



# **The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story Of Life For All Ages**

*Leo F. Buscaglia*

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As Freddie experiences the changing seasons along with his companion leaves, he learns about the delicate balance between life and death.

## The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story Of Life For All Ages Details

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Author : Leo F. Buscaglia

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# **From Reader Review The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story Of Life For All Ages for online ebook**

## **Laura Siegel says**

This was recommended to me as a book about death and grieving. But I don't see it and I don't believe children would draw the conclusion. Nice photos though.

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## **Julie Gunn says**

I was walking in the backyard yesterday and, I swear, I think I saw Freddie on the ground!

Quite depressing book.

But it's five \*\*\*\*\* because it's the reality of life.

Christians will not like this because it screams 'atheism' &/or 'reincarnation'.

I'm an atheist, so I can handle it.

I think kids might like it.

The pictures could be improved. Not much imagination put into that.

Overall, I like it because it's a real view on how life is. We live, we die, and we have no idea what happens after that <

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## **White says**

This book makes me cry. It is an excellent choice when teaching children about the end of life for someone they love. It makes death a natural celebration of peace after a struggle to hang on to something that is no longer important. It speaks of a higher purpose in the circle of all things. Kinda sad though.

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## **Lola Volkova says**

The story is so simple that we don't expect any surprises from the story itself. While writing such a story, It's more about how to write it than what to write. Every turning point is smooth and comforting, especially at the point of death. Every little one of us is part of a bigger plan. A leaf can only see the whole tree at the moment of death. I like the idea that death is the preparation of new life.

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## **Luisa Knight says**

You're best off not thinking of this as a children's story but as a humanistic sermon with a few non-enticing photos. I just don't see how kids would stay attentive (especially as it would be too over their heads), and I'm not sure that the parents I read for would embrace the message anyway.

If you're looking for a book to read to a child that addresses loss, please see my shelf "Children's Life Issues" for the books I highly recommend.

Ages: 4 -8

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### **Tasneem Zafer says**

A deeply touching story of Freddie the leaf going through life's changes (the passing seasons) and finally falling to the ground!! He keeps asking questions about life and death. Daniel the loving friend helps him through with his delicately wonderful and wisely confident answers!

It's an amazing book that helps adults answer real deep questions such as, will we all die? why were we here at all if we only have to fall and die? And where will we go after we die?

One of my favorite quotes by Daniel, "everything dies. No matter how big or small, how weak or strong. We first do our job. We experience the sun and the moon, the wind and the rain. We learn to dance and to laugh. Then we die."

Some of the photographs were great but I'd rather see a more attractive kind of illustrations.

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### **Abby Pooch says**

I am not the biggest fan of this book for several reasons.

- 1) Comparing human death to death in nature is often inappropriate because many plants go into hibernation in the fall and come back again in the spring. However, this book does present it in the most appropriate way possible, in that individual leaves are what dies on a tree. The individual leaves do not come back the next year.
- 2) The pages get too wordy trying to explain the story. The story line could have been explained in a much more simple way.
- 3) Although the book uses the word 'death' several times, when the leaf actually dies at the end, it says that it 'goes to sleep,' which is not appropriate wording to talk to children about the end of life. This euphemism makes many children believe that the dead person will 'wake up' eventually.
- 4) For children, the illustrations (just photographs) are not very appealing and, given how much text there is, do not make the reader want to read more.

That being said, I think this book could be a touching look at death for older children and adults who are processing death together. It really looks at the relationships of the person who died, and gives a very poignant, comforting view of the end of life.

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## **Bridget says**

Lovely photos, not so sure about the accompanying story. I've been looking for some good kids books about death/grieving, and this isn't quite what I'm looking for.

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## **Felicia says**

*"Then what has been the reason for all of this?" Freddie continued to question. "Why were we here at all if we only have to fall and die?"*

*Daniel answered in his matter-of-fact way, "It's been about the sun and the moon. It's been about happy times together. It's been about the shade and the old people and the children. It's been about colors in Fall. It's been about seasons. Isn't that enough?"*

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## **Sevenponds says**

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story of Life for All Ages by Leo Buscaglia is not a children's book per se; rather the book is "an inspiring allegory [that] illustrates the delicate balance between life and death," in a way that transcends the category of age. Nature becomes a metaphor for community, identity and the life cycle for Leo Buscaglia, who has crafted a story that looks past the need for any specific ideological comfort or message to answer end-of-life questions. Rather, Freddie the Leaf explores the possibility to address these questions through the universal motif of nature.

[Continued]

Full SevenPonds Review:

<http://blog.sevenponds.com/lending-in...>

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## **Jennifer Miller says**

This is the most beautiful book for children, or anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one.

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## **Kaitlyn says**

It was a couple of years ago, and yet it feels so recent. When I lost my Grandfather on my Mom's side, my Dad decided it was right to pass this book down to me. His Aunt gave it to him when his Mother and Father died- so, generously, he dropped this book in my hands. "The Fall of Freddy the Leaf" is probably comedic for the chucklers that laugh at little things or think this is utterly stupid and for a child... but, to me, although the human heart is never cured, it added to my memories.

This book is about a leaf called Freddy. Little by little as Autumn arrives, fellow leaves die and fall of the trees. He doesn't understand why these leaves have to go, and, unfortunately, he has to face the fact that his day ought to come. I'd recommend this book to parents whose children recently experienced a tragic loss. It's hard for adults to go through a loss... and I knew what it was like as a child.

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### **Vicki\_Loves\_Libraries says**

Good for children. Sad and poignant.

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### **Grace says**

Beautifully written allegory about the cycle of life and death.

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

Got this book a few years back for reasons I'd rather not discuss. Anybody else besides me think that the title sounds more like a *Godfatheresque* film or something? "*Freddie the Leaf, I'm gonna make you an offer you can't refuse!*" But all joking aside, it's a beautiful story with wonderful, vivid illustrations, and a simple way to explain the concepts of grief and loss to younger readers.

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### **Gypsy says**

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### **Kandice says**

I read this when I lost someone very close to me, a a child. It was incredibly helpful, and I have used it to help my children deal with loss.

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### **Ursula says**

What did I think? I think sweet and wonderful. A very precious way to talk about life and death with children. With anybody, actually. I was supposed to read this together with one of my girlyes, Mary Kate, but time got away from both of us, and I decided to go ahead and read it. We will have more times to read together.

This is a great book to share with your little ones, your big ones, your everybody. :)

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### **Brian Wilcox says**

A superb introduction to death for children readers. As a Spiritual guide and Chaplain working with families in dying, death, grief process, I find this a helpful resource for adults and children.

I find this more helpful than the oft explanation that the loved one has gone somewhere else "up there." Such seems not to take death seriously enough as an ending, even if new beginning.

This resource provides analogy from nature the child can easily relate to in the here-and-now of his or her life. The author avoids abstraction. The view here, by the author, is death is a transformation, as simple as a leaf transforms onto a twig and off the twig, when its end comes. Death is pictured as natural, even, in a sense, beautiful ~ even if the details can be quite gruesome, as is frequently.

And, as with living, so with dying, many adults can benefit from this timeless, childlike wisdom ~ as all wisdom is childlike, we forget. The book highlights death, like life, is not complicated, and death is a continuation of life. In fact, the book challenges, indirectly, seeing death as anything other than another phase of the same life that was before conception and between conception and demise of the body. Here, the polarity of life and death, or that of ending and new beginning, blur and blend into one.

This book. Easily understood by a child, wisdom for an adult. Highly recommend.

Brian

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### **Anna says**

absolutely beautiful allegory about the circle of life

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