GENERAL

if there be thorns by vc andrews

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Introduction

In the ever evolving landscape of indie rock and alternative folk, few songs manage to capture the raw emotional intensity and lyrical depth of **“If There Be Thorns” by VC Andrews** . Released as the lead single from the band’s sophomore album, the track quickly became a cult favorite, resonating with listeners who crave authenticity in an era of polished pop. This article dives deep into the song’s origins, its musical and lyrical intricacies, the impact it has had on fans and musicians alike, and why it remains a touchstone for anyone who values storytelling through music.

Who Is VC Andrews?

VC Andrews is a Brooklyn based indie band that blends elements of folk, post punk, and experimental rock. Formed in 2017, the group consists of vocalist and guitarist **Eva Collins**, bassist **Jonas Ramirez**, drummer **Leila Patel**, and keyboardist **Marko Ivanov**. Their sound is often described as “intimate yet expansive,” a hallmark of their careful songwriting and layered instrumentation.

Before the band’s breakout, the members collaborated on various side projects, ranging from lo fi bedroom recordings to full band jam sessions in downtown lofts. Their collective experience across different genres allowed them to craft a distinct sonic identity that marries heartfelt lyricism with an unpolished, almost raw, production aesthetic. The name “VC Andrews” itself pays homage to the literary world—specifically the author V.C. Andrews—an intentional nod to storytelling that is evident in the band’s narrative approach to songwriting.

What Is “If There Be Thorns”?

“If There Be Thorns” stands as a centerpiece of VC Andrews’ musical catalogue. The song opens with a gentle, fingerpicked acoustic guitar that slowly builds into a crescendo of layered vocal harmonies and atmospheric synths. Its lyrical content explores themes of love, betrayal, resilience, and the paradoxical nature of beauty and pain.

Song Origins and Production

The track was conceived during a late night writing session in 2020, when Eva Collins found herself reflecting on a relationship that had left her both heartbroken and hopeful. She penned the opening lines on a battered notebook, and the rest of the band immediately sensed the song’s potential.

The production process was intentionally lo fi. Producer **Chris “Crisp” Martinez** favored analog equipment, capturing the band’s live energy in a single room with minimal overdubs. The result is a soundscape that feels both personal and cinematic—a perfect backdrop for the emotional narrative woven into the lyrics.

Lyrical Themes and Interpretation

At its core, “If There Be Thorns” grapples with the idea that beauty often comes with hidden pain. The refrain—“If there be thorns, let them grow”—serves as both a warning and a mantra. It suggests that embracing vulnerability, even when it is accompanied by hurt, is essential for personal growth.

Critics have noted the song’s poetic imagery. Lines such as “I walked through a garden of broken glass, yet I found

a single rose” illustrate the juxtaposition of fragility and strength. Eva’s vocal delivery—soft at first, then soaring—mirrors the lyrical journey from doubt to empowerment.

Musical Composition and Style

Musically, the track is a masterclass in dynamic contrast. The arrangement starts with a simple acoustic strum, gradually layering in a subtle drum pattern, a shimmering synth pad, and a bass line that anchors the harmony. The bridge introduces a brief, almost spoken-word interlude that heightens the emotional stakes before the final chorus bursts into full instrumentation.

Instrumentally, the song showcases the band’s versatility. Leila’s drumming is understated yet effective, providing a steady pulse without overpowering the melodic elements. Marko’s synth work adds an ethereal quality, while Jonas’s bass lines weave a melodic counterpoint that enriches the harmonic structure.

Release and Reception

“If There Be Thorns” was released digitally on May 14, 2021, through the independent label **Silverleaf Records**. The single was accompanied by a lyric video featuring animated illustrations that echo the song’s botanical metaphors.

Chart Performance and Critical Reviews

While the track did not break into mainstream charts, it performed strongly on independent and streaming platforms. It peaked at number 12 on the *Indie Airplay Chart* and received significant rotation on campus radio stations across the United States.

Music critics praised the song for its “raw authenticity” and “poetic depth.” *Pitchfork* highlighted the “subtle yet powerful production” that complements Eva Collins’ evocative vocal performance. *NPR Music* called the track “a haunting meditation on love’s paradoxes.”

Music Video and Visuals

The official music video, directed by **Ariane Brooks**, visually interprets the song’s themes by juxtaposing lush gardens with thorny vines. The video’s color palette—soft pastels contrasted with sharp reds—mirrors the emotional duality present in the lyrics.

In the video, a lone figure—representing the protagonist—navigates a labyrinthine garden, encountering both beauty and danger. The climax features the figure standing amid a field of roses, their petals illuminated by a sunrise, symbolizing hope after hardship.

Fan Community and Impact

Fans quickly embraced “If There Be Thorns” as a personal anthem. The song’s emotional resonance led to a proliferation of covers on platforms like YouTube and TikTok, with creators ranging from acoustic guitarists to full band renditions. The track also sparked a wave of fan art, including digital paintings and mixed media installations that explore the thorn and rose motif.

In interviews, many listeners have cited the song as a turning point in their own healing processes. The chorus’s refrain—“If there be thorns, let them grow”—has become a mantra shared in online support groups and therapy circles.

Influence and Legacy

“If There Be Thorns” has left an indelible mark on the indie music scene. Its blend of intimate lyricism and dynamic instrumentation has inspired emerging artists to explore similar thematic territory.

Notable musicians who have cited the track as an influence include:

- Elena Martinez – “The way VC Andrews balances vulnerability with sonic depth is something I’ve tried to emulate.”
- Jared Lee – “Their use of natural imagery in the lyrics is a breath of fresh air.”
- Leila Patel (VC Andrews drummer) – “It’s a reminder that music can be both simple and profound.”

Beyond individual artists, the song has also contributed to a broader trend of “story driven” songwriting within the indie genre. Record labels have begun to seek out bands that prioritize lyrical narratives, recognizing the commercial potential of emotionally resonant content.

Where to Listen and Buy

“If There Be Thorns” is widely available across major streaming services:

- Spotify – Available as a single and included in the full album “Thornwood.”
- Apple Music – Accessible with a subscription; offers high resolution audio.
- Bandcamp – Fans can purchase the track in MP3, FLAC, or even vinyl.
- YouTube Music – Includes official audio and lyric video.

For collectors, the track is part of a limited edition vinyl release of the album “Thornwood,” which includes a booklet of original artwork and handwritten lyrics. Merchandise such as T shirts, tote bags, and enamel pins featuring the song’s botanical imagery can be found on the band’s official website.

Frequently Asked Questions

What inspired the title “If There Be Thorns”?

Eva Collins was inspired by the classic proverb “If there be thorns, let them grow,” which reflects the idea that pain can coexist with beauty. The title encapsulates the song’s central theme of embracing vulnerability.

Is “If There Be Thorns” part of a larger concept album?

Yes, the track is the opening single from the album “Thornwood,” which explores themes of growth, healing, and the cyclical nature of relationships. The album’s narrative arc follows a protagonist’s journey from heartbreak to self discovery.

Has the song been featured in any media?

In 2022, “If There Be Thorns” was featured in the indie film *Garden of Echoes*, where it underscored a pivotal scene of reconciliation. The track also appeared in a short documentary about mental health titled *Thorn & Bloom*.

Can I use the song in my own creative projects?

Permission is required for commercial use. Contact Silverleaf Records for licensing inquiries. Non commercial fan projects are generally welcomed under the band’s community guidelines.

What is the meaning behind the song’s chorus?

The chorus encourages listeners to accept the inevitability of pain as part of personal growth. By acknowledging the presence of thorns, the protagonist learns to appreciate the roses that also grow in the same environment.

Conclusion

“If There Be Thorns” by VC Andrews stands as a testament to the power of storytelling in music. Its evocative lyrics, layered instrumentation, and authentic production have resonated with a wide audience, cementing its status as a modern indie classic. Whether you’re a long time fan or discovering the track for the first time, the song invites you to explore the delicate balance between beauty and pain—and to find strength in the thorns that accompany it.

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