2S Productions

Solitary Soul

Based on The Awakening
by Kate Chopin

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Produced by:
Megan Young and Jill Johnson

Senior Honors Thesis
2001
Solitary Soul: A Senior Honors Thesis by

Jill Johnson and Megan Young

For our senior honors thesis, we decided to write, direct, and produce a short film entitled Solitary Soul. Solitary Soul is an adaptation of Kate Chopin’s novel The Awakening for the teen angst genre. For the film, we drew inspiration from similar films such as Clueless (Emma), 10 Things I Hate About You (Taming of the Shrew), and She’s All That (Pygmalion).

The story of Solitary Soul is centered around a girl named Emma. She has constantly lived her life in the shadows of others. Her boyfriend, Leo, and her best friend, Lane, are repeatedly shown trying to mold her into the person they want her to be. One night at a party, Emma discovers feelings she has for her friend Rob. This produces her “awakening” and she begins to discover who she really is and what she wants for her own life.

Throughout the film, we use many different techniques to help symbolize Emma’s self-discovery. Music is a driving force behind much of the script. In some places, the music speaks the dialogue for the characters and also dictates the mood of the scene. This is very prevalent during the ending montage, where there is little dialogue and the emphasis is on the symbolism of Emma’s “awakening.” This entire sequence depicts her realization after Rob leaves that she lets others control her life. She then proceeds to take her life into her own hands. The throwing of the book The Awakening symbolizes our departure from our adaptation (we let our character live).
Throughout the making of *Solitary Soul*, we ran across several hardships. We had very unreliable actors, miscommunications, faulty equipment, lack of equipment, and lack of crew. In essence, we produced this film against immense odds. We completed an hour and ten-minute film in three months, with one hundred dollars, no constant crew outside of ourselves, and the worst equipment possible.

The main problem we encountered while making this film was the lack of professionalism of the actors. Several actors missed shoots with no excuses and some never even bothered to call and say they couldn't be there. One actress made several promises to finish shoots she had missed, only to break those promises and miss even more shoots. This put us far behind schedule and in a major crunch at the end.

Our other main problem was the quality of equipment that we had to use. On several occasions, the shotgun mic or the tripod would be broken. We rarely had access to a light kit and the cameras gave us problems of their own. At one point, when someone else ran the camera for us, he pressed the date button and burned the date into the tape.

Despite all of these hardships, we managed to pull everything together in the end and produce a film that we are proud of. In some cases, these problems actually helped to improve the quality of our film. For example, to rid the tape of the date, we ended up putting the scene, and several others, in wide screen. Instead of being very distracting, the wide screen actually improved the look of those scenes. Another example is with the absence of some actors, we became more creative in shooting some scenes and even adapted and improved the dialogue to compensate.

Overall this was a major learning experience for us. By the end of this film, we were more highly organized and focused than ever before. This experience has led us to understand the best
way to manage our time and organize activities on a grand scale. On a film level, we have learned the extreme difficulty of taking on such a large project, and never to underestimate the time needed for such a project. We also learned several technical lessons in regards to lighting and framing of shots.

While this thesis has taken up so much of our time and energy, the experience was one of a lifetime. We struggled at many times to complete Solitary Soul and still keep time aside for the rest of our classes. Through this struggle, we grew in so many ways that would not have been possible if we had not undertaken this project. Solitary Soul is a once in a lifetime experience that we are very proud of.
Scene One

Voice Over: My Favorite quote I ever read in school was by Thoreau. He said most men lead lives of quiet desperation. For some reason I've always been comforted by that. Maybe other people feel all alone when they're surrounded by friends and family. Maybe other people don't have anyone who understands them. Then again, maybe I'm the only solitary soul.

Cue car engine.
Cue Oasis- Supersonic

Emma arrives at the garage where Leo's band is practicing. Lane is sitting, listening to the band.
Cue A New Found Glory- I Want It That Way

Lane: Hi Emma. How are your classes going?

Emma: Ok. They're a lot harder than last year.

Lane: You're a sophomore this year. That'll happen.

Emma: I know, but I miss having you around to whip me into shape.

Lane: We couldn't be roommates forever.

Emma: I know, but we could have been for at least a little longer if you hadn't joined Kappa Delta Alpha.

Lane: You could have joined too.

Emma: I know, but I don't exactly fit that sorority role as well as you do. Look at you! You're perfect.

Lane: I work hard to project this image. Besides you aren't so bad yourself. I took care of that last year.

Emma: I'll admit I'm a much more sophisticated woman than I was before we lived together, but I'm still no you.

Lane: Well, you aren't doing so badly for yourself. How's life with live-in Leo?

Emma: Everything is going fine. Sure he leaves his shoes by the door and he never puts the toilet seat down, but other than that life with Leo is good.
Lane: Is your father doing any better with the whole boyfriend/ roommate thing?

Emma: He's still not happy with it, but he's doing better.

Lane: He'll come around. Leo's a great guy.

Emma: I know, but what fun would it be if daddy actually liked him. Takes all the danger out of it.

Lane: *laughing* Emma Bradley. You're awful. *Looks at the band.* I think the band is really starting to come together. Leo's voice is getting better.

Emma: And Alan's guitar playing is improving too.

Lane: Well, I couldn't be associated with an untalented group, could I? That could do some major damage to my reputation.

Emma: Sure, Laney. Whatever. *Rob enters.* So, how's Rob been doing?

Lane: Well, Rob is still drooling over me, but his heart's in the right place. He just has a need to be attracted to someone. It'll wear off and if you're lucky, you could be next.

Emma: Lucky me. I can have him follow me around for a year.

Lane: There are worse things. You could be Alex's next woman of the week. He plays those women like he does his bass.

Emma: And he changes his hair color like he changes his women.

Lane: Robert, you get your cute little butt over here and say hello!

Rob: So Lane, have you missed me?

Lane: Why should I miss you?

Rob: Don't pretend. I know you did. You can't stop thinking about me.

Lane: Actually, I didn't expect to see you. Don't you have an internship this semester?

Rob: I'm supposed to, but I'm still waiting for word on when it starts.

Lane: Why don't you call and ask?
Rob: Too much effort, Lane. Besides, I wouldn't want to leave you until it was absolutely necessary. I know how you depend on me. Someday, you'll admit you're madly in love with me. *Turning to Emma.* Who's the letter from?

Emma: My sister, Margaret. She just wrote to give me the details of my sister's wedding.

Rob: Your sister's getting married?

Emma: Yeah, to some guy she barely knows. Margaret says it's a good thing, but I don't know. I think it's too fast, but dad doesn't have a problem with it so I guess it doesn't matter what I think.

Lane: If your dad doesn't have issues with it than maybe it's a good thing.

Emma: Dad hasn't been the same since mom died. I don't think he really knows what's going on all the time. If it hadn't been for Margaret, he probably wouldn't have known I moved in with Leo.

Rob: Why does your sister care?

Emma: She's decided that since we don't have a mother, she should assume the role. But the difference is she's all for marriage. She keeps making stupid comments about young love and all. I think it's ridiculous to be married and committed for life at 18, but Margaret says it's a good thing.

Lane: Well you are from the backwoods honey. Is the groom your cousin?

Emma: Funny, Lane. No, he's from the wealthy family in the next town over. I'm just lucky I got out before Margaret tried to marry me off.

Rob: So how's the painting going?

Emma: It's going well. I'm thinking of dropping some classes and picking up some art classes.

Lane: Emma, art is a great hobby, but you'll much more money in accounting.

Emma: Now you sound like my father.

Rob: If you like to paint, maybe that's what you should do. I've seen your work. You're really talented.
Lane: Don't be ridiculous. Your father's right Em. You need a reasonable career.

Emma: I know. Daddy put an end to the art school idea when he tore up the application. Anyway, I know I need to make some money. Lord knows it will be a long time before this band takes off. I'll probably have to be Leo's "sugar momma" until then.

Lane and Rob laugh

Lane: I know. I'm just glad that Alan has a trust fund. I need to be the cared for woman I was raised to be.

Leo and the band stop

Leo: Emma, don't you have a test tomorrow?

Emma: Yeah

Leo: Well you should be studying, sugar momma.

Lane and Rob try to hide their laughter. Emma gives a knowing look at them and mouths "SEE".

Emma: Ok, I'm going. Coming home for dinner?

Leo: I don't think so. Could you leave me leftovers in the fridge?

Emma: Well, I really wasn't planning on cooking, but...

Leo cuts in

Leo: Thanks, anything will be fine.

Emma: Bye waves goodbye

Rob: See ya. I'll call you later.

Lane: Call me later, but not too late. I need my beauty sleep and I have an early class.

Emma walks away
Rob: Beauty sleep, huh?

Lane: Am I not beautiful now? Can you not clearly see that?

Rob: Yeah...

Fade out

SCENE 2

It's late at night. Leo returns to find Emma already in bed.

Leo: Hi sweetie. (Leans down to kiss her) How was your evening? We had the best practice. Things are really starting to come together. Brian's time is improving. I think things are really going well. We should be totally ready for the gig next week. We should even have a few new tunes ready to go.

Leo: empties his pockets while talking. Emma rolls over and tries to continue to sleep.

Leo: So, did you miss me for dinner?

Emma: No, not really. I had a bunch of homework to do and then I went to bed early. Can you turn out that light. I really need to sleep. I have an early class. Can we talk tomorrow?

Leo: Alright, but you never want to talk anymore.

Emma: Honey, it's two in the morning. You always want to talk when you get home. I need to sleep.

Leo: Emma, are you just not interested in the band?

Emma: It's really none of my business. I care, but I don't want to overstep my role.

Leo: Being interested and asking about the band won't make you Yoko Ono. You know that, right?

Emma: Yeah, I know.

Leo: Did you study for your test? Lane said it was a big part of your grade.

Emma: When did you talk to Lane?
Leo: I saw her tonight on my way home. She said she tried to call you, but you didn’t pick up.

Emma: I did study. I’ll be fine. You and Lane worry too much.

Leo: We just want you to do well.

Emma: God! I can take care of my own academic career. It’s not as if I’m flunking out of school.

Leo: I wasn’t trying to piss you off honey. I was just wondering. And Lane just wants you to do well. It’s important to us. Anyway...So I don’t suppose I could talk you into coming to my gig on Saturday night. We’re not on until about one o’clock. Some other band is opening for us.

Emma: Sure, I guess. I’ll talk to Laney tomorrow and see if she wants to go with me. Goodnight sweetie.

Leo: Goodnight, Em. I love you, you know.

Emma: I know, goodnight.

*Cue Spendor- Whatever Makes You Happy*

**SCENE 3**

*Next morning*

Leo: You going to be alright?

Emma: I’ll be fine really. I promise. And I’ll be there on Saturday. I promise.

Leo: Page me if you need anything. Ok, Em? Anything. Maybe I’ll pick up something for your sister’s wedding.

Emma: That would be great. Take care, ok.

Leo: I’ll call you later tonight.

Emma: If you want. You don’t have too. I’ll be fine.
Leo: Ok. Talk to you tonight. Good luck on you test.

Emma: Don’t worry. No problem. Everything is under control.

**SCENE 4**

*Emma, Rob, and Lane are at the coffeehouse. Emma is sketching while Lane and Rob talk.*

Lane: I talked to Kayla last night. Thought you might be interested in that.

Rob: Why would I be interested in that? Just because she trampled all over my poor broken heart and made me feel like a fool in front of everyone I know. Why do you have to tell me stuff like that. Who would guess that behind that beautiful face and flawless clothing is such a cold-hearted bitch?

Lane: Well you followed the girl around for a year. I thought you might be interested in how she was doing.

Emma: She's right. Aren't you curious at least? Besides, why are you even bothered by it? You moved straight from Kayla to Lane. Just like a little frog hopping from friend to friend. Hop, hop, hop...

Rob: Traitor. Why are you on her side. How can you still talk to her knowing how cruel she was to me. She knows that I adored her once It was always “Rob, do this” and “Rob, do that” and “Rob, will you pick me up because I’m trashed after going out with another one of my rich frat boys”.

Lane: I never had to ask. You were always there right under my feet. Like an annoying cat.

Rob: More like an adoring puppy dog. That is until your man Alan appeared an then you were like, “see you later Rob.”

Lane: Maybe I was afraid of making Alan jealous.

Everyone laughs.

Rob: Anyway, you're just upset that I'm over you. I had to move on, Laney. On to bigger and better and more human girls.
**Lane:** Whatever. We should get going. I’ve got a headache coming on so I should get home. I’ve got to get rid of it before Alan comes to get me for dinner. You should get home too, Em. You’ve got a ton of studying to do, right?

**Emma:** Yeah, I guess.

**Rob:** Actually, want to go walking with me Em?

**Emma:** No, I should get home.

**Rob:** Come on. What do you have to get home for? You don’t want me to have to walk all alone do you. Besides some fresh air would do you good. *(Grabs Emma’s hand)* come on. You’re coming. Bye Lane.

*Cue Spacehog- In the Meanwhile*

**Rob and Emma arrive in front of Emma’s house.**

**Rob:** I’ll see you later, sweet thing! Give me a hug?

**Emma:** Anytime. *(Emma hugs Rob)* See you later, stud bucket.

**SCENE 5**

**Phone rings**

**Emma:** Hello

**Lane:** It’s me Get up and come to breakfast with me. Then we’ll go shopping. Just you and me. Meet me here in a half-hour.

**Emma:** Okay, Later

**SCENE 6**

**Lane:** Here. Let’s get a drink and sit for a second.

*Lane and Emma sit down at a table with coffee*

**Lane:** Who or what are you thinking so deeply about?
Emma: Nothing. NO that's not true. I must have been thinking about something. Let's see. Ok, hmmm. Well, I wasn't thinking consciously of anything but maybe I can retrace my thoughts.

Lane: Never mind I don't need to know that badly. Laughing Was it about a boy?

Emma: Lane!

Lane: Thinking about naughty things with Leo?

Emma: LANE! Actually I was thinking about Rob. He's been awfully sweet lately. Speak of the devil...
Hey look. ROB!! Over here!

Rob: hello ladies. How are you women today?

Lane: Rob, I'm so happy to see you. Want to help me carry my bags home?
Emma laughs

Rob: As always, Miss Lane, I am at your service.

Cue Coldplay- We Never Change

Emma: Oh, you guys, are you going to go with me to Leo’s band thing tonight? Please, please, please. You know how I hate to go to these things alone.

Lane: No problem. I think Alan might want to go too. If not Rob will always escort us, right darling?

Rob: Yes ma’am. Call me later Em.

SCENE 7

Lane and Rob are walking home. Rob is carrying Lane’s bags.

Lane: Rob, will you do me a favor?

Rob: Depends on the favor. Just kidding Lane. Whatever you wish.

Lane: I only need one favor. Leave Emma alone.

Rob: laughing Oh my god, is Lane jealous? Laney isn’t getting all my attention and she’s jealous.
Lane: No, I'm serious. It has nothing to do with me. It's just that Emma doesn't really know where she's going right now or who she is and she might make the mistake of taking you seriously. Like I understand the joke, and you get the joke, but Emma might think that the flirtations are genuine. She's not like us. She's innocent.

Rob: annoyed Why shouldn't she take me seriously? Am I the joke? Am I the fool that no one should take seriously? I hope she does take me seriously. I hope she does think that I'm for real. At least she can see that I am something more than a joke.

Lane: Enough Rob. Enough. You aren't thinking about what you're saying. If what you're saying were true, you wouldn't be the gentleman we know you to be. Emma has a boyfriend. A great boyfriend. You're being an idiot if you think that you can break them up. You need to just back up and let Emma be for now.

Rob: Is that it then, are you done insulting me?

Lane: Rob, everything I say you don't have to like. I'm your friend and so I have to tell you some things even if you won't like them.

Rob: It isn't pleasant to have a woman tell you.... Now if I were like Alex. If I were like him this conversation might have a point, but you should know better, Lane.

Lane: Ok, I'm sorry. But please just think about what I said. She doesn't know.

Rob: Anyway, you made one major mistake Lane. There is no way that Emma would ever take me seriously. You should have warned me about taking myself seriously. I'll call you later tonight.

Lane: Ok. Rob?

Rob: Yeah?

Lane: You know I love you right?

Rob: I know Laney. I'll see you later.

SCENE 8

Montage: Getting ready for the Party
Lane, Rob, Emma, and Alan are walking into a house for the party Leo’s band is playing at. As they enter, Emma sees Leo making his way over to them.

Leo: You made it. Turning to Emma I missed you so much! How are you doing?

Emma: I brought some friends. Groupies if you will

Leo: Thanks for coming guys. We won’t be on for another few minutes. This is the opening band. They’re alright. Do you want anything to drink?

Lane: Sure whatever you have is fine. Emma, this is our song. WE have to dance!

Emma: Lane, Leo doesn’t dance, you know that.

Lane: That’s why we bring Rob along. Let’s go men! Rob grab your woman!

Rob grabs Emma’s hand and drags her out to the dance floor with him.

DANCE SCENE

Emma: I think I need a drink. walks quickly away from Rob Mmmm, Vodka. picks up bottle and pours a large amount into a plastic cup. Chugs it down and pours some more. Leo walks up behind her

Leo: Thirsty dear?

Emma: You have no idea.

Leo: Maybe you should slow down a little bit.

Emma: Maybe you should shut up a little bit. I’m just getting started. Loosen up. Want some?

Leo: No, that’s okay. I think you’ve had enough for the both of us.
Emma: Good. More for me.

Leo: Where's Lane?

Emma: I don't know where mommy is, daddy.

Leo: Funny, Em. Funny.

Emma: There's Rob. Maybe he wants some. *Emma stagers moves quickly toward Rob and grabs his arm. Rob looks surprised but puts his arm around her and smiles. He is standing with Rachel.*

Rob: Hi sweetie. Emma this is my good friend from high school, Rachel. Whatcha got there?

Emma: Nothing... *laughing*

Rob: *takes drink and takes a sip* My god Emma. Is there anything in here but vodka?

Emma: Maybe, I don't really remember. It's good though.

Rachel: You doing alright there?

Emma: I'm fine! *Starts to fall over and Rob grabs her to support her*

Rob: You look fine.

Emma: You too, Rob?

Rob: Me too what?

Emma: All gone! *Emma tips over glass and some pours out* Time for some more! *Emma stumbles away to refill her cup.*

Rachel: So what's that all about?

Rob: What do you mean?

Rachel: Don't play dumb with me. I saw the way you were looking at her. Could you want her any more?

Rob: I don't want her. And even if I did she's taken.
Rachel: If you ask me, she didn't have that "taken" look in her eye. I saw her checking you out.

Rob: Are you on crack? We're only friends, that's all. I swear it.

Emma: *yelling from across the room.* Rob! Watch this! I got moves! *Emma twirls around and falls hard on the ground.* Rob, Leo, and Lane run over to Emma

Ouch.

Leo: I think it's time for you to go home.

Emma: What? I'm just getting started!

Leo: No, you're just finishing. I'll get your jacket and take you home.

Rob: You go on in twenty minutes. I'll take her home. Don't worry.

Emma: I don't want to leave!

Lane: Honey, listen to Leo. He knows what's best. I'll call you in the morning and tell you everything.

Rob: Come on hon. Wait for me by the door and I'll walk you home.

*Emma and Lane walk toward the door. Rob and Leo go to get Emma's jacket.*

Leo: Thanks for taking her home. I don't know what her deal's been lately. She's been acting so strangely. She hasn't told you anything has she?

Rob: No. She would tell you before she told me. You're her boyfriend.

Leo: Anyway. I appreciate you walking her home. You know what a pain in the ass drunk girls are.

Rob: No problem. I should get going. Have a great gig.

Leo: As always.

*Cue Citizen King- Long Walk Home*

**SCENE 9**

Rob and Emma are walking home.
**Cue SR71 - Empty Spaces**

**Emma:** Why did you walk me home?

**Rob:** I hate to see such a beautiful lady walk home alone.

**Emma:** No seriously. You act like it's a privilege. Leo always acts like it's a chore.

**Rob:** I can't speak for Leo, but it's an honor to get to walk you home, Miss Bradley.

Emma: You're funny.

**Rob:** I've never seen you drink like that.

**Emma:** I never have.

**Rob:** So why tonight?

**Emma:** So why not tonight? I'm tired.

**Rob:** I know you are sweetie, but you should try and sober up a little before you go to bed otherwise you'll have a hell of a hangover in the morning. And then whom would I take to lunch in the park?

**Emma:** You're taking me to lunch in the park?

**Rob:** If you're not too hungover.

**Emma:** I want to sit outside for a while. It feels nice out here.

**Rob:** Ok, do you want a glass of water?

**Emma:** Yeah, and a blanket. Here's my key.

**Rob:** Here's your water. Is this blanket okay?

**Emma:** It's fine. Rob?

*Rob puts the blanket over Emma*

**Rob:** yes?
**SCENE 10**

*Leo arrives home and sees Emma sitting on the porch.*

**Leo:** What are you still doing outside? You should be in bed.

**Emma:** How was your gig?

**Leo:** Don't change the subject. What are you doing out here?

**Emma:** I just felt like sitting outside.

**Leo:** It's too late to play games. Come inside. You'll get sick out here.

**Emma:** I'm fine and I feel like sitting. I'm not playing games.
Leo: You're going to get all bitten by mosquitoes out here.

Emma: There aren't any mosquitoes out here.

Leo: This is silly. Stop being stubborn and come inside.

Emma: No

Leo: Emma, for the last time come inside. Right now!

Emma: You can go inside if you want, but I'm staying here. And don't ever speak to me like that again. I can stay outside if I want to. I'm a big girl.

Leo walks inside and walks back out with two glasses of water and a pack of cigarettes. He lights one and they sit in silence for a second.

Leo: I brought you some water.

Emma: I already have some.

Cue New Radicals- Someday

Emma: I'm going to bed. Are you coming dear?

Leo: I'll be in as soon as I finish this.

End Scene

SCENE 11

Rob and Emma are lying on a blanket outside. The sun is beginning to set.

Rob: You're awake?

Emma: Yeah, what happened?

Rob: Let's see. I took you out for a picnic lunch, and you fell asleep on me

Emma: laughing Sorry about that. I feel like I've slept a million years.

Rob: Only about an hour.
**Emma**: Do you realize this is the first time we've spent the whole day together?

**Rob**: We should do it more often.

**Emma**: We should.

**Rob**: *moves in close to Emma* I have to tell you something.

**Emma**: What?

**Rob**: It's just that lately we've become really close and I feel like I know you pretty well.

**Emma**: I feel that way too.

**Rob**: And I love being your friend, but lately I've been thinking that maybe we could be a little more someday, I mean

**Emma**: What are you saying?

**Rob**: Nothing, never mind. I just wanted to tell you that I'm glad we're becoming good friends. It's getting late. Won't Leo be worried.

**Emma**: No, he knows I'm with you. Rob?

**Rob**: Yeah?

**Emma**: I love being with you too.

**Rob**: We should get going. It'll be dark soon and we'll get cold. I don't want you to get sick. I don't want Leo to kill me.

**Emma**: You worry too much about Leo.

**Rob**: He's my friend. I don't want to make him hate me.

**Emma**: Okay. Let's go. Will you come over for a while?

**Rob**: I can't. I've got some work to do at home.

*They pack up and walk away*

*End Scene.*
SCENE 12

Band practice. Lane and Emma are sitting together.

Cue Travis- Baby One More Time

Lane: So, did you hear?

Emma: Hear what?

Lane: About Rob?

Emma: I think I know what you're going to say. He kinda told me on the picnic. I didn't really know what to say, but I'm thinking about it.

Lane: I don't know what you're talking about. I was talking about him leaving for Louisville tonight.

Emma: What are YOU talking about?

Lane: His internship with Young Machine Company. It starts soon so he's leaving tonight. Guess he's staying with a friend or something until he gets a place of his own.

Emma: Are you sure?

Lane: Yeah, Rob told Alan today. Alan!

Alan: Yes?

Lane: Come here! Could you move any slower?

Alan: Sorry dear.

Lane: Tell Emma what Rob told you today.

Alan: About what?

Lane: About the weather. About Rob, of course.

Alan: He's leaving for Louisville tonight.

Lane: See Emma. That will be all. You can go back over there now.

Alan walks away.
Emma: Why didn't he tell me about that? What was he thinking. Why is he leaving tonight? Couldn't he wait for a while? What about us?

Lane: Slow down question girl. What do you mean "what about us"?

Emma: Nothing. I have to go. I just have to go.  
*Emma leaves in a hurry.*

Lane: Emma! Where are you going?

Emma: I just have to get out of here.

Lane: I'll call you.

*End Scene*

**SCENE 13**

*Doorbell rings. Emma answers the door. Lane is there.*

Lane: So what was that all about?

Emma: Nothing. I was just surprised.

Lane: What's going on Em?

Emma: Nothing. I don't know why he didn't tell us sooner. He must have known.

Lane: I agree that he should have told us sooner, but there's nothing we can do about that now. Come with me to say goodbye to him.

Emma: No. He didn't see fit to tell me he was leaving so I'm not telling him goodbye.

Lane: Emma, I know you're upset, but you'll regret it if you don't go.

Emma: I'd have to change and I don't feel like it.

Lane: You look fine. Just put on some shoes and lets go.

Lane: You're sure?

Emma: Yeah. I'm sure.

*Emma shuts door and goes back to sitting on couch.*

**SCENE 14**

*Doorbell rings again. The door begins to open as she speaks first line. Rob is standing in the doorway.*

*Cue Oasis- Don't Go Away*

Emma: Lane, you don't need to check up on me all the time. What are you doing here?

Rob: Are you okay?

Emma: I'm fine, why?

Rob: Lane said you weren't feeling well so you didn't come to see me off..

Emma: Are you leaving right away?

Rob: I've got a couple minutes.

*Emma and Rob sit on the couch.*

Emma: So how long will you be gone?

Rob: I don't know. Forever maybe. If I like the internship I might get a job down there.

Emma: In case it's not forever, when will you be back?

Rob: I don't know.

Emma: Why didn't you tell me you were leaving? I spent the whole day with you only three days ago. What's with the secrecy? You must have known you were leaving. I hate this.
Rob: Emma, please don't be angry. I don't want to leave things this way.

Emma: I don't want to be angry either but how am I supposed to feel? I thought we were close, but you keep this secret from me. You don't seem like a very good friend right now. And I don't even get an explanation from you. You don't even try to explain. I thought we would see each other all the time. I thought we would spend next year hanging out.

Rob: So did I. Maybe that's why... I should get going Emma. You won't - I mean don't totally forget about me.

Emma: Will you write me when you get there? So I know you made it there alright?


Rob gets up and leaves.

End Scene

SCENE 15

Emma is waiting for a bus. Rachel comes up behind her.

Rachel: So, do you miss Rob tremendously?

Emma: Oh my god Rachel! Good to see you! How are you?

Rachel: I'm good. How are you?

Emma: Alright. Just trying to finish up my classes and all. Have you heard from him?

Rachel: Yeah, I got a letter from him a week or so ago? Want to come over and see it?

Emma: Really? Sure.

Rachel: Yeah, come on.

Cue Radiohead- Karma Police

End Scene
SCENE 16

At Rachel's apartment. Emma looks at old pictures of Rob in an album.

Emma: So, when did Rob ever wear a tux?
Rachel: That's Rob at junior prom. Looks about the same doesn't he?

Emma: Yeah...

Rachel: So I guess this is what you wanted. *Hands Emma an Envelope.*

Emma: Are you sure it's okay that I read this. He promised to write but I haven't gotten any letters yet.

Rachel: Yeah, read it. He's just forgetful. I'm sure you have a letter coming. He wouldn't write to me except he's afraid to make me angry.

Emma: It doesn't say anything.

Rachel: I know, it's not very interesting. Rob's letters usually aren't.

Emma: At least you got one.

Rachel: I think you'll get one. Just give him some time to settle in and all. He'll get around to it.

Emma: I guess. I should get going. Thanks so much for letting me read it.

Rachel: Anytime. We should hang out more. Stop by any time.


Rachel: Bye Emma. Good seeing you.

*Emma leaves.*

End Scene.

SCENE 17
Leo and Emma are eating dinner.

Cue 311- Do You Right

Leo: What is this?

Emma: Chicken and vegetables.

Leo: Which is which?

Emma: It's not that bad.

Leo: You would think I could find a girlfriend who could cook.

Emma: You know, you could cook yourself dinner if you don't like the way I do it.

Leo: I was only kidding. It's fine Em. Why so edgy?

Emma: I just miss Rob.

Leo: I'm sorry. I guess Alan talked to him a day or so ago. He seems to be doing fine.

Leo gets up.

Leo: I've got to run.

Emma: But your dinner.

Leo: I'll grab something on my way to practice.

Emma: Fine.

Leo: I'll see you later.

Leo leaves.

End Scene.

SCENE 18

Emma knocks on Rachel's door.
Cue Coldplay- Yellow

Rachel: So you finally remembered me! Come on in.

Emma: Sorry it's taken so long. I've been pretty busy.

Rachel: No problem. Do you want something to drink?

Emma: Sure, that would be great. Whatever you're having will be fine.

Rachel: I got a letter from your friend.

Emma: My friend?

Rachel: Rob? Don't tell me that's not why you're here.

Emma: He wrote to you again?

Rachel: He sure did. Why is that so surprising? I've known the boy since I could walk.

Emma: I didn't mean...

Rachel: I know. I'm just teasing you. Relax, okay. The letter should have been addressed to you. He talked about you the whole time.

Emma: Can I see it?

Rachel: Nope.

Emma: But if it should have been written to me...

Rachel: It was written about you, not to you. A letter is only to the person it's written to.

Emma: Please let me see it.

Rachel: All it said was: have you seen Emma? How does she look? Emma used to say... And so on and so forth.

Emma: Can I please see it.

Rachel: No, no, no.
Emma: Have you answered it?
Rachel: No, not yet.
Emma: Let me see it.
Rachel: No. So what has been keeping you busy these days?
Emma: I've been doing a lot of painting.
Rachel: You're an artist.
Emma: No, not really. I just try it.
Rachel: Rob said you were really good.
Emma: Let me see the letter.
Rachel: What time do you have to be home?
Emma: That seems a little rude. I'm not giving up on this.
Rachel: I didn't mean it to be. Tell you what. I'm going to the kitchen to get some more water. If while I was gone you happened to open the drawer over there and read the letter there would be nothing I could do about it. I'm going now.

Cue No Doubt- Don’t Speak

Rachel goes into the kitchen and Emma gets the letter and begins to read it. Rachel returns from the kitchen to find Emma crying and the letter crumpled up on the floor in front of her.

Emma: I have to go. Can I come back sometime.

Emma hurries out of the apartment.

End Scene.

SCENE 19

Emma answers the door.
Alex: Just checking up on things since Leo's gone. How's everything going.

Emma: Come on in. Everything is fine. He's not here very often so it's not that strange to have him gone.

Alex: Anyway. I wanted to ask you if I could distract you tomorrow and take you to a movie and maybe to dinner. No strings. Just hate to see you sitting alone.

Emma: I'm fine, really. I've been doing a lot of painting.

Alex: Can I see some of it. I'm sure you're really talented.

Emma: Not today. Maybe sometime.

Alex: So I'll pick you up at eight tomorrow.

Emma: Well...

Alex: See you then.

Alex leaves.

End Scene

SCENE 20

Emma and Alex are walking home.

Emma: Thanks so much for taking me out. I think I needed to get out of the house.

Alex: So then you'll come out with me again?

Emma: Oh, I don't think so.

Alex: Come on Emma. You promised to show me your paintings sometime.

Emma: Changed my mind.

Alex: Maybe I could give you a suggestion or two?
**SCENE 21**

*At Rachel's apartment*

**Rachel:** So what's this I hear about you and Alex?

**Emma:** What have you heard?

**Rachel:** I heard you went out with him. What does Leo think about that?

**Emma:** First of all, I didn't go out with him. We just saw a movie as friends. He kinda hit on me but I smacked him down. I got this really weird letter of apology from him on my e-mail the next day. It was kinda funny. There's nothing for Leo to feel about it. He's off visiting his parents. He won't be back for at least another week.

**Rachel:** You don't look so well, are you okay?

**Emma:** Yeah, I've just not been sleeping very well. I've had a lot of stuff on my mind.

**Rachel:** Like what?

**Emma:** I think I'm going to move back into the dorms.

**Rachel:** Really? Why?
Emma: It really doesn't seem right to live with Leo. I can't be what he wants and I don't want to be. I've been much happier lately when he's gone. I think we just need some space.

Rachel: Have you told Leo?

Emma: I haven't told him yet. I only thought about it last night. He'll think I've gone insane. Is that what you think?

Rachel: I see some holes in your reasoning, but I don't really have to understand it. Rachel hands Emma a letter

Emma: I think I'm going to have a little party before I moved out. You're invited of course. Emma looks at letter Does he know I read his letters?

Rachel: No, he'd kill me. Does he write you? No. It's because he loves you and he's trying to forget you because you're taken. Poor boy.

Emma: Why do you show me his letters then?

Rachel: Because you beg me to see them. I can't take it after a while.

Emma begins to read letter and then drops it on the table.

Emma: Why didn't you tell me?

Rachel: What? That he's coming back? It's no big deal. I thought he would have been back a long time ago.

Emma: When's he coming? It doesn't say.

Rachel: You know as well as I do. Very soon, that's all he said.

Emma: What about his internship?

Rachel: I guess he quit. I don't know why you would want him. I wouldn't want a quitter for a boyfriend.

Emma: I don't know why I want him? Why does anyone want anyone else. You should know that!

Rachel: So you LOVE him then?

Emma: yes.

Rachel: How can you love him when you're with someone else?
**Emma:** I don't know why. I love him because his hair is brown and his eyes are too. I love him because his clothes are always just a little rumpled even after he tries to iron. I love him...

**Rachel:** Because you do. I get it. What are you going to do when he gets back?

**Emma:** Nothing. I'll just be happy to be alive.

**Rachel:** Emma, Emma, Emma.

End Scene.

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**SCENE 22**

*Emma is walking with Alex.*

**Alex:** What's wrong with you. I've never seen you so happy.

**Emma:** The weatherman said it's supposed to be a nice weekend.

**Alex:** I'll take that answer but only because you wouldn't tell me what is really making you happy even if I tried to pull it out of you.

**Emma:** Sometime I'm going to sit around and think about the kind of woman I'm becoming. I think I'm a poor excuse for a girl, but I don't know.

**Alex:** Why bother thinking about it? I can tell you what kind of girl you are.

**Emma:** Oh yeah. You'll tell me that I'm adorable and sexy and anything else you think I'd like to hear.

**Alex:** I wouldn't tell you that, but if I did I wouldn't be lying.

**Emma:** Do you know Rachel?

**Alex:** I've met her a few times. I don't really like her. Why are you talking about her now when I want to talk about you?

**Emma:** Go ahead and talk, if you don't mind me thinking of other things.

**Alex:** I'm getting jealous of your thoughts. Your preoccupation makes you nicer than usual, but I feel like you're not here with me.

*Alex stops and grabs Emma's arm and kisses her. They kiss again.*
End scene.

Montage- Emma and Alex

Cue Harry Conick, Jr.- It’s the Wrong Time

SCENE 23

Emma is packing, Alex enters.

Alex: Emma! Where are you?

Emma: In here. *she’s carrying a box*

Alex: give me that. You’ll kill yourself. *he takes box* So you’re really moving out?

Emma: Yeah, I need the independence of single living.

Alex: Let me help. What can I do?

Emma: I’ve got it covered. Really. Set that box over there.

Alex: You’re sure that’s all I can do.

Emma: Yep.

Alex: So when’s your party? Still tomorrow night?

Emma: Yes. I have so much to do before it. Then I’m spending my first night in my new room.

Alex: I’ve got to get going. When can I see you?

Emma: Tomorrow at the party.

Alex: Not before. Tomorrow night is an eternity.

Emma: Tomorrow night. Not before.

Alex: Ok then.

Alex leaves

End Scene.
SCENE 24

Emma, Lane, Alan and Alex and some other people are in Leo’s apartment.

Lane:  to Emma  Is that a new necklace?

Emma:  Yeah, it came this morning as a gift from Leo. Early Birthday gift.

Lane:  It’s perfect. Do you love it?

Emma:  I like it. I’m not sure it’s really me. *Loudly* Everyone! I would like to make a toast. To me and my new place.

Lane:  May she find in it whatever she’s looking for.

Alex:  And may she stay as charming and beautiful for as long as she lives!

Lane:  to Alan  What kind of toast was that?

*Fade out.*

Montage: drinking party

*Cue Mousse T- I'm Horney*

*Fade back in*

*Cue Moby- Southside.*

Lane:  Emma, we really do have to be going. I have studying to do. I hope you’ll remember what that is. You’ve become quite the little party girl lately.

Emma:  I’ll never be you Lane. I’m tired of trying.

Lane:  I don’t want you to be me, Emma. But I don’t want you to be Alex’s next Woman of the week either. I hear I might be too late though.

Emma:  Shut up about things you don’t know about Lane.

Lane:  I hope I’m wrong, but I doubt it. I’ll see you later Emma. Come on Alan.

Alan:  Don’t worry about her. I know you’re a good girl, Em. She’s just been stressed lately. Take care okay?
Emma: Okay. Bye

Lane: ALAN! Let's go! Now!

Alan: Coming, dear.

Emma: Thanks. Take care.

Only Emma and Alex remain.

Alex: Well?

Emma: Well what?

Alex: What's next?

Emma: I just have this bag and I'm going to go to my new home.

Alex: Are you ready? I'll walk you over.

Emma: Sure.

Cue SR71- Another Night Alone

Emma shuts door and turns the key.

End Scene.

SCENE 25

Emma opens door to new room.

Emma: Here we are.

Alex: It looks nice, baby.

Emma: Thanks.

They sit down on her bed.

Alex: Are you tired?

Emma: Yeah, and sad and confused and a little empty. I've been wound up so tightly lately that it's really hard to unwind.

Alex: You should sleep. Want me to go or stay? I'll stay if you want me too.
Emma: No, you should go. I need some sleep.

Alex: I hope you wake up in a better mood. I hate to see you unhappy. You've been through a lot the last couple of days. Probably shouldn't have had the party.

Emma: Yeah, it was a bad idea.

Alex: No, it was a good idea, it just was too much for you right now.

Alex sits back down on bed.

Emma: I thought you were leaving?

Alex: As soon as I say goodnight. (begins stroking her hair)

Emma: Goodnight. (closes her eyes and falls asleep)

End scene.

SCENE 26

Lane and Emma are sitting on the lawn.

Lane: I'm sorry I've been absent as of late. You know how crazy my life gets.

Emma: I know. That's okay. I've been busy too.

Lane: Sorry about the other night. Didn't mean to be so harsh. I just hate to see you throw everything away.

Emma: I don't know how to explain I'm not throwing everything away. I'm sick of trying. We just don't see things the same way.

Lane: I just worry because you act like a child sometimes. You don't always weigh the consequences of your actions before you act. That concerns me, Em. I don't think it's a good idea for you to be living alone. Doesn't Rachel have an extra room at her place?

Emma: No, she doesn't want me there all the time and I don't want to be there.

Lane: I'm really worried though, Em. Alan said people are talking about you and Alex. Now that you live alone, people are really going to talk. I just don't
want you to ruin your reputation by becoming the next woman of the week for Alex.

**Emma:** Does he brag about his conquests?

**Lane:** No, deep down I think he's probably a good guy, but his reputation is really horrible. If you continue on this path I won't be able to be associated with you.

**Emma:** You better watch it Lane. Like it or not, you are not my mother. If you're saying that you won't hang out with me because I chose to be friends with someone, then I don't think I want to be friends with you.

**Lane:** Emma, that is not what I'm saying. Just think about what I say to you. Think about finding someone to live with. It's just a good idea. Don't be mad.

**Emma:** I'm not mad. I couldn't stay mad at you if I tried. Anyway, I promised Rachel I would have dinner with her. I'm running late so I've got to run. See ya.

**Lane:** Yeah, see ya.

*Emma leaves.*

*End Scene.*

**SCENE 27**

*Emma approaches Rachel's house and sees Rob sitting on the porch.*

**Rob:** She's not here.

**Emma:** Rob?

**Rob:** Emma, you look lovely.

**Emma:** How long have you been back?

*Both sit down on porch.*

**Rob:** The day before yesterday.

**Emma:** The day before yesterday. ... Day before yesterday. So if I wouldn't have run into you, were you planning to call me?
Rob: Of course. I just been really busy and all. You know how it is when you move. I started my new job yesterday and ... I heard about your move. Must admit I was pretty surprised.

Emma: I just needed some space.

Rob: What does Leo think?

Emma: He says I should do whatever I want. I want to live alone.

Rob: Yeah, that's what Rachel said.

Emma: You promised to write. Why didn't you?

Rob: Didn't think you'd want to read them.

Emma: That's a really lame excuse and you know it. Tell me the truth.

Rob: I don't know.

Emma: I guess I missed Rachel. Want to walk me home?

Rob: Sure.

Cue James- Runaground

Emma and Rob walk away.

End Scene.

SCENE 28

Rob and Emma enter Emma's dorm room.

Emma: Do you want to have dinner with me?

Rob: Of course I do. What is Alex's picture doing here?

Emma: I was gonna sketch his head and he thought that might help.

Rob: I hope you give it back when you're done.

Emma: Why? I have a lot of pictures of people's heads. Doesn't matter. They don't need the pictures back.
Rob: I don't think his head is worth drawing. I didn't know you two were friends.

Emma: Yeah, we've become good friends lately, but I don't want to talk about him. I want to talk about you. How was Louisville?

Rob: I worked my ass off. Got a little lost in my work. Not much else to say. What about you?

Emma: I got lost in my work, lost my soul a little too. Or maybe found it. I don't know.

Rob: Are you sure you want to do dinner tonight? I figure you're probably tired of me by now. We could do it another night.

Emma: No way. Who knows when I'll see you again. You have a way of disappearing. I miss our long walks and talks.

Rob: So do I. I never forgot about you, Em.

Emma: Is that a new shirt?

Rob: Yeah, a girl in Louisville gave it to me.

Emma: I hear those Southern girls are pretty.

Rob: Some are. Some look like donkeys. Same as everywhere. The girl in question was alright. Nothing to write home about. She lived down the hall. Some people just leave a lasting impression on you.

Emma: And she was one?

Rob: For the time being. She was nice.

Knock at door. Emma answers and finds Alex.

Alex: I just dropped by to give you this. Hands Emma an envelope. Rob! Hey man, what are you doing here?

Rob: Hi Alex. How's it going?

Alex: Good, good. I heard you were back in town. How was Louisville?

Rob: Okay.

Alex: But not good enough to keep you there. What's wrong. The chicks didn't get your game?
Rob: The women were fine. I just wanted to come home. I'm going to get going, Em. Can I take a rain check on dinner?

Emma: sure.

Rob leaves.

Emma: Here's that picture of yours. I'm done with it.

Alex: Don't you want to keep it?

Emma: No, you might need it.

Alex: I don't want it. Throw it away if you don't want it. Do you want to take a walk or something.

Emma: No, I don't think so. You can go. I'm just going to sit around here. You should find something fun to do.

Alex: It's no fun without you.

Emma: Is that one of the things you say to your women?

Alex: I've said it before, but I don't think I've ever been closer to meaning it. I adore you Emma. I'll go. See you later.

Emma: Bye.

Alex leaves.

End Scene.

SCENE 29

Emma is walking down the street and runs into Rob.

Rob: I think I'm destined to see you only by accident.

Emma: Where have you been?

Rob: Don't suppose you'll let me off the hook with a "I've been busy"?

Emma: Sometimes you're really selfish. You're always saving yourself. I don't know what from. Maybe from saying something you don't want to. But you
don't think about other people's feelings. You probably think I'm stupid, don't you.

Rob: No, just mean. You want me to tell you something that would only hurt me. You don't mean to be cruel, but you just want me to tell you so you can see me hurt.

Emma: Do you want to walk me home?

Rob: Can I meet you there in a half-hour? I just got back from the gym and I need to change.

Emma nods and they walk off in opposite directions

Cue James- Tomorrow

End Scene.

SCENE 30

Emma and Rob are sitting on Emma's bed.

Emma: You okay?

Rob: yes.

Emma leans over and kisses Rob.

Rob: So now you know. What made me run and what brought me back home.

Emma: Why have you been fighting it?

Rob: Why? Because of Leo, because you were taken. As long as I kept away from you I could keep from telling you how you made me feel. I thought about you the whole time I was gone.

Emma: But you didn't write.

Rob: Something told me that you might like me. I kept thinking about being your boyfriend.

Emma: But I have a boyfriend.

Rob: I know. I came back here with the stupid idea of telling you how I felt and wishing you would choose me.
Emma: But you didn't even call me.

Rob: I wanted to, but I realized what a tool I was being. Leo would never let you go.

Emma: I'm not his to let go. You act as if he has a say in me being with you. That's my decision. What did you think he'd say? "She's all yours Rob. Take her and be happy."

Rob: What are you saying?

Phone rings.

Emma: Hello? I'll be right over. I've got to go to Lane's for a second. I'll be back in a half-hour. Please stay here?

Rob: I'll walk you over.

Cue James- Strangers

Emma: Stay here. I'll be right back. I love you Rob. You were the one who made me feel alive. You were the one who crushed me with your indifference, but you're the one who put me back together. We're going to be so happy together.

Rob: Don't go. Lane doesn't need you as much as I do.

Emma: I've got to go. I'll see you when I get back.

Emma leaves.

Emma returns to find Rob gone. There is a note on the bed. Emma reads the note while there are flashbacks of Rob leaving. She throws the book at the wall. Emma goes into a rage. Grabs a bottle of vodka and begins chugging out of it. Flashbacks of other people putting her down. Finally, as Emma continues to drink, she sees herself walking out on those people and falls asleep.

Fade to black

Voice Over: This isn't the end. It's the beginning. The beginning of me.

Fade in
Emma: *on phone.* Leo, I'm sorry to leave a message like this, but we can't see each other anymore. It's not working for me and I have to do what's right for me now. Goodbye.

*Cue SR71- Politically Correct*

*Emma is shown packing and leaving dorm and her life.*

*End Scene.*

*End Credits*