# Chapter 1: The Divorce

**Scene #1:** Why?

In the opening scene, Evan Vaughn faces the reality of his divorce in a law office, fixated on the word “DIVORCE” on the document before him. He’s overwhelmed by its significance, reflecting on the vast difference between this painful moment and their relationship’s enchanted beginning. As he gazes at Sarah, he’s flooded with questions, especially the pervasive “Why?” This inner turmoil establishes a somber and reflective mood for the story, highlighting Evan’s deep introspection.

**Scene #2:** Broken Vow

In a stormy Chicago setting, Evan Vaughn navigates the final stages of his divorce, wrestling with a violated childhood vow and the emotional aftermath of parting from Sarah. In the sterile office of Sarah’s high-priced lawyers, Evan’s reflections shift from the perceived theatrics of the legal process to his sister Liz’s unwavering support, and ultimately to Sarah, whose presence rekindles memories of their love’s beginning. Overwhelmed by unresolved feelings and a plea for connection that remains unanswered, Evan finds himself adrift in turmoil and longing.

**Scene #3:** Crossroads of the Heart

High above Lake Michigan, Sarah finds herself captivated by the turbulent waves, a stark reflection of her own inner turmoil. Clutching an inexpensive pendant—a gift from Evan that contrasts sharply with her usual choice of luxurious jewelry—she wrestles with deep, unresolved questions. The pendant, symbolizing much more than its outward simplicity, prompts Sarah to contemplate why she treasures it so dearly, revealing her emotional struggle and the poignant significance it holds in her life.

**Scene #4:** Evan Demands Answers

Evan withheld signing the divorce papers, insisting that Sarah explain her reasons for seeking the divorce. Backed by his sister Liz, Evan stood firm on this demand. Sarah, after some consideration, agreed to have a private conversation with Evan about her reasons, but only after the paperwork was signed. This arrangement set the stage for a crucial, private exchange between Evan and Sarah, marking a pivotal moment in their separation processed.

**Scene #5:** Understanding and Goodbyes

In the quiet of the conference room, as Evan discusses matters with his attorney outside, Liz and Sarah share a poignant moment. Sarah, concerned about Liz’s feelings towards her, finds reassurance when Liz expresses understanding and support for Sarah’s difficult decision to divorce Evan. Liz vows to assist Evan through this transition, ensuring him time to adjust. Sarah, while closing her personal connection with Evan, keeps communication open with Liz for any necessary future contact. Their conversation ends with a heartfelt embrace, symbolizing their enduring bond despite the circumstances.

**Scene #6:** The Last Kiss

After signing the divorce papers, Evan and Sarah were left alone in the conference room. Sarah fulfilled her promise, answering Evan’s questions, but his confusion persisted despite understanding her words. Overwhelmed by lingering love and attraction, Evan passionately kissed Sarah. Initially resistant, Sarah’s desire momentarily overcame her, but she quickly left the room, recognizing that succumbing to this moment was unwise, despite her feelings. The scene captured their complex emotions and the finality of their relationship.

# Chapter 2: The Love, Annually Plan is Created

**Scene #7:** Evan is Ready to Share his Plan

Evan, still elated from his successful class where inner-city students showcased impressive websites, drives along Chicago’s scenic Lakeshore Drive. The perfect weather and his pride in his students’ achievements have him in high spirits. Heading to his sister Liz’s house for their monthly poker party, Evan anticipates sharing a new idea with the group, making this gathering even more special than usual.

**Scene #8:** Poker Host Liz Breaks For Chloe

Liz is bustling with the joy of party preparations when Chloe Collette, her dear friend from St. Louis, calls unexpectedly, likely over personal troubles. Liz, always eager to support Chloe, halts her work to console her. Chloe, distressed by boyfriend issues, finds a willing ear in Liz. The call, although interrupting, is a cherished connection for Liz, who values their friendship deeply, reminding her of the bonds that withstand distance and time.Synopsis

**Scene #9:** Evan Preps Liz for His Plan Unveiling

Evan’s early arrival at Liz’s house for the monthly poker party is charged with excitement over an innovative idea he’s eager to share. However, he decides to keep the details under wraps until all the attendees have arrived, building anticipation and curiosity among his friends and family. This moment sets the stage for a revealing and potentially transformative discussion once the party is in full swing, highlighting Evan’s enthusiasm and the close-knit nature of the group gathered.

**Scene #10:** Meet the Poker Gang

As guests arrive at Liz’s monthly poker party, each person’s entrance into her warmly lit home is a small celebration. Liz practices an open-door policy, leaving the entrance unlocked for friends and family, eliminating any formality of arrival. This gesture of trust and openness sets a relaxed tone, allowing guests to wander in at their leisure. Liz, ever the gracious hostess, greets each attendee with a hug, her warm welcomes embodying the spirit of camaraderie and comfort that defines these gatherings.

**Scene #11:** Evan Reveals Love, Annually Plan

Evan’s innovative relationship strategy is revealed before the poker game begins. Overflowing with enthusiasm, Evan proposes a radical approach to circumvent the pitfalls of traditional dating and the gradual decline of relationships. Convinced that true love is a once-in-a-lifetime event, which he believes he has already experienced and lost through divorce, he suggests a plan for a fulfilling, yet finite, one-year relationship to prevent the eventual decline, sidestepping the search for an elusive true love and the weariness of endless dating.

**Scene #12:** Love, Annually Gets a Rulebook

Liz is alarmed by Evan’s unconventional relationship strategy and, wanting to shield him and any potential partners, she proposes creating protective rules. Despite her reservations, she involves their poker night friends in crafting these guidelines, assigning each person the task of contributing one rule. This collaborative effort aims to safeguard both Evan and the women entangled in his plan, highlighting Liz’s protective nature and the supportive dynamic within their circle.

**Scene #13:** Official Rules and Guidelines

In the final scene of the chapter, a definitive list of rules and guidelines is presented for Evan, established by the poker party attendees to ensure his relationship plan is followed responsibly. Evan, initially taken aback, expresses gratitude towards his friends and family for their support and insights. He acknowledges the value of these rules in aiding the success of his unconventional approach to relationships, emphasizing his appreciation for their collective effort to help him navigate his plan thoughtfully.

# Chapter 3: The Universe Delivers

**Scene #14:** Evan Gets Signs From the Universe

Evan jumps into his SUV, venturing westward on a whimsical journey, trusting the Universe to lead him to his inaugural “Love, Annually” partner. The Universe seems generous today, offering Evan what he interprets as signs pointing towards the encounter with this special woman.

**Scene #15:** Maggie’s Dating Woes

Overworked and exhausted, culinary student Maggie insists she has no time for dating. But her spirited roommate, Laura, won’t take no for an answer, urging Maggie to break free from her routine and give fun a chance.

**Scene #16:** Evan Meets Maggie

Amid an early dinner, Maggie vents about her dating struggles to Laura. Evan, captivated by Maggie’s striking red hair, interprets it as a cosmic sign. Emboldened by fate, he interrupts their conversation, introducing himself with newfound courage. With Laura’s support, Evan proposes they attend the fall festival together, convinced it’s destiny. Maggie, initially skeptical, finds herself intrigued by Evan’s spontaneity and the possibility of a serendipitous connection.

**Scene #17:** Laura and Maggie Google Evan

Laura and Maggie delve into the internet to uncover details about Evan. Encouraged by their findings, Laura convinces a hesitant Maggie to take a leap of faith and explore the possibility with Evan.

# Chapter 4: Fun at the Fall Festival

**Scene #18:** Maggie and Evan Break First Date Rules

Maggie and Evan throw caution to the wind, skipping traditional first-date norms to rapidly deepen their connection. Drawing inspiration from Sarah’s innovative approach to first dates, Evan persuades Maggie to embark on a relationship with him. Their encounter culminates in a deeply moving moment, setting a profound tone for their journey ahead.

**Scene #19:** Maggie and Evan’s First Kiss

Maggie and Evan leave the weight of past relationship failures behind, unanimously deciding to skip traditional dating in favor of a committed relationship. Their newfound agreement sparks playful banter, leading to a flirtatious first kiss. Energized by their connection, they head to the festival, eager to explore the next chapter of their journey together.

**Scene #20:** A “Great Night” Kiss

Post-festival, as Maggie and Evan await Laura’s arrival to collect Maggie, they find themselves swept up in a moment of affection. Despite their pact to refrain from public displays of affection in Laura’s presence, Maggie impulsively kisses Evan goodbye, leaving Laura astounded by their sudden intimacy.

**Scene #21:** Evan has Mixed Feelings

After their first date at the fall festival, Evan grapples with his emotions following a goodnight kiss with Maggie. It’s his best date post-divorce, and he wants to pursue a “Love, Annually” relationship with her. Yet, the kiss doesn’t spark what he felt with Sarah, causing a mix of guilt and rationalization about his relationship plan. Conflicted but unresolved, Evan chooses to proceed with his plan.

# Chapter 5: Maggie’s Indoor Picnic

**Scene #22:** Thresholds of Hope and Plans

In Liz’s office, just before Maggie’s date with Evan, Liz and Evan discuss his unconventional relationship plan. Though skeptical, Liz is curious about Maggie. Meanwhile, Liz stands on the brink of a personal journey, filled with both hope and trepidation, as she and Joe prepare to start the in vitro fertilization process the following day, a decision they’ve considered deeply.

**Scene #23:** Maggie Walks to Evan’s Office

Maggie, keen on saving money, opts to walk from the train station to Evan’s office. She quickly regrets her choice, as she’s wearing her roommate’s new, too-small designer heels.

**Scene #24:** Maggie Meets Trish and Liz

Maggie reaches Evan’s office, where she’s greeted by Trish, the receptionist and office manager, and also meets Liz.

**Scene #25:** Maggie’s Indoor Picnic

Evan delights Maggie with an unexpected indoor picnic in their office’s conference room, showcasing his culinary skills honed from Maggie’s recent cooking lessons, before they head out to a sought-after live-action play.

The End.