Young Woman
Young Man

PHOTOGRAPHER. The Young Woman feels the heavy weight increase, the weight she has been feeling ever since –

*(**YOUNG WOMAN** collapses.)*

YOUNG MAN. Florence! Are you okay? Help! Help! Hey! Someone!

*(**EMT 1** and **EMT 2** arrive and go to work. They revive her.)*

EMT 1. Stand back.

EMT 2. Did she complain of any pain?

EMT 1. What did she have for breakfast?

EMT 2. Miss? Young Woman, can you hear me?

YOUNG WOMAN. Yes. Sorry. Sorry, everyone.

YOUNG MAN. What's wrong?

EMT 2. Are you okay to sit up?

EMT 1. Drink this.

YOUNG WOMAN. Thank you. I'm fine. I just – I can't do it, Robert.

YOUNG MAN. What?

YOUNG WOMAN. I can't marry you.

[redacted]

YOUNG MAN. But our love. These books. That ring.

YOUNG WOMAN. I just don't think I can be someone's wife. When you asked, I was so happy, but then the other stuff came. Not just doubt. Not just fear. Dread. I felt so lonely. So very lonely. And trapped.

YOUNG MAN. No.

YOUNG WOMAN. I'm not ready to be in a marriage.

YOUNG MAN. But our love.

YOUNG WOMAN. It is a real thing. But for how long? I am not who I will be. Neither are you. We change. We evolve. Marriage will not solve this.

[redacted]

YOUNG MAN. But we can change together.

Young Woman
Young Man

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.