

EMMA'S DREAM

ROBERT & EMMA *Act 3*

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with Chris Corey

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CAST

ROBERT: handsome, intelligent, takes life seriously,
but has a fun side, 20–21

EMMA: bright, attractive, strong voice and presence, 20–21

WAITRESS: friendly, but a bit cranky, 35–55

EMMA’S MOTHER: kind, pleasant, 40–60

JUSTICE 1: 40–60

JUSTICE 2: 40–60

JUSTICE 3: 40–60

JUSTICE 4: 40–60

TOTAL: 1 to 5 males and 3 to 7 females

This script contains the third act of a four-act play, designed for the high school classroom. The acts are divided into four separate books which correspond with a four-year curriculum entitled *Principles and Choices*©. The play may be produced as a full-length play by putting all four acts together. **To acquire Acts 1, 2, and 4, contact the publisher.**

There is little to no direction for sets, staging, and lighting. This act has no intermission, but if combined with Acts 1, 2, and 4 for a full-length play, an intermission can be placed between the second and third acts.

Act 3 EMMA'S DREAM

ROBERT & EMMA

SCENE 1

(Robert sits at a table at popular hang-out spot for local college students, an old pizzeria with a wood-fired brick oven. The restaurant is packed and Robert watches as a waitress brings out a medium-sized pizza to his table. She sets it before him.)

WAITRESS: Now, you're not going to be eating that by yourself, are you?

ROBERT: *(smirking)* No, I'm waiting for someone.

WAITRESS: *(as she walks away)* Aren't we all?

(Robert shakes his head and smiles. He doesn't grab a slice. Instead, he looks around the restaurant and checks his watch. His eyes catch Emma, who hurries in. Her eyes dart around the restaurant until she sees Robert, who holds up his watch. Emma walks over and sits across the table from him.)

EMMA: I know, I know. Don't start.

ROBERT: Two more minutes and this pizza would've been reduced to a pile of crumbs.

(Emma leans in and smells the pizza. She sighs.)

EMMA: It just got here. The cheese is still bubbling.

(Robert shakes his head and waits for Emma to grab the first slice before digging in. He watches Emma take a bite.)

EMMA: *(suddenly relaxing as she chews)* This is what I've been craving all day.

ROBERT: You'd think we'd get sick of it, we come here so often.

EMMA: That's completely impossible. There is no way you can get sick of this. It's cheap and fantastic.

(Robert catches a glimmer in Emma's eye.)

ROBERT: What?

EMMA: What do you mean, "what?"

ROBERT: You have that look.

EMMA: "Look?" I don't know what you mean...

ROBERT: That look. The one you get when you have something to say.

EMMA: As a matter of fact, I do have some news.

(Emma takes another bite of pizza. Robert waits.)

ROBERT: And?

EMMA: *(taking another bite)* Oh, this pizza is so good.

ROBERT: Emma!

EMMA: Okay, okay. *(pausing to swallow)* I got in.

(Robert drops his slice, his eyes widen.)

ROBERT: You did?

EMMA: Well, almost.

ROBERT: (*confused*) Almost? How do you almost get in?

(*Emma slides some folded paper across the table. Robert opens it.*)

EMMA: That's my acceptance letter. Right behind it is my final requirement for the scholarship. If I pass, it's a full ride to one of the best law schools in the country.

ROBERT: That's great!

EMMA: There's no way I'll be able to go to law school without the scholarship, so you have to help me.

ROBERT: (*Robert keeps reading*) What is this...you just have to answer an interview question?

EMMA: Yeah, but they're not just gonna give a scholarship to anyone, right? Whatever they ask you, it's gonna be hard.

ROBERT: C'mon, Em. You know you're gonna get the scholarship.

EMMA: I don't know. I'm really nervous.

ROBERT: That's because you're a perfectionist, which should help you ace the interview.

EMMA: They're supposed to email my interview question today.

ROBERT: Wow. That's fast. And that's it?

EMMA: Well, then I spend the next week preparing like crazy. And you have to help me. (*discarding the crust and helping herself to another slice of pizza*) What about you? Weren't you supposed to hear from...

ROBERT: I heard yesterday. I wanted to wait to hear about you first, though.

EMMA: And?

ROBERT: And I'm going to medical school.

EMMA: Shut up! Seriously? Robert, that's awesome!

ROBERT: I wasn't sure my grades would cut it, but...I'm in. I'm gonna be a doctor.

EMMA: Oh my gosh, after the late nights you pulled to get your grades up... you really deserve it. I am so happy for you.

ROBERT: You know, the knee injury really woke me up. I think deep down, I knew pro ball wasn't in my future. When they let me keep my sports scholarship so long as my grades improved, I couldn't screw around anymore. So it ended up being a good thing.

EMMA: I don't know. You were really good. I loved going to your games.

ROBERT: I was good enough to get here at least. Who knows, maybe I'll be a sports doctor and get to treat all-star athletes.

EMMA: So... medical school.

ROBERT: And... law school.

EMMA: Who would've thought?

Robert chuckles and is about to reply when he is interrupted by a "ding" on Emma's cell phone. She touches the screen and checks the email message. Her eyes light up.

EMMA: It's my interview question.

ROBERT: Let me guess... "What's your favorite color?"

EMMA: *(rolls her eyes and then reads from her phone)* "Choose a United States Supreme Court decision with which you disagree. Come prepared to argue your case in front of a mock panel of Supreme Court Justices."

ROBERT: So you get to pick what you want to argue? Do they know who they're dealing with here?

EMMA: I don't even know where to start.

ROBERT: Well, they get a lot wrong. You'll have plenty to choose from.

EMMA: I'm gonna have to think this through. If I choose something easy, they'll think I'm a wimp. It has to be hard.

ROBERT: Sleep on it. You'll find the right thing.

EMMA: You have to help me, okay?

ROBERT: Oh... I don't know. I'm pretty busy.

(Emma cocks her head at him and raises an eyebrow.)

ROBERT: I'm kidding. I probably owe you my future medical career with all the study help you gave me. Say when and where. I'm in.

EMMA: I only have a week. Can we start tomorrow night?

ROBERT: Definitely.

(Robert and Emma dig into the pizza and continue their conversation.)

SCENE 2

(Robert and Emma are seated at a dining room table in Emma's family home. Books, notepads, and colored pens cover the dining room table. Crumpled pages litter the floor, their water glasses and plates are empty, and crumbs and used napkins are scattered about.)

ROBERT: I've never thought your position was crazy. It's just that there are a lot of strong feelings about abortion and *Roe vs. Wade*. Maybe you should pick something less controversial.

EMMA: Robert, the fact that I have to select a Supreme Court decision I think they got wrong means it's going to be controversial no matter what I pick.

ROBERT: Yeah, but you'll look like a nut-job, like how they make you guys look on television every time the subject comes up.

EMMA: You know, the vast majority of pro-life people have really sophisticated ideas and valid arguments about what abortion has done to innocent human beings and to our culture. I mean, abortion is one of the most fundamental violations of basic principles of ethics and justice. Just because the media is all one-sided doesn't mean we should just let them dominate the discussion, or tell us how we should think.

ROBERT: So you're the modern day William Wilberforce.

EMMA: Who?

ROBERT: That guy in the movie, "Amazing Grace."

EMMA: I didn't see it. What was it about?

ROBERT: *(rolls his eyes at her)* C'mon, Em. William Wilberforce should be your hero. He's a real guy who was a member of the English Parliament in the late 1700s and early 1800s. He worked

for decades to end the slavery of Africans by the English. But he was made to look like an idiot and a crazy zealot by the slave trade lobbyists. If Wilberforce's voice hadn't been squashed by all the powerful politicians and media who sided with the slave trade, then slavery in England would have probably ended 40 years earlier than it did.

EMMA: Which would have spared thousands of murdered and tortured slaves.

ROBERT: Right. Hey...why don't you do the slavery issue? The Supreme Court upheld slavery in 1857. That was a wrong decision. And it's politically correct to be against slavery.

EMMA: I don't care about what's politically correct. I'm choosing the subject of abortion because it's important. That's the problem with our society. People are always afraid to do the right thing because it might offend somebody. I think I can show the interview panel that I've got a strong case.

ROBERT: Okay. You're the boss. Let's hear some of your arguments, and I'll play the part of one of the justices.

EMMA: Okay... *(she looks down at the books on the table, and starts hunting for some of her notes. Emma's mother walks in, struggling with two large grocery bags)* Whoa... Mom!

ROBERT: Let me get that for you.

MOM: Ohh... *(breathing hard)* Thanks, Robert. They're heavier than I thought. What are you two working on? *(she and Robert put the bags on the counter and both rejoin Emma who sits back down)*

EMMA: My arguments against *Roe vs. Wade* for the law school scholarship.

MOM: *(leaning back into the chair while still trying to catch her breath)* Oh, right. Good for you. How's it going?

EMMA: So, I was thinking about starting with some basic principles of justice. I mean, you need them for civilization to exist, and *Roe vs. Wade* totally violated them.

ROBERT: Like what principle?

EMMA: So the first one is the principle of inalienable rights. I'll talk about how there are two kinds of rights. *Extrinsic* rights are like privileges you get because people voted to give them to you, or because a king gave them to you...whatever. That would be like how you have the right to drive when you're old enough to get a driver's license, and you have the right to vote when you turn 18, and you have the right to drink when you turn 21.

MOM: But you can have those rights taken away if you drink and drive.

EMMA: Right. Those rights can be taken away, as long as it's done fairly and equally.

ROBERT: So like you can't take away the right to drive from people who have red hair.

EMMA: Right, because that's completely arbitrary. Having red hair doesn't have anything to do with how qualified you are to drive. But you could deny the right to drive to five-year-olds, or to people who can't see...

MOM: Or to people who drink and drive.

EMMA: Right, Mom. Okay. We get the subliminal "don't drink and drive" message.

MOM: Good. (*getting up to leave*) I've got a dentist appointment in half an hour. Can you put away the groceries for me when you're done here?

EMMA: Sure.

MOM: You're looking good, Robert. Still working out, I see.

ROBERT: Yep. Every day.

MOM: And you're going to medical school. (*looking at Emma and nodding*) You'll make a great catch for some young woman some day...

EMMA: (*aghast*) MOM!

MOM: I'm just saying... (*turns to leave*) See ya!

ROBERT: See ya.

EMMA: (*totally embarrassed*) Bye! Oh my gosh. She's impossible. (*Robert grins at Emma*)

ROBERT: I think your mom's cute. (*Emma looks shocked and disgusted*) Not in that way! Good grief, Emma! Okay... let's get back on topic. So I'm a Supreme Court justice. What's your point, Counsel?

EMMA: Well, Your Honor—

ROBERT: That's a good start. I like being called Your Honor.

EMMA: (*shoots Robert a stern look*) Your Honor, as you know, there's another kind of right called "inalienable rights," which include the rights to life, liberty, and property. They're absolute and cannot be taken away from anybody, because they belong to human beings by nature.

ROBERT: What do you mean, "they belong to human beings by nature?"

EMMA: Nobody gave them to you. They belong to you because you're a human being. The fact that every single human being has intrinsic value means that we all owe each other a duty not to harm one another's life, liberty, and property. So "inalienable" means "inseparable." You can't separate inalienable rights from human beings. A king can't take them away from you. A court of law can't take them away from you. Even a unanimous vote in a

democracy can't take them away. If you're a human being, you have inalienable rights.

ROBERT: How does this apply to your argument against *Roe vs. Wade*?

EMMA: *Roe vs. Wade* attempted to take away the right to life of the unborn child, which science and logic has established is a genetically complete human being. So the *Roe vs. Wade* decision was a total violation of the inalienable right to life of the unborn child.

ROBERT: So, if you can't take away someone's inalienable rights, then why was slavery legal?

EMMA: Because the Supreme Court violated the inalienable right to liberty. Slavery was unjust, and was later overturned by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

ROBERT: Alright, so then why is it okay to put people in prison? Doesn't that violate someone's right to liberty?

EMMA: No, Your Honor. There are times when government can restrict someone's right to liberty. The whole purpose of a legitimate government is to protect the inalienable rights of its citizens. When someone goes around violating the inalienable rights of other people, the government has a duty to stop him, even if it means putting that person in prison. It's not violating his liberty. It's restricting his liberty as much as is necessary to keep him from harming other people. But the government still has to take that person's right to liberty seriously. He still has the right to liberty, even in prison. That's why we allow prisoners to have books to read, and religious services, and time to exercise; and it's why we can't torture or brainwash them.

ROBERT: Okay, but you just said the government can restrict your rights if it's necessary to stop you from violating other people's rights. A fetus violates the woman's right to liberty. So the Court had the authority to restrict the fetus' right to life.

EMMA: Your Honor, with all due respect, you can't exactly "restrict" the right to life. It's pretty much all or nothing. And an unborn baby doesn't violate a woman's right to liberty. Pregnancy is the natural way that all of us got here. It's the *law of nature*, so it can't be a *violation* of nature.

ROBERT: Okay, but a lot of women who don't want to be pregnant will still say that the fetus is restricting their liberty rights. Shouldn't those women have the freedom to choose abortion?

EMMA: Actually, don't you think that a compassionate society should try to find out why the woman feels like her liberty rights are being violated by being pregnant, and help her find better answers that don't include killing her own baby? If a woman thinks that her only option is abortion, it doesn't sound like she's very free.

ROBERT: You're not answering my question. What if society offers solutions to all of her problems, but she still wants an abortion just because she wants an abortion? Shouldn't she have the freedom to choose?

EMMA: I understand, Your Honor. In this case, we've got two inalienable rights conflicting with each other...the right to life and the right to liberty. How do you resolve that? You can't just say, "Well, the woman's bigger, so she should win," because that's arbitrary. How big you are doesn't have anything to do with whether or not you are valuable and have rights. And you can't just say, "Well, the woman is older, so she should win," because that's arbitrary too. Any physical characteristic is arbitrary, because what makes human beings valuable is not our physical characteristics. It's the fact that all human beings have the potential to perform extraordinary activities like love, creativity, compassion, and a whole lot of other things. So you can't use physical characteristics to resolve the rights conflict.

ROBERT: So what do you propose we do, Counsel?

EMMA: Well, look here... *(she moves some papers over and fumbles through some open books until she finds the right one)* There's this principle called, wait... *(she runs her finger down a page and turns back a page or two until she finds the spot)* ...there. It's called the "principle of the hierarchy of rights." *(she reads from the text)* "Abortion presents a conflict of two natural rights, and the principle of the hierarchy of rights gives a logical and objective rationale for prioritizing the right to life above the right to liberty. Life takes priority because it is an objectively necessary condition for the very possibility of liberty."

ROBERT: I'm not following.

EMMA: Okay, let's use the Supreme Court slavery case. Take the right to liberty and the right to property. Can you own property if you don't have liberty?

ROBERT: Sure.

EMMA: Really? Think about it. What does liberty mean?

ROBERT: It means freedom.

EMMA: Right. It means freedom over yourself. It means that you have ownership over your own future. You get to decide what you will be and think and do and pursue, right?

ROBERT: Right.

EMMA: Okay. So, let's say you're not free. You don't have any liberty. You're my slave. If I own you, who owns all your property?

ROBERT: Oh. You do, I guess.

EMMA: Exactly. The liberty right is necessary for the property right. So liberty is a more fundamental right.

ROBERT: So you're saying that if liberty and property rights are in conflict, then liberty rights have to win.

EMMA: Yes. And that's why slavery was wrong. The white landowner claimed a right to property. But the black person had a right to liberty. Liberty is a higher right than property. So nobody can ever own another human being, because it violates inalienable rights.

ROBERT: I see where you're going with this. You're gonna say that life is a more fundamental right than liberty.

EMMA: *(smiling)* Why would I say that, Your Honor?

ROBERT: Because life is necessary for liberty. You can't be free over your own future if you don't have a future because you're dead. So life is a more fundamental right, and it has to be protected first, before liberty. Therefore, in a conflict between a woman's right to liberty and the fetus' right to life, the law has to protect the fetus' right to life first, over the woman's right to liberty.

EMMA: Because...

ROBERT: Because without the right to life, the right to liberty can't exist.

EMMA: That's it. That's my argument.

ROBERT: Wow, Emma. That's pretty good.

EMMA: I know, right? So why in the world did the United States Supreme Court legalize abortion? It's a total miscarriage of justice, it totally ignores all the evidence of science and logic that the fetus is a human being, and it's completely irrational.

(Robert stares at her for a moment with a look of admiration.)

EMMA: So, do I get it?

ROBERT: Get what?

EMMA: The scholarship!

ROBERT: Well, Counsel, that depends on if you'll take me out for pizza.

EMMA: Pizza? What does that have to do with *Roe vs. Wade*?

ROBERT: Nothing, except all this studying has made me very hungry.

EMMA: Well, Your Honor...my flawless argument hasn't inspired you to ask me on a date, has it?

(Robert pauses, midway through putting his jacket on.)

EMMA: *(playfully hits him on the arm)* Relax, Robert. I'm joking.

ROBERT: *(Emma starts for the door, Robert still has a confused look on his face)* Right, of course. I knew that.

SCENE 3

(It's the day of Emma's interview. She is dressed in a suit and standing behind a podium, facing a panel of nine "Supreme Court Justices" in a law school auditorium. The members of the panel are taking notes, intently focused on Emma. A small audience of onlookers is seated behind the panel, including Emma's mother, father, and Robert. Robert looks very nervous, but Emma is cool and collected. When the scene opens, she is in the middle of an argument.)

EMMA: ...which clearly shows that the right to life of the child is a more fundamental right than the right to liberty of the mother. It must take priority in legal matters. It is a clear violation of the principle of the hierarchy of rights to argue that a prenatal human being must die in order to protect the liberty of the mother. The government does not have the authority to change the natural

order of human rights. Therefore, the government does not have the power to authorize the ending of one person's life in order to protect the liberty...

JUSTICE 1: (*interrupting*) Counsel, you're assuming that the fetus is a human person. I don't know if that's true. I don't think we can know for sure that the fetus is a person. And if it's not a person, it doesn't have any inalienable rights. So there's no conflict of rights, and abortion should remain legal.

EMMA: (*unfazed*) Your Honor, as I showed in my first argument, the science is very clear that the unborn child, at the moment of fertilization, is a unique individual with a full human genome. Logically speaking, there is nothing it could be other than a human person. But even if you're still unsure, the fact that you have doubts means that you must acknowledge that it *could* be a person.

JUSTICE 1: And that matters how? We're dealing with law here, Counselor, and law works with certainties.

EMMA: Not always, your honor. That's why we have the principle of non-maleficence, which is one of the most basic principles of ethics. And this Court is bound to uphold that principle.

JUSTICE 2: I assume now, you're going to educate us on ethics? Go ahead, Counselor. Enlighten us.

EMMA: (*maintaining politeness and composure*) The principle of non-maleficence is "Do no harm." It holds that when we are unsure about whether or not we are about to commit a harm to another human being, we must avoid the action.

JUSTICE 3: Can you give us an example of how this works in law?

EMMA: Yes... (*she flips through her notes for a few seconds until she finds what she is looking for*) ...In the state of Minnesota, you would be guilty of second-degree manslaughter if you caused the death of another human being by shooting a firearm through the

windows of a house, even if you didn't know there were human beings inside. In law, it's referred to as *(reading from her notes)* "creating an unreasonable risk and consciously taking chances of causing death or great bodily harm." *(looking up from her notes)* Nearly every state in the country has a law like this. It's a direct application of the principle of non-maleficence.

JUSTICE 2: I don't see how that applies here.

EMMA: When this Court legalized abortion in 1973, it violated the principle of non-maleficence by holding that in cases of uncertainty, you can commit a potential harm. The majority on the court admitted that they were unsure about when life begins. If they had followed the principle of non-maleficence, they would have instantly recognized their duty to "do no harm." Instead, they effectively said, "When in doubt, assume that a human being does not exist, and go ahead and shoot."

JUSTICE 1: *(sounding slightly annoyed)* Counselor, are you aware that there are no Supreme Court cases holding that fetuses are persons? There's absolutely no legal precedent for it.

EMMA: Your Honor, that's like arguing that since you can't find any Supreme Court cases saying that Egyptians are human beings, then Egyptians are not human beings. That doesn't make any sense. The absence of Supreme Court cases only proves that the Court had never dealt with the issue before.

JUSTICE 4: I find it curious that you think an unborn fetus has as much value as you and I. Even if it is a human person, the fetus is not fully developed and is totally dependent on its mother for survival. Most organs don't even appear until several weeks after fertilization.

EMMA: *(flipping backwards through her notes a few pages)* Your Honor, in the 1500s, the Spanish Conquistadors made a similar argument. They claimed that Native Americans were not worth as much as Spaniards were, because they were less developed in

their architecture, mathematics, science, art, and language. A friar by the name of Bartolomé de las Casas was an ardent defender of the Native Americans. He established a principle we now call the “principle of full human potential.” It says that every human being deserves to be valued according to what he is capable of achieving if he reaches his highest potential; not according to the development he has achieved at a particular time.

JUSTICE 4: Meaning?

EMMA: It means that you have to assign the same value and worth to an unborn child at any stage of development as you do to any other human being.

JUSTICE 1: And why is that, Counselor?

EMMA: Because the unborn child has just as much potential to achieve full human meaning as you and I do. If you choose to violate the principle of full human potential, then you will have to say that I am worth less as a human being than all of you are, because the human brain is not fully developed until 22 or 23 years of age, and I’m only 21. Are you willing to say that, Your Honors? *(there is a brief pause while Emma scans the panel)*

JUSTICE 2: *(abruptly)* Thank you, Counsel. That will be all.

(Emma pauses, smiles politely, and begins to exit. Robert meets her at the end of the stage where we overhear their conversation.)

ROBERT: Emma! That was incredible!

EMMA: *(showing visible relief)* You really think so?

ROBERT: Are you kidding? You were amazing!

EMMA: I hope they thought so, too. *(they exit)*

SCENE 4

(Emma sits alone on a couch in a dormitory main floor recreation room. Her eyes are red from either crying, or trying not to. While holding a letter in one hand, she hugs her knees against her chest, resting her chin on them and looking out the window. Robert enters the room and walks towards the stairwell, stopping as he sees Emma out of the corner of his eye. He turns and pauses when he sees the somber state she is in. He approaches her cautiously.)

ROBERT: Emma?

(Emma says nothing as Robert continues to approach her. He stands in front of her as a look of concern grows on his face.)

ROBERT: Em?

(Emma continues her silence. She doesn't look him in the eyes as she hands the letter over to him, remaining curled up on the couch. Robert takes the letter from her, removes the backpack from his shoulder and sets it down as he reads. A look of intense confusion crosses his face.)

ROBERT: “While we were impressed with your poise and confidence, the panel felt that your position on the *Roe vs. Wade* decision did not coincide with what this institution has come to expect from scholarship recipients.” Is this a joke?

EMMA: *(as a tear streams down her face)* Nope.

ROBERT: Your argument was solid. I don't get it.

EMMA: *(a little spiteful)* Oh, I get it. I totally get it. They completely discriminated against me because I held an unpopular position at their law school. They didn't even consider the logic and rationale behind my arguments. They weren't even listening!

(Robert is beside himself. He hands the letter back to her.)

ROBERT: Emma. I can't believe this. When you wrapped up your arguments, I wanted to stand up and cheer.

EMMA: You know, when we were doing the research and practicing, and when I was giving my presentation, I knew deep down I should have listened to you and gone with something like slavery. You were right. Because the minute—the very minute they heard me say that I chose *Roe vs. Wade* as a case I think the Supreme Court got wrong, I could see it in their eyes. But I soldiered on and gave it everything, just like I always do.

ROBERT: Emma...

EMMA: I should have never chosen that case. I should have known better. I did know better. But, stupid Emma has to try and change the world. And now, guess what? My chance at a really good future is ruined. I held to the truth and found out what it's worth. Nothing.

ROBERT: *(completely shocked)* I don't think I've been ashamed of anything you've ever said until now.

EMMA: Whatever Robert. It's not like you've ever had to deal with something like this. You've never tried to go against the grain when it's the right thing to do. You've just gone with the flow. And why shouldn't you? Your parents are stable and secure. You had no problem getting a student loan. You've been free to do whatever you want to do your whole life. "Sports doesn't work out? I'll just go to medical school."

(Robert sits quietly in the rubble of Emma's harsh words. He lets her continue.)

EMMA: Me? I'm not free. I'm trapped. I'm trapped by my own beliefs because I won't just buy my way in. I try to have a voice in this totally messed up culture, and because society is messed up, I'm in my own little prison. Right here. With no future.

(Robert waits a moment. His jaw tightens a little as he tries to keep a level head.)

ROBERT: You finished?

EMMA: Oh, I'm done. I'm so totally done.

ROBERT: How dare you.

EMMA: Excuse me?

ROBERT: How dare you tell me that I've had it easy. How dare you tell me that I'm free because I go with the flow. You think I've had it easy? Just because financial things come easier for me doesn't make me free. And neither does "going with the flow." I've spent my whole life wondering who I am and what I even believe. You think that makes me free? Are you kidding me?

EMMA: Whatever, Robert.

ROBERT: And how dare you pity yourself. Trapped. Please. Give me a break. You're the most free person I know.

EMMA: You really don't have a clue, do you?

ROBERT: Emma, shut up and listen. *(there's a brief pause while they look at each other)* You're free because you have principles and values and do whatever is in your power to pursue what is true, and right, and good. And you do it regardless of what people might think. You don't do it to throw it in their face. You do it because you believe it's right and you're willing to fight and put everything on the line for it.

EMMA: Where's that gotten me, Robert? No law school, no future...

ROBERT: Listen to yourself, will you? I know you're taking this hard, but the Emma I know—the Emma I've come to respect more than just about anyone I've ever met—she licks her wounds, picks herself up, and charges forward.

EMMA: I don't think that's who I can be anymore, Robert.

ROBERT: You remember back in high school? How you stuck up for that kid Andrew? When everyone else was picking on him and bullying him, you showed him love and compassion. When everyone else was saying he would be better off having been aborted, you were finding the miracle in what he could be and who he was. Your courage and your wisdom...your love and principles are why I love you so much. So, please. Knock off the pity party.

(Emma relaxes a little. Her shoulders slump and she sighs, retreating from her defenses.)

EMMA: I'm sorry, Robert. I shouldn't have said those things. And I love you too. I mean, just like friends, of course.

ROBERT: *(trying not to appear awkward)* Right, of course. That's what I meant too.

EMMA: I'm so embarrassed. I can't believe I let it get to me like that.

ROBERT: Em, you have a right to be ticked off. I'm ticked off about it too. But you're going to land on your feet. God has a plan for you and you're going to find a way. *(She looks curiously at him at this statement. He nods back at her)* And no matter what, I'm gonna stand by your side and help you find it.

EMMA: What would I do without you, Robert?

ROBERT: You'd probably throw it all away and go work for some big boring company, which would be a total waste of your talents.

(Emma smiles and nods. She begins to chuckle a little. She hugs Robert.)

EMMA: Thanks, Robert. Thanks for always being there.

(As they break from their embrace, the stage goes dark.)