

**STEAL AWAY**

by  
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First Draft

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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY STREET - EVENING

It is raining. A sunset peeking through the black rain clouds. The streets are crowded with traffic. A CAR is parked on the side of the road.

A YOUNG MAN, mid-20s, wearing a jacket, walks down the sidewalk.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)  
*The day is done, and the darkness  
Falls from the wings of Night,  
As a feather is wafted downward  
From an eagle in his flight.*

Young Man looks toward an OUTDOOR MALL COMPLEX.

EXT. OUTDOOR MALL - EVENING

The mall is crowded with people in umbrellas, hurrying for cover. Young Man continues to walk at a leisurely pace.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)  
*I see the lights of the village  
Gleam through the rain and the  
mist,  
And a feeling of sadness comes  
o'er me  
That my soul cannot resist:  
A feeling of sadness and longing,  
That is not akin to pain...*

INT. A BOOKSTORE - EVENING

Young Man, still wet from the rain, holds an open book of poetry by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and reads "The Day Is Done".

YOUNG MAN  
(quiet; to himself)  
*And resembles sorrow only  
As the mist resembles the rain.  
Come, read to me some poem,  
Some simple and heartfelt lay...*

YOUNG WOMAN (O.C.)  
*That shall soothe this restless  
feeling,  
And banish the thoughts of day.*

Young Man looks up from his book to find a YOUNG WOMAN, also mid-20s, standing beside him. She is an employee in uniform.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Kind of a favorite.

YOUNG MAN  
Thought I was being quiet.

She studies him.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Let's see. You're a twentysomething male. You're cute, but not hot, athletic, but not buff. And you're standing at the poetry section of a bookstore at the beginning of a rainy Saturday night which means you're sad, but trying not to look it.

Young Man smiles.

YOUNG MAN  
And you are a twentysomething female. You're pretty, but not a bombshell, slim, but still can't run a 7 minute mile. You are *working* at the poetry section of a bookstore at the beginning of a rainy Saturday night which means you'd rather be somewhere else, but have nowhere to go so you decide to find a lone customer to hit on.

Young Woman smiles.

YOUNG MAN  
And you like to memorize Longfellow.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Very good.

YOUNG MAN  
Thank you. Now, I'm sorry, but if you don't mind, I'd kind of like to be alone.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Not at all. Let me know if there's anything I can help you with.

The Young Woman walks away. Young Man closes the book and continues scanning the shelves.

INT. BOOKSTORE - MINUTES LATER

Young Woman is at the counter working the register. She rings up a WOMAN's books and bags them.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Thanks for coming in.

Another CUSTOMER purchases some books as Young Man steps in line with his Longfellow book. Young Woman notices him.

The Customer leaves. Young Man steps up to the register.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Thanks for coming in.  
(to Young Man)  
We meet again.

YOUNG MAN  
Looks like it.

She rings up the book.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I get off here in half an hour.

YOUNG MAN  
You're not much for small talk, are you?

He hands her the money.

YOUNG WOMAN  
You got somewhere else to be?

Pause. Young Man has nothing to say.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Meet me at the coffee shop next door.

She hands him his book. He walks away.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Thanks for coming in.

EXT. BOOKSTORE/OUTDOOR MALL - CONTINUOUS

It's still raining. Young Man exits the bookstore, puts the book under his jacket, and walks on past the coffee shop, throwing a glance at it. He shakes his head and chuckles.

After a few steps, He stops and thinks for a beat, looks back at the coffee shop. He heads towards it, stops, turns around, stops again, a deer in the headlights.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Young Woman enters. She stops inside the door.

POV: Young Woman - Scans the shop and finds a lone customer, the Young Man sitting with his coffee, writing in a NOTEBOOK. The Longfellow book lies on the table, still in the bag.

She smiles.

The Young Man is wound up in writing. He doesn't see Young Woman ordering her coffee.

Young Woman, cup in hand, approaches and sits.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I thought you might get it.

Young Man looks up and closes the notebook.

YOUNG MAN  
Who are you?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Just someone who's seen you around.

YOUNG MAN  
Then how come I haven't seen you?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Maybe you have and never noticed.

YOUNG MAN  
You don't look familiar.

YOUNG WOMAN  
So what are you doing out here,  
alone on a Saturday night?

YOUNG MAN  
Is that any of your business?

YOUNG WOMAN

Well, I invited you here. You showed up so I guess it is.

He smiles.

YOUNG MAN

I had one hell of a day.

YOUNG WOMAN

How so?

YOUNG MAN

...For starters, I failed an exam. Then my girlfriend gives me the boot, so...that's done. Then my car runs out of gas in the middle of traffic, I'm overdrawn on my checking account and I just used the last of my cash to buy a book and coffee.

YOUNG WOMAN

I'm sorry. You wanna hear about mine?

YOUNG MAN

Why not?

YOUNG WOMAN

I was 5 minutes late for work today so my boss took 5 minutes off my lunch break. I had a pebble in my shoe that I couldn't get rid of for an hour. And then this lady who bought a self-help book walked out before I could give her her change.

YOUNG MAN

Ouch. I think you have me beat.

They smile.

YOUNG MAN

So where do you know me from? Really.

YOUNG WOMAN

Seen you around campus.

YOUNG MAN

Around campus where?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Just around.

YOUNG MAN  
This is weird.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What?

YOUNG MAN  
I just had the worst day I could possibly have. And I'm sitting in a coffee shop with a stranger when I should be at home cursing myself and contemplating suicide.

YOUNG WOMAN  
You're quite the smooth talker.

YOUNG MAN  
Why do you think I was in the poetry section?

Another chuckle.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What, are you a writer?

YOUNG MAN  
You could say that.

YOUNG WOMAN  
That explains it.

YOUNG MAN  
And you?

YOUNG WOMAN  
A reader. I guess that makes us a match made in Heaven.

She smiles. He doesn't find it funny.

YOUNG WOMAN (cont'd)  
Sorry.

YOUNG MAN  
Like I said, you're not much for small talk.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What can I say? I live on the edge.

YOUNG MAN  
I can tell.

YOUNG WOMAN  
So let me propose something...

YOUNG MAN  
And that is?

YOUNG WOMAN  
You stay up with me all night.  
We'll make up for your shitty day.

YOUNG MAN  
Just like that? You'd ask a  
complete stranger to stay up all  
night with you?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Not so fast. I have to ask you a  
few very important questions first.

YOUNG MAN  
Only if I get to ask you some.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Sounds like a square deal.

YOUNG MAN  
And I haven't said yes yet.

YOUNG WOMAN  
First question: What's your  
favorite dessert?

YOUNG MAN  
New York style cheesecake. Plain.

YOUNG WOMAN  
If you could pick any car to own,  
what would it be?

YOUNG MAN  
1938 Studebaker. Forest green.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What do you wear to bed?

YOUNG MAN  
Excuse me?

YOUNG WOMAN  
You can tell a lot about a person  
by that.

YOUNG MAN  
Boxers and a T-shirt.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Ooh.

YOUNG MAN  
Come on.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Okay. Lastly, what CD is in your  
car stereo right now?

YOUNG MAN  
*Closing Time*. Tom Waits.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Your turn.

YOUNG MAN  
Do you believe in God?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Yes.

YOUNG MAN  
Do you believe in science?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Yes.

YOUNG MAN  
Do you believe in Scientology?

YOUNG WOMAN  
(laughs)  
No.

YOUNG MAN  
What is your name?

Beat.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Doesn't matter.

YOUNG MAN  
If I'm gonna spend all night with  
you, I'll have to know your name.

YOUNG WOMAN  
So you've agreed.

YOUNG MAN  
Not unless I know your name.

YOUNG WOMAN  
No. Ruins the mystery.

YOUNG MAN  
Mystery? What are you looking for?

Pause. She checks her watch.

YOUNG WOMAN  
So what do you say? It's only  
10:07.

YOUNG MAN  
You don't make a very convincing  
case.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What else are you gonna do? Go home  
and contemplate suicide? I'm doing  
you a favor.

YOUNG MAN  
(chuckles)  
You're nuts.

YOUNG WOMAN  
And you're afraid.

YOUNG MAN  
Of what?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Getting into something you're not  
sure of.

YOUNG MAN  
How do I know you're not some  
psycho?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Only one way to find out.

YOUNG MAN  
That doesn't sweeten the deal.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Yes or no?

Young Man contemplates, takes another sip of coffee. He looks at her.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The same street we opened on. Young Man and Young Woman walk to the parked car with a GAS TANK. The rain has died down.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The Car drives through the streets, Young Man behind the wheel.

The City skyline in the background.

YOUNG WOMAN (V.O.)  
*Not from the grand old masters,  
 Not from the bards sublime,  
 Whose distant footsteps echo  
 Through the corridors of Time...*

INT. CAR - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Young Woman reads from the book.

YOUNG WOMAN  
*For like strains of martial music,  
 Their mighty thoughts suggest  
 Life's endless toil and endeavor;  
 And to-night I long for rest.*

YOUNG MAN  
 True that.

YOUNG WOMAN  
 No no no. No falling asleep.  
 (re: the book)  
*Read from some humbler poet--*

Young Man takes the book from her and puts it in the back seat.

YOUNG WOMAN  
 Hey.

YOUNG MAN  
 You convince me to stay up with you  
 all night and now you're reading me  
 poetry.

No answer.

YOUNG MAN

So...

YOUNG WOMAN

So?

YOUNG MAN

So...tell me something about yourself. Anything.

YOUNG WOMAN

I'm a dancer.

YOUNG MAN

There. See? This is what we call a conversation. How long have you been dancing?

YOUNG WOMAN

22 years.

YOUNG MAN

Really? Wow.

YOUNG WOMAN

I'm on the dance company at the University.

YOUNG MAN

I've seen you perform.

YOUNG WOMAN

Have you?

YOUNG MAN

Yeah. It was like a tribute to...I can't remember. Last Spring, towards the end of the semester...Um...

YOUNG WOMAN

Martha Graham. Tribute to Martha Graham.

YOUNG MAN

That's it.

YOUNG WOMAN

So you have seen me before.

YOUNG MAN

Yeah, you were wearing these, like, big, baggy trousers with oversized buttons.

YOUNG WOMAN

And rag doll hair.

YOUNG MAN

That's right. Like a Raggedy Ann thing.

She laughs.

YOUNG MAN

Is that where you meant you've seen me around? You saw me at that show?

YOUNG WOMAN

No, no I didn't know you were there.

YOUNG MAN

Where else?

YOUNG WOMAN

I've seen you at a couple bars around town.

YOUNG MAN

Like where?

YOUNG WOMAN

Kirby's for one. Green Street, The Cabana.

YOUNG MAN

Are you stalking me?

YOUNG WOMAN

Let's call me a fan.

YOUNG MAN

(confused)

A fan?

(realizes)

Oh my God.

She laughs. He is embarrassed.

YOUNG MAN

You've seen me play?

YOUNG WOMAN

Yes.

YOUNG MAN

Oh my God.

YOUNG WOMAN

Why so shocked?

YOUNG MAN

I just never intended for anyone from school to see me perform.

YOUNG WOMAN

Why not? You're great.

YOUNG MAN

It's just a hobby.

YOUNG WOMAN

How long you been a piano player?

YOUNG MAN

12 years. How did you know where I was playing? I don't advertise or anything.

YOUNG WOMAN

Just got lucky, I guess. Went to the right place at the right time.

Short pause.

YOUNG MAN

So where are we going?

YOUNG WOMAN

I'm hungry.

YOUNG MAN

All that's open is fast food places.

YOUNG WOMAN

I'm always up for greasy buns and fries.

YOUNG MAN

Okay, but it's on you.

YOUNG WOMAN

I already bought you a tank of gas, didn't I?

YOUNG MAN  
Why don't I just find an ATM?

YOUNG WOMAN  
After the food.

He takes a corner.

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The car is parked. Young Woman sits in the passenger seat as Young Man gets in, holding a bag of food.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Young Woman eats her regular-sized burger. Young Man unwraps an extra large Carl's Jr.-looking burger.

YOUNG MAN  
Now that...

YOUNG WOMAN  
Oh my God.

YOUNG MAN  
...is what a real burger looks  
like.

YOUNG WOMAN  
How can you even fit that thing in  
your mouth?

YOUNG MAN  
(about to take a bite, but  
stops)  
You have no idea how dirty what you  
just said sounds.

She playfully hits him. He laughs.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Perv.

YOUNG MAN  
You're the one who said it.

They both eat. She notices something.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What is this?

She picks up a tiny notebook resting in the cup holder.

YOUNG MAN  
No. Don't--

She opens it and flips through.

INSERT: The notebook. Handwriting on all the pages.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Lyrics?

YOUNG MAN  
Yeah. Give it back.

He reaches. She pulls it away, playfully.

YOUNG WOMAN  
(reads)  
Through the years. Sweetly standing  
on the--

He nabs it and puts it under his seat.

YOUNG MAN  
No touchy.

They laugh. Brief pause.

YOUNG MAN  
So what is the plan?

YOUNG WOMAN  
What plan?

YOUNG MAN  
The plan to stay out all night.  
What are we gonna do? Where are we  
gonna go? How are you going to keep  
me from falling asleep?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Have you never been out at night  
before?

YOUNG MAN  
Not *all* night, no. Okay. So say we  
go to a bar, or a club. They close  
at 3, 3:30 in the morning, after  
that, we're sunk. Nothing left.

YOUNG WOMAN  
We'll figure something out.

YOUNG MAN  
You've never done this before  
either have you?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Stayed out?

YOUNG MAN  
All night?

YOUNG WOMAN  
...well...no.

YOUNG MAN  
Ah ha!

YOUNG WOMAN  
Maybe I've just never found anyone  
*dumb enough* to stay out with me.

YOUNG MAN  
Wait, was that supposed to be a jab  
at me?

YOUNG WOMAN  
I don't know.

They laugh.

YOUNG MAN  
Well, we gotta do something. We  
can't stay up on just food and  
poetry.

INSERT: The Longfellow book in the back seat.

YOUNG WOMAN  
No. But I never finished reading  
that poem to you.

YOUNG MAN  
Couldn't you just recite it?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Yes. Why? You wanna hear some?

YOUNG MAN  
Not yet.

Beat.

YOUNG WOMAN

Alright. After this, you will go get some cash, then we will head over to that place on 5th and Main where we will have a couple drinks.

YOUNG MAN

You're suggesting that I drink and drive?

YOUNG WOMAN

You have to drink a little. And then I will take you to my favorite place.

YOUNG MAN

Which is?

YOUNG WOMAN

A surprise.

YOUNG MAN

You're fond of surprises, aren't you?

YOUNG WOMAN

Very.

YOUNG MAN

No small talk, lots of surprises. Got it.

YOUNG WOMAN

All small talk, No surprises. Got it.

YOUNG MAN

Very well then. Looks like we have a plan.

YOUNG WOMAN

That we do.

They eat. Pause.

YOUNG WOMAN

So...if you don't mind me asking, what happened with your girlfriend?

YOUNG MAN

Oh...nothing really. It just wasn't really working out, you know?

YOUNG WOMAN  
...yeah.

YOUNG MAN  
Yeah.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Were you two in--?

YOUNG MAN  
(crumbling his wrappers)  
--I'm ready to go. You?

YOUNG WOMAN  
...Yeah. Yeah, let's go.

Young Man starts the car and drives off.

EXT. CAR/STREET - MOVING - NIGHT

The Car makes it's way through the streets. They are still fairly crowded. The rain has stopped.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

A BAR is on the corner. A long line of people waiting to get it stretches down the sidewalk.

The Car drives by.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Young Man parks the car on the side of the street.

YOUNG MAN  
Jesus, It's packed.

EXT. STREET - MINUTES LATER

Young Man and Young Woman make their way to the bar.

EXT. BAR - MINUTES LATER

Young Man and Young Woman stand in line.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I had no idea it'd be this crowded.

YOUNG MAN  
You wanna go somewhere else?

YOUNG WOMAN  
No, this place is great. Once we  
get in we'll be fine.

YOUNG MAN  
It's freezing.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Do you want your mommy to come give  
you some hot chocolate and warm you  
up?

YOUNG MAN  
Mommy jokes, eh? I didn't realize  
we were back in the 5th grade.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Well, you should've cuz you look  
just like you belong there.

Young Man mockingly pretends to cry. She laughs. The line  
moves forward.

INT. BAR - MINUTES LATER

Young Man and Young Woman show the bouncer their IDs and  
enter.

It is crowded. Music playing. They find they're way to a  
table.

In the back are BILLIARD TABLES.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Hey. Look.

Young Woman points to the back of the bar. There is a small  
stage for KARAOKE. Young Man looks.

YOUNG WOMAN  
How 'bout it?

YOUNG MAN  
No way.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Come on. It'll be fun.

YOUNG MAN  
Not if you clip my toes off one by one.

YOUNG WOMAN  
(smiling)  
Would you be willing to prove that?

YOUNG MAN  
Yes.

She laughs.

YOUNG WOMAN  
So, what do you want?

YOUNG MAN  
What, to drink?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Duh!

YOUNG MAN  
(taps his pockets)  
Oh shit, I forgot to get cash.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Don't worry about it. Consider yourself my bitch.

YOUNG MAN  
Very funny.

Brief pause.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What's wrong?

YOUNG MAN  
What?

YOUNG WOMAN  
You look distracted.

YOUNG MAN  
I don't know, it's just...not really my scene, you know.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Not your scene. You've played at bars before.

YOUNG MAN  
I've *played* there, yes. I go, I  
play 2 or 3 songs and I leave. I  
don't hang out.

YOUNG WOMAN  
But you do drink?

YOUNG MAN  
Occasionally, yes.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Okay then. So drink. All you have  
to do is drink and talk to me.  
(to BARTENDER)  
Hey! Can we get a beer and a...

She looks to Young Man for an order.

YOUNG MAN  
Beer.

YOUNG WOMAN  
(To Bartender)  
A beer! 2 beers!

Bartender, 30s, nods and makes their drinks.

YOUNG WOMAN  
This will lighten you up.

YOUNG MAN  
I am light.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Not right now. Look at you. You're  
all tensed up. Are you nervous?

YOUNG MAN  
What would I be nervous about?

YOUNG WOMAN  
You tell me.

YOUNG MAN  
Look, I'm here, aren't I? That's  
what you wanted.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What does that mean?

YOUNG MAN  
I'm doing what you wanted me to do.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What's wrong?

YOUNG MAN  
(firm)  
Nothing.

BARTENDER (O.S.)  
Yo!

Young Woman looks to the bar, Bartender has the 2 beers. She gets up, pays for them and brings them back. Young Man takes his.

YOUNG MAN  
I'm sorry. This whole thing with Angela is still on my mind. I'm sorry.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Is that her name? Your girlfriend?

YOUNG MAN  
Ex-girlfriend and yes.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What happened?

YOUNG MAN  
I told you that already.

YOUNG WOMAN  
No, I mean what really happened?

YOUNG MAN  
It's fine. We had a fight, but we worked it out and...it's fine. I'm fine.

Young Woman decides not to pursue this any further. She takes a drink.

YOUNG MAN  
What about you? Do you have a boyfriend?

YOUNG WOMAN  
No.

YOUNG MAN  
Did you have a boyfriend?

YOUNG WOMAN

Nope. I've never been with anyone more than 3 weeks.

YOUNG MAN

Really?

YOUNG WOMAN

I'm a slut, what can I say?

YOUNG MAN

No, you're not. Come on. Lots of people have never had long-term relationships.

YOUNG WOMAN

So what are you studying at school?

YOUNG MAN

Um, I'm a psych major.

YOUNG WOMAN

A singing, piano playing psychologist. I like that.

YOUNG MAN

Yeah.

YOUNG WOMAN

Do you like it?

YOUNG MAN

It's okay. I've thought about changing it.

YOUNG WOMAN

To what?

YOUNG MAN

I don't know yet. What about you?

YOUNG WOMAN

Ballet, of course.

YOUNG MAN

Ballet? You can actually major in Ballet?

YOUNG WOMAN

You didn't know that?

YOUNG MAN

Is it supposed to be common knowledge?

YOUNG WOMAN

Well, you said you saw the tribute thing last spring. Didn't you notice the program said it was by the Undergraduate Ballet Company?

YOUNG MAN

I thought it meant a company of undergraduates, not a company of undergraduate ballet majors. I thought it was like an extracurricular thing.

YOUNG WOMAN

Well, it's not. It's serious business.

YOUNG MAN

Okay.

YOUNG WOMAN

It is.

YOUNG MAN

No, I'm sure it is. I saw you, you were great.

YOUNG WOMAN

Thank you.

INT. BAR - LATER

Young Man and Young Woman shoot a game of pool.

YOUNG MAN

(taking a shot)

So what is this "favorite place" we're going to after this?

YOUNG WOMAN

Do you want me to tell you and ruin the surprise?

YOUNG MAN

I'm driving there, I should know where we're going.

YOUNG WOMAN  
You're not driving there.

YOUNG MAN  
You're not driving my car.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I have to drive there. You drive  
like a sissy.

YOUNG MAN  
Oh. Oh, you did not just say that  
to me.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Haven't you ever noticed you drive  
*under* the speed limit half the  
time?

YOUNG MAN  
2/3 of every car crash is caused by  
speeding.

YOUNG WOMAN  
You made that up.

YOUNG MAN  
...Yes I did. But it sounds like a  
logical statistic.

They laugh.

YOUNG MAN  
Fine. I promise to drive fast, but  
I'm driving there.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Corner pocket.

She shoots the 8 ball into the corner pocket to win the game.

YOUNG MAN  
After a re-match.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Deal.

INT. BAR - WIDE SHOT - MOS. - CONTINUOUS

The two of them play another game, continuing to talk.

YOUNG WOMAN (V.O.)  
*Read from some humbler poet  
 Whose songs gushed from his  
 heart,*

INT./EXT. - CAR/GAS STATION - MOS. - NIGHT

Young Man hurries back into the car from an ATM outside the closed gas station. He gets in, gives Young Woman some cash, and drives away.

EXT. INTERSTATE - MOS. - NIGHT

The car speeds down the Interstate. Young Man and Young Woman are inside the car SINGING to the stereo. Both really into it.

YOUNG WOMAN (V.O.)  
*As showers from the clouds of  
 summer,  
 Or tears from the eyelids start;*

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)  
*Who, through long days of labor,  
 And nights devoid of ease,*

EXT. THANKSGIVING POINT - MOS. - NIGHT

The car pulls into the parking lot of Thanksgiving Point. They get out and Young Woman, Longfellow book in hand, leads Young Man to the GARDEN.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)  
*Still heard in his soul, the music  
 Of wonderful melodies.*

EXT. THANKSGIVING POINT - GARDEN - NIGHT

Young Man and Young Woman sit on a patch of grass overlooking a beautiful valley. Young Man has the Longfellow book open in hand. He closes it.

YOUNG WOMAN  
 Aren't you gonna finish it?

YOUNG MAN  
 It's making me tired. No falling  
 asleep, right?

Beat.

YOUNG MAN

So this is it.

YOUNG WOMAN

Yep. This is my favorite place.  
What do you think?

YOUNG MAN

Looks good to me.

YOUNG WOMAN

I got my first kiss in these  
gardens.

YOUNG MAN

That's why this is your favorite  
place.

YOUNG WOMAN

Correctomundo. It was right over  
there.

YOUNG MAN

How old?

YOUNG WOMAN

9. It was on a field trip. How old  
were you?

YOUNG MAN

When you got your first kiss?

YOUNG WOMAN

*Yours*, Mr. Bad Joke.

YOUNG MAN

Ouch. I was 16.

YOUNG WOMAN

Really? That late?

YOUNG MAN

Homecoming Dance sophomore year.  
Stephanie Rabin.

YOUNG WOMAN

Stephanie? Really?

YOUNG MAN

Yeah, why?

YOUNG WOMAN  
My first kiss's name was Stephen.

YOUNG MAN  
Weird.  
(beat)  
Where're you from, anyway? I never  
asked you.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I was born in San Diego. Family  
moved here when I was 4. Where are  
you from?

YOUNG MAN  
From here. North of the city.

YOUNG WOMAN  
So do you have an apartment in the  
city?

YOUNG MAN  
No. I just live at my dad's place.  
I'll move out eventually, I'm sure.  
Do you have an apartment?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Yeah, with 3 roommates. Ugh.

YOUNG MAN  
That bad?

YOUNG WOMAN  
They're nice and everything,  
but...not like me.

YOUNG MAN  
What does that mean?

YOUNG WOMAN  
It means they're always talking  
about who's hair was this way, and  
what boy looked at 'em that way,  
and it's not my...scene.

She smiles.

YOUNG MAN  
Well, living with my dad isn't  
always a treat either.

YOUNG WOMAN  
How so?

YOUNG MAN

Because...I pay him rent so I'm not mooching or anything, but then again, it feels like I'm paying to live at home and I'd rather have a place to myself.

YOUNG WOMAN

Is he gonna be worried about you? Being out all night and all.

YOUNG MAN

Oh, no. He's not here this weekend. He's in Chicago on a business trip.

YOUNG WOMAN

Planning a big party then, are ya?

YOUNG MAN

Yeah right. What time is it?

YOUNG WOMAN

Bored already?

YOUNG MAN

No, just curious.

She looks at her watch.

YOUNG WOMAN

1:47.

YOUNG MAN

That was a long drive here. It was like half an hour.

YOUNG WOMAN

But worth it. It's nice to get out of the city.

YOUNG MAN

It is pretty out here. Are you tired?

YOUNG WOMAN

A little. You?

YOUNG MAN

Nope. Not one...  
(he yawns)  
...bit.

YOUNG WOMAN

Liar.

Young Man holds his finger to stick out from his nose like Pinocchio. Young Woman laughs.

YOUNG WOMAN

We need to wake you up.

YOUNG MAN

I don't know.

She stands.

YOUNG WOMAN

Dance with me.

YOUNG MAN

With no music?

YOUNG WOMAN

That's what makes it romantic.

YOUNG MAN

I didn't realize this was a date.

YOUNG WOMAN

It's not. You don't even know my name.

YOUNG MAN

No, I don't.

YOUNG WOMAN

So, then, we can't be on a date.

Young Man is confused.

YOUNG WOMAN

It doesn't have to be a date to be romantic.

Pause. Young Man stands up. She takes his hand and they assume a waltz position. He doesn't move.

YOUNG WOMAN

You're leading.

YOUNG MAN

It's weird without music.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Don't worry about it. Just close  
your eyes and start moving.

YOUNG MAN  
Whatever you say.

He closes his eyes. They begin to dance in silence. He opens  
his eyes and looks at her.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Now this isn't so weird, is it?

They continue dancing. He dips her, she laughs.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Smooth.

YOUNG MAN  
Thank you.

They conclude the dance. She curtsies, he bows.

YOUNG WOMAN  
(fake British accent)  
That was delightful, sir.

YOUNG MAN  
(fake British accent)  
The pleasure is all mine, madame.

He kisses her hand chivalrously.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What a gentlemen.

YOUNG MAN  
Always.

They laugh, then their eyes meet, affectionately. After a  
pause, Young Man breaks away and picks up the Longfellow  
book.

YOUNG MAN  
Now, where were we?

He flips through the pages and stops on the poem.

YOUNG MAN  
(reads)  
*Such songs have power to quiet  
The restless pulse of care,  
And come like the benediction*  
(MORE)

YOUNG MAN(cont'd)  
*That follows after prayer.  
Then read from the treasured volume  
The poem of thy choice--*

YOUNG WOMAN  
*--And lend to the rhyme of the poet  
The beauty of thy voice.*

YOUNG MAN  
(reads)  
*And the night shall be filled with  
music  
And the cares, that infest the  
day,  
Shall fold their tents, like the  
Arabs,  
And as silently steal away.*

He closes the book.

YOUNG MAN  
There. Finished it.

INT. CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Young Man behind the wheel. Young Woman looks out the window.

EXT. INTERSTATE - CONTINUOUS

The Car heads up the Interstate.

INT. CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Young Man drives. It is silent.

YOUNG WOMAN  
How long were you together?

YOUNG MAN  
With Angela?

She nods.

YOUNG MAN  
3 and a half years.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Wow.

YOUNG MAN

3 years, 4 months and 16 days to be exact.

YOUNG WOMAN

You kept a tally, or something?

YOUNG MAN

Well, that's the kind of thing you think about after a long-term relationship.

YOUNG WOMAN

How did you meet her?

YOUNG MAN

I, um, was at a sandwich shop. It was the summer between freshman and sophomore year. She was in line in front of me and, while she was paying, they were handing me my sandwich, but she thought it was hers so she reached out and touched it, so they had to take it back and remake it. Food regulations, or something. And, um, and she was really embarrassed and kept apologizing again and again, but, uh, ... so they remade my sandwich and I ate it with her.

YOUNG WOMAN

Must have been a good sandwich.

YOUNG MAN

Actually, it wasn't. The lunch was nice, but they should've let me keep the original sandwich.

They laugh.

YOUNG MAN

So where to now? We didn't plan this far.

YOUNG WOMAN

It's up to you. I picked the last place.

YOUNG MAN

Not fair. The whole city shuts down at midnight.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Doesn't have to be in the city.

YOUNG MAN  
How about we go to the cemetery?

He moans like a ghost.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Gross.

YOUNG MAN  
Well, we can't just drive around  
for 6 hours.

YOUNG WOMAN  
(joking)  
Let's go to Vegas.

YOUNG MAN  
Okay.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Seriously?

Beat. He laughs.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Not funny. I really wanted to go.

YOUNG MAN  
I didn't say we can't.

She looks at him.

YOUNG MAN  
But *now* I'm saying we can't.

YOUNG WOMAN  
You're a bad person.

YOUNG MAN  
Sue me.  
(beat)  
So I gotta ask you something. Why  
did you ask me to do this? Really.

YOUNG WOMAN  
...I don't know.

YOUNG MAN

I mean, I have never done anything like this in my life. I can't even ask a girl out on a date unless I've known her for 2 months. But, you...I don't know why...but, you asked me to do this and something inside me said to just go.

YOUNG WOMAN

Maybe that's why I did. I saw you there, in the bookstore, you were reading my favorite poet, and something told me to just go.

YOUNG MAN

But what does it mean?

YOUNG WOMAN

I don't know. I guess we both needed a little bit of adventure.

YOUNG MAN

Maybe. But you strike me as being an adventurous type of girl already.

YOUNG WOMAN

In some ways.

YOUNG MAN

This is crazy.

YOUNG WOMAN

Oh, is it?

YOUNG MAN

But fun. That's what I meant. Crazy, but fun. I'm having a good time.

YOUNG WOMAN

Me too.

YOUNG MAN

So where should we go?

EXT. INTERSTATE - NIGHT

The Car drives back into the City.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

The Car drives through the nearly empty streets.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The Car is parked. The ground level is higher here.

Young Man and Young Woman stand outside the Car watching the stars.

YOUNG WOMAN

...with Jason Robards who was in  
Magnolia with Tom Cruise who was in  
A Few Good Men with Kevin Bacon.

YOUNG MAN

Very good. My turn.

YOUNG WOMAN

Okay. This is a tough one.

YOUNG MAN

Hit me.

YOUNG WOMAN

Gregory Peck.

YOUNG MAN

Gregory Peck...Gregory Peck was in  
To Kill A Mockingbird with Robert  
Duvall who was in The Godfather  
Part 2 with Robert De Niro who was  
Sleepers with Kevin Bacon.

She laughs.

YOUNG WOMAN

Robert Duvall was in To Kill A  
Mockingbird?

YOUNG MAN

Yeah. He was Boo Radley.

YOUNG WOMAN

Really?

YOUNG MAN

Yeah. It was his first movie.

YOUNG WOMAN

Wow.

Beat.

YOUNG MAN

At least it stopped raining.

YOUNG WOMAN

Yeah. Now it'll start snowing soon.

YOUNG MAN

I like the snow.

YOUNG WOMAN

Not me.

YOUNG MAN

It's pretty.

YOUNG WOMAN

Yeah, when it's in a big field or on the mountains, but in the city, ugh. It's just muddy water everywhere.

Pause.

YOUNG MAN

This whole thing would be a lot easier in a different city.

YOUNG WOMAN

There's probably still some dance clubs open.

YOUNG MAN

No thanks. You're the dancer.

YOUNG WOMAN

Oh, I bet you can bust a move with the best of 'em.

He laughs.

YOUNG MAN

Bust a move? I didn't realize we were back in 1995.

YOUNG WOMAN

Even so, I bet you could.

YOUNG MAN  
I do know how to moon walk.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Are you kidding?

YOUNG MAN  
No. I can.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Prove it.

YOUNG MAN  
I can't right here. It's pavement,  
it's not slick enough.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Then let's go to a club and you can  
prove it there.

YOUNG MAN  
Nope.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Then I can't believe you.

YOUNG MAN  
Suit yourself.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Then what are we gonna do?

YOUNG MAN  
I don't know.

YOUNG WOMAN  
...I'd invite you back to my place,  
but my roommates...

YOUNG MAN  
You wanna go to my place?

Brief pause.

YOUNG WOMAN  
...It is getting cold.

YOUNG MAN  
Yeah.

They get in the car.

EXT. INTERSTATE - NIGHT

The Car heads north of the city.

EXT. HILLSIDE/ROAD - LATER

The Car drives up a road curving up a hillside into a neighborhood of UPPER CLASS HOUSES.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

The Car drives through, turns and stops in front of a 2-story house.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Young Man stops and parks the Car on the street. Young Woman looks out her window to the view of the valley down below.

YOUNG MAN

This is it.

YOUNG WOMAN

Look at this view.

YOUNG MAN

Yeah.

YOUNG WOMAN

You grew up here?

YOUNG MAN

No, actually. I grew up a little further north. My dad bought this place about a year ago.

YOUNG WOMAN

What does he do?

YOUNG MAN

He owns a furniture business.

Silence.

YOUNG WOMAN

So...are we gonna go inside?

YOUNG MAN

Yeah.

He gets out quickly. She hesitates, then follows.

EXT. CAR/STREET - CONTINUOUS

The two of them head to the front door of the house. Young Man pulls out his keys.

INT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

The sound of keys opening the lock.

YOUNG MAN (O.S.)  
This place is kind of upside down.  
The main floor is upstairs and the  
basement is the ground floor.  
You'll see.

The door opens, Young Man and Young Woman step into a foyer.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Big place. Where do you live?

YOUNG MAN  
(pointing down a hallway)  
Right down there.

He locks the door behind him and turns on the light. There is a staircase leading upstairs, a hallway leading to a bedroom, and a small sitting area.

YOUNG MAN  
Just a second.

Young Man walks down the hall.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Young Man enters his bedroom, takes off his jacket and tosses it on the bed.

He takes a moment to sort his thoughts, and heads back out.

INT. FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Young Woman is pacing and looking at the house. Young Man re-enters.

YOUNG MAN

Alright. There's nothing much down here. I'll show you the upstairs.

He heads upstairs.

INT. HOUSE - MAIN FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

The main floor consists of a dining room, kitchen, and living room. No walls between them, hardwood floors, almost like a loft apartment. In the back is the master bedroom and a bathroom.

In the living room is a large bay window with a magnificent view of the valley.

Young Man and Young Woman emerge up the stairs. He turns on the light.

YOUNG WOMAN

Wow. Wow.

YOUNG MAN

Yep.

YOUNG WOMAN

Hey.

She taps the hardwood floor with her foot.

YOUNG WOMAN

This feels slick enough.

YOUNG MAN

Fine.

YOUNG WOMAN

Yay.

Young Man kicks off his shoes and is now in socks. He steps out onto the floor, takes position, and MOON WALKS doing his best Michael Jackson impression.

Young Woman laughs. He finishes and bows, she applauds.

YOUNG WOMAN

Brilliant.

As Young Man puts his shoes back on, Young Woman looks around and finds a black, BABY GRAND PIANO in the corner.

YOUNG WOMAN

Uh oh.

YOUNG MAN

What?

Young Woman walks over to the piano, tosses him a look.

YOUNG MAN

Uh oh.

YOUNG WOMAN

You gonna play something for me?

YOUNG MAN

No.

YOUNG WOMAN

You tease.

YOUNG MAN

I gave you the moon walk.

YOUNG WOMAN

You invite me back here. You have a piano in your house and you're not gonna play for me.

YOUNG MAN

It's 3:30 in the morning. We're gonna wake someone.

YOUNG WOMAN

Thought you said there was no one here.

YOUNG MAN

There's not, but the neighbor's house is right behind that wall.

YOUNG WOMAN

So play a quiet one.

They look at each other. She eggs him on with a look. He gives up.

YOUNG MAN

Alright.

He sits on the piano bench.

YOUNG MAN

What'll it be? Mozart? Tchaikovsky?  
Chopin?

YOUNG WOMAN

Any one is fine with me.

YOUNG MAN

Well that's too bad, because I  
don't know any of them.

YOUNG WOMAN

(smiles)  
Play one of yours.

Pause.

YOUNG MAN

...alright.

He grabs his backpack on the floor and takes out his notebook, turns to a page and sets it on the piano. He clears his throat and puts his hands on the keys. He plays the introduction of a ballad.

YOUNG MAN

(sings)  
Sweetly standing on the curb  
You wait for me to pick you up.  
With your tangerine eyes and dress  
of black,  
I pull up in my new Cadillac.  
I look at you, you look at me  
And it's clear to see

We will live through the years  
Through the tears and deep, dark  
fears.  
We will make it through the years.

Young Woman sits next to him on the bench.

YOUNG MAN

Things are changing, moving fast,  
But time has already passed.  
Everything's gonna be alright,  
'Cept you don't say a word  
'bout crying hard at night.  
I am blind, dumb, deaf and dense.  
I don't sense you've been deceived  
And I continue to believe

We will live through the years  
(MORE)

YOUNG MAN(cont'd)

Through the tears and deep, dark  
fears  
We will make it through the years.

INT. AN APARTMENT - MOS - FLASH

Young Man and ANGELA, early 20s, fight. It is a heated argument. Young Man is fierce.

YOUNG MAN (OVER)

We will live through the years.  
It won't be just smoke and mirrors.  
We will make it through the years.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Young Man continues the song.

YOUNG MAN

It's time now for truth to rise.  
Morning takes the night.  
I can't turn from your Tangerine  
eyes,  
But dark lies must ascend to light.  
You say your goodbyes and go astray  
Now I know I will never hear you  
say

We will live through the years  
Through the tears and deep, dark  
fears.  
We will make it through the years.

We could have made it through the  
years.  
Looks like it was just smoke and  
mirrors.  
We could have made it through the  
years.

He hits the last chord.

INT. AN APARTMENT - MOS - FLASH

Young Man and Angela stare harshly at each other for a beat before Young Man storms out and slams the door.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Young Man and Young Woman sit on the bench as the last chord dies out.

YOUNG MAN  
It's a work in progress.

Young Woman keeps her eyes pinned on him. A long, dead-silent pause.

Young Man gets up and walks to the kitchen area.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Maybe this wasn't such a good idea,  
coming back here.

YOUNG MAN  
No, it's not that. It's not you.

YOUNG WOMAN  
When I was in 9th grade, I had my  
first boyfriend. He was 2 years  
older than me, a junior. We were  
together for 2 weeks before I found  
out he was only hanging around with  
me to prove to his buddies that he  
could get a girl from every grade  
in high school to sleep with him. I  
haven't trusted many guys since  
then. I thought they were all like  
that. That they all just wanted to  
get laid. But you're not like that.

She approaches him. Pause. She takes his head in her hands and KISSES HIM. He kisses her back, then breaks it.

YOUNG MAN  
Don't do this. Please.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Don't do what?

YOUNG MAN  
Don't...make me...

YOUNG WOMAN  
What?

YOUNG MAN  
I see her. I don't see you right  
now, I see her.

No answer. She walks back to the piano bench and sits down.

YOUNG MAN  
I'm sorry.

YOUNG WOMAN  
No. No, there's nothing to be sorry  
about.

YOUNG MAN  
I can't get involved with you.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I know.

She fights tears.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I feel so stupid.

YOUNG MAN  
(approaching her)  
No. Don't feel like that. Please.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I don't know what I'm doing.

YOUNG MAN  
I don't know what I'm doing either.

Their eyes meet.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

Young Man sleeps on the couch. He wakes suddenly and looks  
around.

YOUNG MAN  
Shit.

He rises and looks for Young Woman.

YOUNG MAN  
Hello?

No answer.

YOUNG MAN  
Hello?

Silence. He sighs and sits at the piano. Beat. He plays an upbeat jazz tune. As he does, Young Woman enters, unseen. Her hair is damp and a towel hangs around her neck.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Do I get an encore?

Young Man stops playing.

YOUNG MAN  
I thought you left.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I wouldn't leave without saying  
goodbye.

YOUNG MAN  
What time is it?

YOUNG WOMAN  
10:30.

YOUNG MAN  
I failed.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Yes you did.

YOUNG MAN  
I'm sorry.

She smiles.

YOUNG WOMAN  
It's okay. I took advantage of the  
shower downstairs. Hope you don't  
mind.

YOUNG MAN  
No, no, not at all.  
(beat)  
What happened last night?

YOUNG WOMAN  
You fell asleep on the couch.

YOUNG MAN  
Well, I can see that. I mean what  
happened after we...we, uh...

YOUNG WOMAN  
Nothing. Nothing. I got up to use  
the bathroom and when I came out  
you were asleep on the couch.

YOUNG MAN  
You could've woken me up.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Nah. I was tired too.

YOUNG MAN  
I guess I'm just getting old.

They smile.

YOUNG MAN  
Where did you sleep?

YOUNG WOMAN  
The bedroom downstairs. I'm  
assuming it's yours.

YOUNG MAN  
Yep.

YOUNG WOMAN  
A remarkably clean room for someone  
your age.

YOUNG MAN  
I try.  
(beat)  
So what do we do now?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Hmm...I have to be at work in a few  
hours so that gives us just enough  
time to break into the zoo and free  
all the animals, egg a few random  
houses, and enjoy a nice cup of  
tea.

YOUNG MAN  
Sounds delightful. Let's do it.  
(smiles. Pause)  
I guess I'll just drive you home.

YOUNG WOMAN  
You can't do that.

YOUNG MAN  
Why not?

YOUNG WOMAN  
My car is still parked at the  
bookstore.

YOUNG MAN  
Oh, shit. You're not gonna get a  
ticket, are you?

YOUNG WOMAN  
No. It's Sunday.

YOUNG MAN  
Okay. Well, I'll take you back to  
work then?

YOUNG WOMAN  
No.

YOUNG MAN  
No?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Breakfast.

YOUNG MAN  
(chuckles)  
Sounds good to me. Let's go.

Young Man puts on his jacket and begins to head out. Young  
Woman grabs the Longfellow book out of his bag.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Can't forget our friend Henry.

YOUNG MAN  
What do we need that for?

YOUNG WOMAN  
There are other poems in here.  
(she opens the book)  
*Out of the bosom of the Air,  
Out of the cloud-folds of her  
garments shaken,  
Over the woodlands brown and bare,  
Over the harvest fields  
forsaken...*

She continues to read as they exit frame.

YOUNG WOMAN (O.S.)  
*Silent, and soft, and slow  
Descends the snow...*

EXT. ROAD - MINUTES LATER

The Car drives.

YOUNG WOMAN (V.O.)  
*Even as out cloudy fancies take  
 Suddenly shape in some divine  
 expression,  
 Even as the troubled heart doth  
 make  
 In the white countenance  
 confession...*

EXT. OUTDOOR CAFE - MORNING

A WAITER shows Young Man and Young Woman to a table. They sit. The waiter sets down two menus and exits.

YOUNG WOMAN (V.O.)  
*The troubled sky reveals  
 The grief it feels.*

Young Man looks at the menu.

YOUNG MAN  
 I've never been to this place.

YOUNG WOMAN  
 Are you serious? Everybody comes here.

YOUNG MAN  
 What are you getting?

YOUNG WOMAN  
 Banana pancakes with a side of fruit.

YOUNG MAN  
 That's what I was thinking too.  
 Except a side of bacon instead of fruit.

Pause.

YOUNG WOMAN  
 So...did it work?

YOUNG MAN  
 Did what work?

YOUNG WOMAN

Our plan.

YOUNG MAN

...well, no. I fell asleep. We didn't stay up all night.

YOUNG WOMAN

That wasn't the plan. The plan was to make you feel better. Do you feel better?

YOUNG MAN

Oh. Um...  
(beat)  
Yeah. Yeah, I do.

YOUNG WOMAN

Good.

The Waiter approaches.

WAITER

Are you ready?

YOUNG MAN

Yeah.  
(to Young Woman)  
Go ahead.

YOUNG WOMAN

Banana pancakes with a side of fruit.

WAITER

To drink?

YOUNG WOMAN

Orange juice, please.

WAITER

And you, sir?

YOUNG MAN

The same, except a side of bacon instead of fruit. And coffee, please. Black.

The Waiter writes down their orders, takes their menus.

WAITER

They'll be right out.

BOTH

Thank you.

Waiter exits.

YOUNG MAN

All right. Seeing as how it is morning, and our plan is at an end, are you going to tell me your name?

YOUNG WOMAN

Good question. Now, my advantage is that I already know your name.

YOUNG MAN

Yes.

YOUNG WOMAN

And I could torture you by leaving right now, never seeing you again, and having the place in your memory of being that mystery girl you had a once-in-a-lifetime night with, but never saw again.

YOUNG MAN

That won't happen. I know where you work.

YOUNG WOMAN

Today's my last day.

YOUNG MAN

Seriously?

YOUNG WOMAN

Yes.

YOUNG MAN

Well, then, I'll go to all the Undergraduate Ballet Company performances and wait by the cast entrance before the show.

He smiles.

YOUNG WOMAN

You can't do that either.

YOUNG MAN

Why is that?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Because I'm moving away tomorrow.

Young Man's smile disappears. He is concerned.

YOUNG MAN  
What?

YOUNG WOMAN  
I'm moving back to San Diego  
tomorrow.

YOUNG MAN  
You're kidding.

YOUNG WOMAN  
No, I'm not. My apartment is  
filled, top to bottom, with  
cardboard boxes. Tomorrow morning.

YOUNG MAN  
Why?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Lots of reasons. School, money...  
other stuff.

YOUNG MAN  
What kind of stuff?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Just stuff.

Pause.

YOUNG MAN  
I'm sorry.

YOUNG WOMAN  
About what?

YOUNG MAN  
I mean, I just... I would've liked  
to see you again.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Same here.

YOUNG MAN  
Is that why you asked me out last  
night?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Because I was leaving? No.

YOUNG MAN  
Then why?

YOUNG WOMAN  
I told you already. Something told  
me to just go.

YOUNG MAN  
I don't believe this. Are you  
coming back?

YOUNG WOMAN  
I don't think so. It's kind of  
permanent.  
(beat)  
I'm sorry.

YOUNG MAN  
No, it's okay. It's just...I would  
like to know your name.

Pause.

YOUNG WOMAN  
...Sara.

YOUNG MAN  
Sara. Hello, Sara.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Hello, Peter.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Young Man and Young Woman take a walk.

YOUNG MAN  
Janet Leigh was in Streetcar Named  
Desire with Marlon Brando who was  
in Don Juan DeMarco with Johnny  
Depp who was in Edward Scissorhands  
with Dianne Wiest who was in  
Footloose with Kevin Bacon.

YOUNG WOMAN  
You're very good at this game.

YOUNG MAN

The master.

(beat)

So what are you gonna do about school? Are you gonna go back in San Diego?

YOUNG WOMAN

Probably. Eventually. I'm gonna take a little break first. A semester or two.

YOUNG MAN

Moving back in with your parents, or...?

YOUNG WOMAN

No. A couple girlfriends and I are moving in together.

YOUNG MAN

Fun. I'm ready to be done too. I wish I could move out.

YOUNG WOMAN

Where would you go?

YOUNG MAN

I don't know. Boston, New York...

YOUNG WOMAN

You could get discovered out there.

YOUNG MAN

What do you mean?

YOUNG WOMAN

Your music. You go play in piano bars every night, write your own songs, eventually, some producer will say "Hey, kid, you wanna record a CD?"

YOUNG MAN

(laughs)

That'll be the day.

YOUNG WOMAN

You should. Stop trying to convince yourself you're not good.

YOUNG MAN

It's not that. I just don't want to do it for a living, that's all. It's just a hobby.

YOUNG WOMAN

Then, what would you do if you went out there?

YOUNG MAN

I am studying psychology. Maybe I could be a shrink.

Young Woman makes a gagging gesture.

YOUNG MAN

What?

YOUNG WOMAN

A shrink? Come on, you don't wanna do that.

YOUNG MAN

Yes, I do.

YOUNG WOMAN

All right. You can navigate crazy people's minds during the day and play music at night until you get a record deal. I hate to see someone squander their talent.

YOUNG MAN

Who's squandering?

YOUNG WOMAN

Both of us, it seems, at the moment.

YOUNG MAN

I'm not squandering anything.

YOUNG WOMAN

If you say so. I'm going to New York someday, you know.

YOUNG MAN

Are you now?

YOUNG WOMAN

Yep. The day will come when those marquee lights on Broadway have my name plastered all over them.

YOUNG MAN  
I'm sure they will.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Don't mock me.

YOUNG MAN  
I'm not. I was being sincere. I  
hope they do.

YOUNG WOMAN  
So why don't you do it?

YOUNG MAN  
Do what? Move to New York? I'm not  
ready yet.

YOUNG WOMAN  
When will you be ready?

YOUNG MAN  
I have to graduate first.

YOUNG WOMAN  
And after that?

YOUNG MAN  
Maybe.

YOUNG WOMAN  
It's getting cloudy. Probably gonna  
rain again.

YOUNG MAN  
Yeah, it looks like it.

YOUNG WOMAN  
That's the real reason I'm moving  
back. It doesn't rain in San Diego.

YOUNG MAN  
Oh, that's why. Okay.

Pause.

YOUNG MAN  
I've had a good time with you.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Hey, don't get all sappy on me now.  
We still got a couple hours.

YOUNG MAN

No, really. I have. I mean, after what happened with Angela, and everything else, I really thought this weekend was going to be absolutely miserable, but... it's not. Thanks.

YOUNG WOMAN

You're welcome.

(looks up at the sky)

We should get back indoors somewhere.

YOUNG MAN

I guess you're right.

They turn around.

YOUNG WOMAN

Nicholas Cage.

YOUNG MAN

Nicholas Cage was in Leaving Las Vegas with Elizabeth Shue who was in The Saint with Val Kilmer who was in Top Gun with Tom Cruise who was in A Few Good Men with Kevin Bacon...

EXT. SKY - DAY

Clouds cover the sky. Thunder booms. It begins to rain.

INT. YOUNG WOMAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Boxes are strewn about the room. Young Woman enters the front door followed by Young Man, both wet from the rain.

YOUNG WOMAN

You sure you don't mind giving me a ride to work?

YOUNG MAN

No, not at all.

(looks around)

Boy, you weren't kidding.

YOUNG WOMAN

Nope. I'll be right back. I'm just gonna change.

She exits.

YOUNG WOMAN (O.S.)  
Feel free to sit down, or get a  
drink, or something.

YOUNG MAN  
Thanks.

Young Man walks through the room, looking at the boxes.

YOUNG MAN  
Are your roommates here?

YOUNG WOMAN (O.S.)  
No, they both work today too. Why,  
you looking to get set-up?

YOUNG MAN  
Anything's possible.

She chuckles. Young Man glances into an open box and pulls out a pink, stuffed PIG, just as Young Woman comes in wearing a different outfit. She stops.

YOUNG WOMAN  
What are you doing?

He turns to see her, holds up the stuffed pig.

YOUNG MAN  
I just saw your little friend here  
and thought I'd say hello.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Put it back please.

YOUNG MAN  
Where'd you get this? One of those  
crane machines? Or ring toss at the  
county fair?

He smiles.

YOUNG WOMAN  
(firm)  
Put it back.

He puts it back in the box.

YOUNG MAN  
I'm sorry. I was just looking  
around.

She turns away. Pause.

YOUNG MAN  
Are you alright? I'm sorry, I was  
just looking around. I was just  
curious. What's wrong? Sara?

YOUNG WOMAN  
I didn't want to tell you my name.

YOUNG MAN  
What's going on?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Let's just go.

YOUNG MAN  
What's wrong?

YOUNG WOMAN  
I'm ready to go. Let's go.

YOUNG MAN  
Tell me what's going on.

She turns away from him again.

YOUNG WOMAN  
This whole thing was so stupid. I  
shouldn't have even talked to you  
in the first place. It was stupid.

YOUNG MAN  
Sara...

YOUNG WOMAN  
Please. Don't say my name. I don't  
want you call me by my name.

YOUNG MAN  
Tell me what is going on.

YOUNG WOMAN  
You wouldn't understand.

YOUNG MAN  
Try me.

Beat.

YOUNG WOMAN  
...I can't remember the last time I  
talked about this...

YOUNG MAN

It's okay.

YOUNG WOMAN

This is really embarrassing.

YOUNG MAN

It's okay.

YOUNG WOMAN

It's...it's been 2 years and I still...I was engaged 2 years ago.

YOUNG MAN

I thought you said you've never had a serious relationship.

YOUNG WOMAN

I've tried to make myself forget it, but...I kissed you. I shouldn't have kissed you.

YOUNG MAN

Hey, it's alright. It's alright. Just take it from the beginning.

YOUNG WOMAN

Okay...2 years ago. I was engaged to this guy, Anthony. We were young and I was way too anxious, but...things were fine, we were making plans for the wedding and we were spending a lot of, a lot of time together. We were supposed to get married at the end of summer because summer is my favorite season and fall was his favorite season so we wanted to get married when the two seasons met. One night, he got a call from his mom saying that his father was sick, that he went to the hospital for the weekend because he was coughing up blood, his lungs were bleeding. They had sent him home, but he was still pretty weak. Anthony told me he was gonna go back home for a little while to stay with his parents. But I told him he couldn't go, I needed him to help plan the wedding. I said he had to stay there with me.

(MORE)

YOUNG WOMAN(cont'd)

So he stayed and his dad kept going in and out of the hospital. The wedding was getting close, about a month, and we got a call at 4 o'clock in the morning from Anthony's mom. His father had died in the middle of the night.

(beat)

It was my fault. It was my fault that he didn't get to be there with his dad before he died. I was so selfish. All I could think about was my fucking wedding. So he left, called the whole thing off.

She pulls the stuffed pig out of the box.

YOUNG WOMAN

This was from our first date. He won it at the state fair in one of those water gun games where you blow up the balloon and why I still have it, I don't know. Just depresses me. I tried to talk to him after it all happened, but he wouldn't even acknowledge I was there. Do you have any idea what that feels like? To hurt someone you love more than anything?

Young Man looks at her, doesn't answer. Pause.

YOUNG WOMAN

I still think about him. Everyday. I shouldn't be thinking about him. Shouldn't I have put all this behind me by now?

YOUNG MAN

It's not that simple.

YOUNG WOMAN

No, it's not.

YOUNG MAN

I'm glad you told me.

YOUNG WOMAN

Glad?

YOUNG MAN

Yeah.

He wipes her tears with his fingers.

YOUNG WOMAN  
It's my turn.

He doesn't know what she means.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Give me an actor's name.

YOUNG MAN  
Okay...Ernest Borgnine.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Ernest Borgnine was in The Poseidon  
Adventure with Gene Hackman who was  
in Hoosiers with Dennis Hopper who  
was in Easy Rider with Jack  
Nicholson who was in A Few Good Men  
with Kevin Bacon.

YOUNG MAN  
Very good. You're getting better.

EXT. CITY - DAY

A misty rain pours down on the city.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)  
*A feeling of sadness and longing  
That is not akin to pain,  
And resembles sorrow only  
As the mist resembles the  
rain.*

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The same street we opened on. The Car drives through.

YOUNG WOMAN (V.O.)  
*Come, read to me some poem,  
Some simple and heartfelt  
lay...*

EXT. OUTDOOR MALL - DAY

The Car drives through the complex.

YOUNG WOMAN (V.O.)  
*That shall soothe this restless  
feeling  
And banish the thoughts of day.*

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Young Man parks the car. Young Woman closes the Longfellow book.

YOUNG WOMAN  
It's a good poem.

YOUNG MAN  
Yes, it is.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Thanks again for the ride.

YOUNG MAN  
Not a problem.

Brief pause.

YOUNG MAN  
Well...is this it? We're at the end  
our road?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Looks like it.

YOUNG MAN  
I guess I'm never gonna see you  
again, am I?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Hmm...that depends.

YOUNG MAN  
On what?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Maybe I'll see you in New York City  
someday.

He chuckles.

YOUNG MAN  
Hopefully.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Just for the record, I've never  
done anything remotely close to the  
vicinity of something like this  
ever.

YOUNG MAN  
I didn't think you did. But you  
were pretty hard to resist.

YOUNG WOMAN  
(laughs)  
I don't believe you.

YOUNG MAN  
Believe what you want, but Henry  
thought so as well.

YOUNG WOMAN  
He was the one I really wanted to  
spend all night with.

YOUNG MAN  
Choosing a book over a man. Typical  
woman.

She smiles.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I should go. My last day, I should  
at least be on time.

YOUNG MAN  
Yeah.

Beat.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Goodbye, Peter.

YOUNG MAN  
Goodbye, Sara.

They finally hug. Young Woman steps out of the car and walks  
to the bookstore.

After a beat, Young Man drives away.

INT. HOUSE - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

Young Man enters his house. He sets the Longfellow book on  
the piano and sits on the bench.

He thinks to himself. Long Pause. He starts playing a song on  
the piano.

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Young Woman rings up a CUSTOMER.

                          YOUNG WOMAN  
                  Have a nice day.

Customer exits.

Off-screen, a BELL rings, another customer has entered the store. Young Woman looks up and sees...

Young Man has entered the store. They look at each other.

  BLACK.