# Chapter 1: A Budding Romance

**Scene #1:** Everything is on Track for Sarah

Tucked away in her academic haven, sipping her favorite couple coffee, listening to a compelling audio seminar, reflecting on how smoothly her carefully orchestrated college plan is gone, college Senior Sarah Wilkins is blissfully unaware of the unforeseen encounter that will alter the course of her day, her semester, and perhaps her life.

**Scene #2:** Sarah is Late for Class

In the unique setting of an underground library, Sarah Wilkins loses track of time while engrossed in an audio seminar. Realizing she's late for teaching her Business-101 class, she quickly packs her belongings and rushes toward the library's exit, her seminar still playing in her ears. The scene ends as she reaches the stairs, setting the stage for a chain of unforeseen events.

**Scene #3:** Evan and Guido in the Quad

Evan and Guido enjoy a game of Frisbee in the Quad, their laughter filling the air. Amidst the fun, Evan's mind turns to his academics. Reminded of the promise he made to his sister Liz to maintain a GPA above 3.0, he makes a decision to cut their game short and head to the library for some extra study time.

**Scene #4:** Evan And Sarah Kiss

Evan spots Sarah, a stranger to him, oblivious and headed toward concrete steps. Realizing the impending danger, he sprints to her rescue, preventing a perilous fall. In the chaos of the moment, their lips meet, and they share an unexpected, electrifying kiss.

**Scene #5:** Sarah is Frazzled

Arriving uncharacteristically late to her class, Sarah is frazzled and out of sorts. Normally well-prepared and professional, she's thrown off by her tardiness. Despite her inner turmoil, she manages to regain her composure, delivering a class session that's engaging and well-received by her students.

**Scene #6:** Evan Hopes for Sarah's Return

After kissing a stranger, Evan remained near the stairs, hopeful that she would return to the scene. His heart ached for another encounter with the woman of his dreams. When she didn't appear, he reluctantly made his way back to the Quad, where he eagerly recounted the magical incident to his friend Guido.

# Chapter 2: Evan Charmed Sarah

**Scene #7:** Waiting Game

The day following their unexpected kiss, Evan lingered at the very spot, filled with anticipation for Sarah's return. Two hours of hopeful waiting passed with no sight of her. Finally, Guido arrived, pulling Evan away and persuading him to head home, his dreams of another encounter with Sarah left unfulfilled.

**Scene #8:** Evan Calls Liz for Advice

Feeling dejected after failing to find Sarah following their kiss, Evan seeks guidance by calling his sister, Liz. Her comforting words and insightful advice lift his spirits, leaving him rejuvenated and more determined. The conversation with his sister not only provides solace but inspires him to continue his pursuit of a connection with Sarah.

**Scene #9:** Evan is a Man With a Plan

Evan, undeterred, revisits the scene of the kiss in search of Sarah. Following a hunch, he heads to the library, where he finds her trying to study. Employing his charm, he persuades Sarah to take a break, and they head to the campus food court, initiating a newfound connection between the two.

**Scene #10:** Sarah Can't Concentrate

Though in her academic haven, the undergrad library, Sarah finds herself unable to concentrate. Distracted by thoughts of Evan, her usual scholarly focus is replaced by a restless mind. Her studies take a back seat as she grapples with her unexpected emotions.

**Scene #11:** Evan Finds Sarah at the library

Evan locates Sarah in the library, and despite her attempt to hide behind a book, he spots her. With his easy charm, he breaks through Sarah's initial resistance, persuading her to join him for a break at the campus food court. This encounter marks a pivotal moment in their growing connection, as she allows herself to be drawn into his world.

**Scene #12:** Evan and Sarah Food Court Date

Evan kisses Sarah at the spot where they first kissed, but as they walk to the food court, she feels eyes on them. Feeling awkward, she recites her resume instead of sharing personal details. Her embarrassment and sense of judgment cause her to feel uncomfortable, leading her to suddenly rush out the exit, leaving both the moment and Evan behind.

**Scene #13:** Sarah Relents and agrees to a date

After catching up with Sarah outside the food court, Evan continues to engage her. Despite her initial reluctance, Sarah's resistance weakens, and she agrees to go on a date with Evan later in the week, a notable development in their budding relationship.

# Chapter 3: Evan Has a Necklace Made

**Scene #14:** Gudio Hears the Big News

While heading to work, Evan enthusiastically updates Guido on his successful day with Sarah and asks for suggestions for a special gift for their upcoming first date. Though initially annoyed by the question, Guido's insight ultimately inspires a vision for the perfect gift, marking another step in Evan's pursuit of Sarah.

**Scene #15:** Evan Has a Special Gift Made

At the mall, looking for a special gift for his date with Sarah, Evan stumbles upon a unique idea that symbolizes their first meeting. He commissions a jeweler to craft a necklace featuring a pendant of silver-coated toy glasses, encapsulating the memory and adding a personal touch to their budding relationship.

# Chapter 4: Sarah Prepares for First Date

**Scene #16:** Sarah Asks Katie For Help

During an exam, Sarah leaves a note for a friendly student, Katie, asking her to stop by her desk after class. After the class, Katie approaches Sarah, who requests her assistance in preparing for her date with Evan. Katie's enthusiasm shines through as she eagerly agrees to help, initiating a new friendship.

**Scene #17:** Katie Loves Sarah’s Apartment

Sarah and Katie arrive at Sarah's luxurious apartment, and Katie is enamored with the place. Feeling a newfound friendship, Sarah offers Katie the use of the guestroom as a study sanctuary whenever she needs it, delighting Katie and strengthening their bond.

**Scene #18:** Sarah and Katie Chat

Sarah and Katie engage in a heart-to-heart conversation. Katie learns more about Sarah's background, her aspirations, and her burgeoning relationship with Evan. Their chat deepens their friendship and provides Katie with insight into Sarah's world.

**Scene #19:** Wardrobe Check

Katie explores Sarah's wardrobe for a suitable date outfit, urging her to abandon her typical librarian look. They settle on jeans, a T-shirt, and a ponytail, creating a more relaxed and fun appearance for their girls' day out, a departure from Sarah's usual style.

**Scene #20:** Sarah’s Makeover

At Katie's hairdresser's salon, Sarah receives a makeover, including low lights. While waiting, Katie Googles Evan, getting positive information from her roommate's sister. The encouraging news starts to shift Sarah's thoughts, making her consider that a relationship with Evan might indeed be possible.

# Chapter 5: Sarah and Evan’s First Date

**Scene #21:** Sarah & Evan’s First Date

Sarah and Evan meet for their first official date at an Asian restaurant. Seeking to set the groundwork for their relationship, Sarah lays out certain conditions. To her delight, Evan happily agrees, marking a new phase in their connection.

**Scene #22:** Evan Gives Sarah a Pendant

After dinner, Evan presents Sarah with a customized pendant, an inexpensive but sentimental piece commemorating their unique beginning. Though Sarah usually wears expensive jewelry, she's touched by the thoughtfulness of Evan's gift and falls in love with the pendant, symbolizing a deeper connection between them.

**Scene #23:** Sarah Updates Katie

After a memorable first date, Sarah returns home to share details with Katie, showing her the unique pendant Evan had made for her. Both are thrilled to discover Evan has requested Sarah change her Facebook status to “In a Relationship,” marking a new chapter in their connection.

# Chapter 6: Sarah Meets Evan's Friends

**Scene #24:** Evan Gives Sarah the Vintage Doll

An eager Evan meets Sarah near her car before a game, handing her the vintage doll she wanted. Seeing she brought a book with her, he assures her it's fine to study during the game. To his amusement, she pulls out "Softball for Dummies," lightening the mood and showing her commitment to enjoying their time together.

**Scene #25:** Patti Learns Evan Has a New Girlfriend

From the bleachers, Patti, Evan's recent quasi-ex-girlfriend, observes Evan and Sarah meeting in the parking lot. Guido and Roxane, Sarah's best friend, share with Patti what they know and have heard about Sarah, adding context to the budding relationship.

**Scene #26:** The Enforcers Win!

Patti sizes up Sarah during the game while Sarah educates herself on a game she knows nothing about. Evan and Guido's team, the Enforcers, win their game!

**Scene #27:** The Drive to the Post-Game Party

On the drive to the restaurant for a celebratory post-game party, Evan and Sarah discuss her inaugural experience attending a softball game and how things went with Evan's friends. Sarah shares her insecurities about attending the party.

**Scene #28:** The Post-Game Party

After the Enforcers win their game, Sarah joins Evan, Guido, and a dozen friends to celebrate at Sluggers Sports Bar and Grill. Despite the group's excitement, Sarah feels like an outcast. Her struggle reflects her commitment to support Evan and her discomfort due to her inability to connect socially with peers.

# Chapter 7: Date Night at Sarah's Apartment

**Scene #29:** Sarah Prepares Her Apartment for Evan's Arrival

Sarah busily prepares for Evan's inaugural visit to her apartment, filled with anticipation. She devises an unexpected surprise to kickstart their date, adding an extra layer of excitement to their blossoming relationship. Her heart races as the time of his arrival nears, and she hopes the surprise will bring them closer.

**Scene #30:** Study Session First

Expecting a romantic date night at Sarah's apartment, Evan is instead reminded that academics are her priority. In line with their agreement, Sarah takes on the role of a tutor, helping Evan with techniques to boost his grades. They work diligently, and only after the tutoring session concludes do they transition into their planned date, strengthening their connection through shared goals and responsibilities.

**Scene #31:** Evan Slows His Roll

A steamy make-out session commences after an effective tutoring session and a delicious dinner. Amid the rising heat intensifying kisses and wandering hands, Evan stops himself midstream. He wants to wait until the moment feels right and Sarah is ready before they take their intimacy to the next level.

# Chapter 8: Sarah’s Parents Are Concerned

**Scene #32:** Sarah's Parents Question Relationship with Evan

Sarah's parents, especially her father, were deeply concerned when they saw that Sarah had changed her Facebook status to show that she was in a relationship with Evan. They called her to question her about this relationship. Still uncertain about what it was, she downplayed it as a casual relationship that would, at the latest, end when the school year ended. She assured her parents that her academic and philanthropic efforts would not be negatively impacted.

# Chapter 9: Sarah Is a Fish Out of Water

**Scene #33:** Sarah Feels Awkward at a Football Watch Party

Evan had invited Sarah to watch the Monday night Chicago Bears football game at his softball coach's house. Over a dozen of Evan's friends were also there to watch the game. After the game, they partied with loud music and drinking games, including beer pong. Sarah had felt out of place and had sat quietly next to Evan while everyone else had been drinking and cheering for the Bears.

**Scene #34:** Sarah Tells Katie about Her Relationship Concerns with Evan

Sarah had shared her concerns with Katie about the differences between her and Evan, both in their personalities and their worlds. She hadn't been adapting well to his world and worried about how he would navigate an upcoming fundraiser she had organized. The thought of Evan attending made her anxious, fearing he might embarrass himself and her during the event.

# Chapter 10: Patti's Dilemma

**Scene #35:** Patti Helps Evan Get Ready

While grappling with her lingering feelings for Evan, Patti resolves to put her emotions aside to support him as a friend. With a determined effort to suppress her inner turmoil, she assists Evan in preparing for his first formalwear fundraising event with Sarah, demonstrating her commitment to their friendship. Her unspoken pining adds a layer of complexity to the scene, even as she focuses on helping Evan make the evening with Sarah special.

**Scene #36:** Patti Seeks Advice from Guido

Patti hesitantly tells Guido that their friends have tasked her with convincing Evan that his relationship with Sarah is wrong. Despite not being fond of Guido, Patti appreciates his candid views on Evan and Sarah's relationship, even if they sometimes irk her. Their conversation is marked by a tangled mix of emotions, differing allegiances, and a mutual worry for Evan.

# Chapter 11: Sarah's Fundraiser

**Scene #37:** Sarah Impresses

Evan waited briefly in The Grandeur's lavish lobby near Chicago's O'Hare airport. A text from Sarah guided him to the grand ballroom, where he found her coordinating a nonprofit event. Witnessing her in her element for the first time, he was more than impressed; he was utterly captivated by her skill.

**Scene #38:** Sarah Preps Evan

In a private storage room, Sarah briefs Evan for an upcoming fundraiser, exuding a mix of enthusiasm and worry. She urges him to be mindful, especially around her boss, Marcus Chamberlain, who looks like Morgan Freeman. Her instructions, imbued with belief in Evan and anxiety about the night, set the scene for what seems to be a memorable event..

**Scene #39:** Evan Meets Morgan Freeman?

At a lavish fundraiser, Evan's comedic talent emerges as he converses with Sarah's distinguished boss, Marcus, causing her anxiety to spike with each jest. Though Sarah's tension builds with Evan's seemingly undignified comments, she's later surprised and relieved to find that Marcus and Evan are connecting splendidly, in a way she never expected, turning her apprehension into delight.

**Scene #40:** Evan Impresses

Sarah readies Evan for her fundraising event, noticing his nervousness but amazed at how effortlessly he fits into her high-class, charitable sphere. Though clearly an outsider, he wins the crowd's favor. Witnessing Evan flourish in her world eradicates her last shred of hesitation, letting her fully commit her heart to him.

**Scene #41:** Evan Professes His Love

After a fundraiser, Evan escorts Sarah to her room and professes his love. Though in love with Evan, Sarah isn't ready to tell him. Evan respects her feelings, earning admiration by not pressuring her for more, and leaves for his hotel room after a sensual kiss. Both are left contemplating their emotions, secure in their growing connection.

# Chapter 12: Sarah and Evan Consummate Their Relationship

**Scene #42:** Sarah Relaxes in the Tub

After Evan professes his love and they share a sensual kiss, Sarah is left in a state of bliss. Enjoying a bath in her luxury hotel room, she reflects on her feelings for Evan. A decision made, she later entrusts an envelope with unknown contents to a trusted hotel staff member, asking her to slip it under Evan's door. The night's profound events linger in her mind, wrapping her in euphoria and leaving her eager for what the future holds.

**Scene #43:** Evan's First Luxury Hotel Room

After professing his love to Sarah and sharing a sensual goodnight kiss, Evan is filled with joy. Although Sarah doesn't voice her love, Evan sees it in her eyes and feels it in her kiss. Entering his luxurious hotel room for the first time, he's thrilled by the opulence, feeling that everything in his world is exactly as it should be. As he settles in, an envelope slipped under his door catches his eye. Inside, he finds a key card to Sarah's hotel room and a handwritten note saying "I'm ready," leaving him with a sense of anticipation and excitement.

**Scene #44:** Sarah and Evan Make Love

After discovering Sarah's room key and note that a staff member slipped under his hotel room door, Evan's heart races with anticipation. He enters her room to find her alluringly awaiting him under the covers, her eyes filled with desire and trust. In this intimate and profound moment, Sarah finally declares her love for him, words that he has longed to hear. Their connection deepens as they make love, not just a physical union but a cementing of their emotional bond, forging a connection that neither of them had ever felt before.

# Chapter 13: Evan Volunteers for the Weekend

**Scene #45:** Evan and A Few Friends Volunteer

Evan gathered Guido, Patti, Roxanne, and friends to volunteer for cleaning debris in central Illinois following a tornado. Sarah took the helm as the lead event coordinator, working for the nonprofit organization "Home Is Where the Heart Is." Together, they turned a time of devastation into a period of community and healing, working towards restoring the farmlands.

**Scene #46:** Katie Discovers Sarah's Secret

Sarah vaguely mentioned an ATM stop before withdrawing several hundred dollars with Katie, who later discovered that Sarah personally financed meals for the volunteer crew. Rather than using her father's credit card, Sarah opted to use cash to keep her generosity anonymous. Katie was deeply impressed by Sarah's genuine commitment to the cause, reflecting a character of true integrity.

**Scene #47:** Evan has a new friend – meet Diego.

Sarah was called away to deal with a minor emergency. She instructed Katie to get Evan and Guido to help deliver the food from her car to the hungry volunteers. Joining Evan and the crew for lunch was a 14-year-old boy who lived in the area. Of his own volition, he walked on site and started helping with the cleanup. Seeing he was unsupervised, Evan took Diego under his wing, and they worked together throughout the morning. With the workday half over, lunch was served.

**Scene #48:** Time to relax and enjoy the sunset

Evan and Diego relished two ice-cold bottles of root beer after their exhausting day, basking in the view of the sunset with minimal words exchanged. The moment was interrupted when Katie arrived to fetch them, urging Diego to head home before it got too dark. She also wanted to introduce Diego to Sarah so that she could thank him personally for his hard work.

**Scene #49:** Evan Volunteers for Overtime

After a strenuous Saturday working with a nonprofit organization, Evan's friends headed home, but the experience profoundly transformed Evan. Inspired by the selfless teen Diego, who chose to volunteer over typical leisure activities, Evan became deeply committed to the cause. His newfound passion led him to give up his entire Sunday, even forgoing his treasured softball game, to continue volunteering and making a difference.

**Scene #50:** Patti Confronts Evan about Sarah

Oblivious to Sarah's behind-the-scenes efforts and personal financial contributions to feeding the volunteers, Evan's friends criticized her for not actively participating in the debris cleanup. Their frustration grew when Evan chose to skip the next day's softball game, furthering their discontent with Sarah's influence on him. A few of Evan's friends reached a breaking point and gave Patti an ultimatum: either she warned Evan about Sarah, or Roxanne would do so. Feeling cornered, Patti felt she had to comply.

**Scene #51:** Patti Updates Her Friends about Her Conversation with Evan

Having faced strong resistance from Evan, Patti chose to set aside her own emotions and rally behind Evan's relationship with Sarah. Despite her belief that the relationship would ultimately lead to heartbreak, she resolved to support him. Patti conveyed her decision to the friends who had urged her to caution Evan against dating Sarah, encouraging them to follow her lead and back Evan's choice. She emphasized the importance of standing by Evan, just as he would if the roles were reversed and he found himself in a similar situation.

# Chapter 14: Christmas Eve at Liz's

**Scene #52:** Evan and Sarah Drive to Liz's Home for Christmas

It was Christmas Eve, and Evan and Sarah were on a drive from Champaign, Illinois, to Glenview, Illinois, a northern suburb of Chicago. Even though school had gone on holiday break, Sarah's workload remained just as heavy. This was the peak of her philanthropic activities during the holiday season. Evan drove contentedly, looking forward to his 3-day Christmas visit with his sister. Meanwhile, Sarah worked in the car, feeling a sense of longing to stay behind and manage her responsibilities as an event coordinator.

**Scene #53:** Liz Prepares Christmas Eve Dinner

Liz prepared a Christmas Eve feast for her husband, Joe, Evan, Sarah, and a surprise guest. While preparing dinner, Joe and Liz talk about what to expect. Evan had been referring to Sarah as "the one." Liz's anticipation was high, and she was excited to see her brother, whom she hadn't seen since summer, and meet the first girl he ever brought home with him for Christmas. That alone said a lot about his feelings for Sarah.

**Scene #54:** Liz Meets Sarah for the First Time

Sarah hadn't met Liz yet, but on the other side of her apartment door, she overheard Sarah making a comment about ugly Christmas sweaters. One of Liz's few guilty pleasures was playfully teasing her friends and family. She happened to be wearing an ugly Christmas sweater, which was her Christmas eve and Christmas tradition, one that Evan didn't share. She swung open the door before Sarah was about to knock and pretended to give Sarah the evil eye for comments about ugly Christmas sweaters. However, Sarah found out that this was just a playful way that the Vaughn family interacted with their loved ones. Liz quickly hugged Sarah and welcomed her into the family.

**Scene #55:** Sarah Did a Bad Thing

After meeting Liz, Sarah made her way to the guestroom to exchange her designer skirt suit for a more suitable and cozy attire, fitting for a familial Christmas Eve dinner. Despite her efforts, the commitment to refrain from work, a pledge made to Evan, proved challenging. The siren call of her emails, texts, and laptop files, all requiring attention and updates, tugged at her. Succumbing to the irresistible urge, she stealthily entered the bathroom, engaging in a flurry of responses to as many texts and emails as time allowed.

**Scene #56:** Liz asks Evan about Sarah

With Sarah off getting changed in the guestroom, Liz and Evan briefly discussed his relationship with Sarah. Evan expressed his complete devotion and confidence in her being the one but did acknowledge that she was a bit of a workaholic.

**Scene #57:** Sarah's Path to Redemption

Sarah regretted breaking her promise to Evan and working after she arrived at Liz's place. Despite the option of completing the trip without a word, facing no consequences, her strong moral compass compelled her to confess to Evan. Liz consoled Sarah and assured her that she was already embraced as a part of the family.

# Chapter 15: The Mystery Guest Joins the Fun

**Scene #58:** Guessing the Mystery Guest

The turkey had been expertly carved, wine glasses brimming, and sides meticulously served. As the Christmas Eve feast kicked off, the elusive mystery guest remained absent. Joe took the stage, announcing that the enigmatic visitor lingered nearby and dared the dinner attendees to unleash their most creative guesses.

**Scene #59:** Revealing the Mystery Guest

The enigmatic dinner guest's identity was unveiled—it was none other than Evan and Liz's mother, someone they believed was enjoying a cruise with her husband's family. As it turned out, the cruise was scheduled for two days later. To the surprise of Liz and Evan, At Joe's request and expense, Bridget had flown from Florida to Chicago for a brief visit, intending to spend Christmas Eve and most of Christmas with them. Joe and Bridget craftily deceived Liz and Evan by making them believe the cruise had set sail two days prior.

**Scene #60:** Delving into Evan's Energy Drops

Once the buzz surrounding the mystery guest's arrival had settled, the family resumed their dinner and dessert, engaging in conversations on various topics. However, Evan's comfort was short-lived when, following a compliment about Sarah's exceptional posture, Liz shifted the conversation to Evan's history of experiencing sudden energy drops. The topic visibly bothered Evan, who didn't think it was a matter for concern.

**Scene #61:** The Allure of Sarah's Pendant

Bridget and Liz both noticed Sarah unconsciously rubbing her pendant, prompting them to inquire about its significance. Surprised that Evan had never mentioned it to them, Sarah took the opportunity to share its backstory. Although usually a monotone storyteller, Sarah's narrative skills surprisingly elevated as she recounted the tale of how the jewelry was crafted and relived the emotional experience of receiving it from Evan on their first date.

**Scene #62:** Sarah's Dinner Roll Gambit

Sarah talked about her wealthy father's custom of keeping each family member's gifts to a modest monetary value. This sparked Evan and Liz to share one of their own gift traditions, which allowed each family member to open one of their many presents on Christmas Eve. Evan's warm and playful family quickly rubbed off on Sarah. By the end of the scene, she not only playfully retaliated against Liz for her earlier ugly sweater joke but also surprised and delighted everyone by launching a dinner roll at Liz, mimicking an action Liz had taken earlier when joking around with Evan.

# Chapter 16: More Christmas Visit Surprises Await

**Scene #63:** Liz Receives Two Special Christmas Gifts

Christmas morning at Liz's apartment was filled with excitement as gifts were unwrapped. Evan's present to Liz, a first-semester report card with three A's and one B, highlighting a GPA increase to 3.2, symbolized his academic growth due to Sarah's help. The most poignant moment came when Joe gave Liz the final gift – an engagement ring accompanying a heartfelt proposal, adding a touch of romance to the festive celebration.

**Scene #64:** Joe and Liz Elope

Liz and Joe made an excuse that they had plans in the morning after Christmas. They were evasive when questioned by Evan, but after Evan drove his mom to the airport, he was happy to have alone time with Sarah. Evan was a bit worried when it was almost time for him and Sarah to head back to college, and Liz and Joe hadn't returned yet. When they returned, they had a surprise for Evan and Sarah – they eloped.

# Chapter 17: Sarah Promise Ring Concerns

**Scene #65:** Evan Gives Sarah a Promise Ring

Evan gives Sarah a promise ring on Valentine's Day, symbolizing his deep love and commitment. While outwardly pleased, Sarah is inwardly conflicted. The touching gesture is at odds with her master plan to leave Evan for an Ivy League school after graduation. Her emotions teeter between joy at Evan's devotion and fear of the future.

**Scene #66:** Sarah Misleads Her Parents

Katie and Sarah's conversation is interrupted by Sarah's parents, who call after seeing a picture of the promise ring on her Facebook page. In her bedroom, Sarah downplays the significance of the gift and her feelings for Evan, assuring them that her schoolwork and philanthropy are her main priorities. Her casual reassurance conceals her conflicting emotions about Evan and the future of their relationship.

**Scene #67:** Sarah Shares Her Concerns about the Future

Sarah reveals the promise ring Evan gave Katie, sharing her conflicted feelings about her future with him. Katie provides a compassionate ear, helping Sarah navigate her emotions. Sarah confesses that she misled her parents about her relationship during a phone call minutes earlier, adding another layer to her internal struggle.

# Chapter 18: Graduation: A Night Full of Surprises

**Scene #68:** Sarah Contemplates Her Future

In a hotel's rented event space, Sarah, Evan, Guido, and friends buzz with activity, setting up a post-graduation bash. Amid the preparation frenzy, Sarah meticulously checks her checklist, ensuring perfection for their 30-40 guests. As party excitement swirls, her thoughts stray to her uncertain path ahead, casting a shadow on the celebratory atmosphere.

**Scene #69:** Evan Surprises Sarah with Parents

Sarah is taken aback when she discovers that Evan has invited her visiting parents to their graduation party. When Guido calls Evan away to help with preparations, she's left alone with her parents, who express their concern. They question whether her relationship with Evan is the reason she has yet to choose a college for her master's degree.

**Scene #70:** Evan Proposes

Evan's unexpected gift left Sarah speechless—a plaque acknowledging her as the class valedictorian. She stepped onto the stage to accept it, the crowd's cheers filling the room. Then, urged by the spectators, she faced the audience to find Evan, down on one knee, offering a ring. Battling her inner turmoil, Sarah said yes, eliciting ecstatic cheers from the crowd, though her father's expression betrayed his unease.

**Scene #71:** Evan Gives Sarah an Out

Observing the weighty expressions etched on Sarah's father's and her own face, Evan, drawing on his own father-related experiences, grants her an exit from their engagement devoid of guilt. He's open to waiting, but seeks her unwavering commitment. His offer carries a challenge: an opportunity for her to either reaffirm her dedication or choose an escape. Evan's plea for certainty lingers beneath, seeking affirmation or an honest retreat.

**Scene #72:** Sarah's Father Gives Her an Ultimatum

In their hotel room, Sarah's parents confronted her about her future plans. Her father was deeply disappointed that she was considering moving to Chicago with Evan instead of pursuing her master's degree at an Ivy League school. He gave her an ultimatum: adhere to their agreement or lose his financial support. Sarah was left with one month to make her choice.

# Chapter 19: Cliffhanger

**Scene #73:** Sarah Asks Evan to Elope

Fearing a month in limbo might weaken her resolve, Sarah suggested to Evan that they elope as soon as possible. Evan, filled with happiness, eagerly agreed to the plan, cementing their commitment to each other and the path they were choosing together.

**Scene #74:** Sarah and Evan Elope

Sarah and Evan eloped in a small chapel in central Illinois. While Sarah outwardly appeared joyful during the ceremony, doubts lingered within her. She loved Evan deeply but couldn't suppress the yearning to return to the life and plans she had before meeting him. Her conflicting emotions created a bittersweet undertone to the celebration.

**Scene #75:** Sarah has Second Thoughts

On the surface, Sarah and Evan appear to be a joyful couple, ready to embark on their new life together. Yet, something seems amiss. After the brief marriage ceremony, Sarah escapes to the wedding chapel's restroom. Staring stone-faced at her reflection, she's overwhelmed by uncertainty and asks herself, "Oh my god. What have I done?" Her internal turmoil hints at deeper conflicts within their seemingly perfect union.

The End.