut up. I think it's Sammi next. It's her turn now.

END