

YOUNG WOMAN. I just can't now.

YOUNG MAN. We will be different than the rest. We will try harder. We will always be kind.

YOUNG WOMAN. There is nothing you can say.

(YOUNG WOMAN gives him the engagement ring back. YOUNG MAN accepts it.)

YOUNG MAN. I'm going to read the books anyway. So when it comes, I'll be ready. I'll wait for you.

YOUNG WOMAN. I don't know if it's fair to you. But then again, I could let you get away and always regret it.

YOUNG MAN. Oh.

YOUNG WOMAN. Are you hungry? Let's have a meal and see where it goes.

YOUNG MAN. I think I need to be alone. Right now. Call me tomorrow.

YOUNG WOMAN. Okay.

YOUNG MAN. Or the day after. Or the day after that. I have a lot of reading to do. I might need different books.

YOUNG WOMAN. Will you answer the phone when I call?

YOUNG MAN. I don't know.

(YOUNG MAN and YOUNG WOMAN exit in different directions.)

EMT 2. Too bad.

EMT 1. Yup.

(EMT 1 and EMT 2 start to exit. They are offstage or almost offstage for their next lines.)

PHOTOGRAPHER. So, that's sad.

EMT 2. You still with that guy?

EMT 1. Yup.

Scene Five The Librarian and the Photographer

(Projected: the graveyard. The LIBRARIAN walks to the grave of The PHOTOGRAPHER. The PHOTOGRAPHER watches.)

~~PHOTOGRAPHER. She... this is happening. At my grave. The Librarian.~~

LIBRARIAN. Hi. This is weird. Hi. I wanted to... I saw Charlie. I went to see Charlie, I mean. Wow. This is hard. I. Well, I guess I came for your blessing? I know we were never what you'd call the best of friends. Not that we - I don't have any animosity. I understood. I wanted good things for you. Better than what happened. I mean that. I'm not bitter. I'm resigned. I have my tea. I have my books. I'm not complaining. I don't want an exciting life. But that's not what I came to say. It's been a long time. When I let him go all those years ago. I guess what I'm saying is, I want him back. Which is to say get to know who he has become. But I can't do that if I don't feel like it's okay with you. I've come to you to formally make peace so that he and I - what am I saying? He doesn't want me. He has his own life. His own ways. It can't work. And he doesn't need more love. The love you had was enough for life. Wasn't it? I'm sorry to bother you. Please rest. Peacefully. Sorry.

(GRAVEDIGGER has entered during this. He has arms full of flowers.)

GRAVEDIGGER. Renee.

LIBRARIAN. Hi Earl. How's your mother?

GRAVEDIGGER. Good. Good. She prochets now.

LIBRARIAN. It's good to stay busy.

GRAVEDIGGER. Is it?

LIBRARIAN. When you came in, did you hear me, talking to the gravestone?