

**ACT 1. SCENE 1. PROLOGUE-SIREN'S DEN DRESSING ROOM**

(Lights rise. 5 VULTURES stand frozen center stage with their arms outstretched like wings. They wear black gothic attire and dark makeup. As the music begins, the VULTURES flap their arms in unison. They part to reveal a NEWS REPORTER from NY1 and his camera man, interviewing REMY MORGAN, a young 20 something in a satin robe, with a hard edge. Outside stage left, there is a neon sign that reads, "Siren's Den." Underneath is a crumbling "Skylar Cole" poster on a brick wall.)

NEWS REPORTER

I'm here backstage at The Siren's Den with Remy Morgan, whose breakout hit single, "Fragile Little Doll," has recently topped the billboard charts. It's a pleasure to meet you, Ms. Morgan. Congrats on your success!

REMY

Thank you. It seems like just yesterday that I was a cocktail waitress here.

NEWS REPORTER

This little West Village venue gained notoriety after it catapulted indie rockstar Skylar Cole to stardom in the late 70's. It must be intimidating to perform on a stage with so much history!

REMY

I-

NEWS REPORTER

Your song is surprisingly edgy for a young girl who hails from Ohio. Rumor has it that your music was influenced by a rivalry with Skylar Cole. Are the rumors true? Did you know her personally?

REMY

(Pause)

No. No one could.

(Lights up on JESSIE, the leader of the VULTURES. She wears black, gothic attire and a beanie.)

JESSIE  
EVERY STORY HAS THREE SIDES  
BOTH GUILTY PARTIES TEND TO LIE  
THEN ALL THAT'S LEFT IS WHAT IS TRUE  
THE PART THAT IS KEPT HIDDEN FROM VIEW

REMY  
I'm feeling a little dizzy. Can I have some water, please?

JESSIE  
(Swooping in)  
We're out of time. Ms. Morgan needs to get  
ready for her show.

(JESSIE pulls the NEWS REPORTER  
aside. REMY exits)

JESSIE  
I thought I made it very clear that those kinds of  
questions were off limits.

NEWS REPORTER  
I was just trying to get to the bottom of a good story.  
It's sweeps week.

JESSIE  
REMY IS A SELF-MADE STAR  
SHE WORKED FOR YEARS TO GET THIS FAR  
AND NOW THAT SHE'S ACHIEVED HER FAME  
PLEASE DON'T MENTION SKYLAR COLE'S NAME

## **BLACKOUT**

### **ACT 1. SCENE 2. INSIDE SIREN'S DEN-3 years earlier**

(REMY enters wearing a white  
button-down shirt and black skirt.  
Behind her, a sign, "Siren's Den,"  
hangs on the back wall, along with  
paintings of ancient Greek  
sirens.)

REMY  
Wow. It looks just like it did in the photos.

(REMY cautiously takes to the  
stage and sings, the volume  
growing increasingly louder as she  
gets carried away. TONY the bar  
manager enters, a gruff New Yorker  
type.)

REMY  
I'M YOUR POISON

THERE'S NO ANTIDOTE FOR ME  
I'M YOUR POISON  
I FEED YOUR MISERY...  
I WILL SHAKE YOU TO YOUR CORE-

TONY  
(Interrupting)  
Hey you!

REMY  
(Louder and oblivious)  
THE ONLY WAY TO EASE THE PAIN'S  
TO HAVE ME SOME MO-OOO-OOOORE...

TONY  
Hey! Get offa the stage!

REMY  
Oh gosh, I'm sorry. I know I shouldn't have been up there, it was only for a second. Please don't fire me.

TONY  
Hey! Cocktail waitress number one! Back to work.

REMY  
My name is Remy.

TONY  
(Beat) I don't care. Stay offa the stage. This ain't amateur night at the Apollo.

REMY  
I'm actually a singer.

TONY  
Sure. And I'm actually not high on cocaine right now. Grab a tray. You got a steady hand to carry bottles?

REMY  
Sure.

TONY  
Great. This ain't rocket science. You take the drink orders, you serve the drinks, Skylar Cole does her set, you clear the drinks-

(REMY drops the tray on the ground)

TONY  
Hey! Butterfingers! You okay? You look a little pale. Are you gonna puke? Seriously. Don't puke on this floor.

REMY  
I'm fine.

TONY  
Good.

REMY  
It's just, Skylar Cole is singing tonight? I didn't think, I mean, I knew she started out here, obviously, but from what I read, it's been so long since she-

TONY  
She's back from some world tour and wanted to do something "nostalgic." These hippie dippie music types. Something about returning to her roots? She'll be here every Friday and Saturday night for a while. And so will my hangover. Look, I gotta go do some inventory. Don't make me regret hiring you. I can find another chick like you in this town (snaps his fingers) like that, um-

REMY  
Remy.

BAR MANAGER  
Yeah, whatever.

**SONG: IF SHE SEES ME**

REMY  
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PASSED OVER  
STANDING BY MYSELF  
I BLENDED WITH THE WALLS  
WISHING I WAS SOMEONE ELSE

BUT WHEN I HEARD SKYLAR ON THE RADIO  
THAT'S WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED  
AS SHE SANG HER HEART OUT  
I KNEW I'D NEVER BE THE SAME

BACK IN OHIO, EVERYONE SETTLED DOWN  
LIVED OUT THEIR LIVES INSIDE THEIR HOMETOWN  
NO ONE MUCH CARED WHAT I HAD TO SAY  
SO I WROTE IT ALL DOWN AND LOCKED IT AWAY

(REMY touches the SKYLAR poster  
and emulates her pose)

I WAS SO POSSESSED BY ROCK AND ROLL  
THAT I HAD TO GET CLOSER TO SEE SKYLAR COLE

SHE'S THE REASON I FOUND MY VOICE  
I HAVE A PURPOSE, IT'S MORE THAN A CHOICE

I HOPED THAT LIFE WOULD BE DIFFERENT HERE  
A PLACE TO SHARE MY SONGS  
BUT SO FAR NO ONE'S LISTENING  
AND EVERY WORD SEEMS WRONG

I'M SURE I'LL BE INVISIBLE  
I'M SURE SHE'LL LOOK RIGHT THROUGH  
BUT WHAT IF I'VE THE CHANCE TO SAY  
I'M HERE BECAUSE OF YOU?

AND MAYBE TONIGHT I WON'T BE SUCH A MESS  
WITH SKYLAR'S APPROVAL, I'M BOUND FOR SUCCESS  
SHE'LL SAY DON'T YOU DARE EVER LAY DOWN YOUR PEN  
'CUZ YOUR TURN IS COMING TO SING AT THE DEN

AND FINALLY I'LL BE KNOWN  
AND NOT FEEL SO ALONE  
AND IF SHE SEES ME  
I MEAN REALLY SEES ME  
THEN THE PROMISE LOCKED INSIDE  
THE DOORS I'VE BEEN DENIED  
WILL OPEN WIDE

(REMY jumps up on the stage and  
the entire cast, sans SKYLAR,  
surround her in a silhouetted mosh  
pit under a strobe light)

AND MAYBE ONE DAY I COULD CHANGE SOMEONE'S WORLD  
MY SONGS COULD INSPIRE SOME YOUNG GIRL  
AND THEN WHAT IF SHE WERE TO LOOK UP TO ME  
AS SOMEONE THAT SUDDENLY SHE LONGS TO BE?

(CAST EXITS)

AND IF SHE SEES ME  
I MEAN REALLY SEES ME  
I MIGHT LOSE CONTROL  
MY LIFE WILL START WHEN I MEET...

...SKYLAR COLE!

TONY (FROM OFF-STAGE)  
Get offa the stage!

REMY  
Sorry! Here goes nothin'.

(Remy opens the doors for the  
VULTURES. JESSIE enters first.)

JESSIE

Get Skylar's newest album! Only \$20!

(A pulsing bass plays. VULTURES  
filter in, dancing all over the  
bar. During the song, Remy takes  
orders and delivers drinks.  
JESSIE sells CDs)

OFF STAGE ANNOUNCER VOICE

Ladies and gentleman, give it up for tonight's star siren,  
SKYLAR COLE!!!

(The stage fills with smoke. The  
lights flash red. The drums  
pound. SKYLAR emerges upstage  
center. The VULTURES dance around  
her. REMY watches, mesmerized.)

**SONG: POISON**

SKYLAR

POISON FOR YOUR MIND

POISON FOR YOUR SOUL

POISON IS THE WAY YOU THINK I'LL MAKE YOU WHOLE

POISON FOR YOUR BODY

POISON FOR YOUR BRAIN

POISON IS THE WAY I'M PULSING THROUGH YOUR VEINS

I'M NOT THE DEVIL'S EYE

I'M NOT YOUR GOD ON HIGH

ALL I NEED'S COMPLETE DEVOTION

TO OWN ALL OF YOUR EMOTION

CHORUS:

I'M YOUR POISON

THERE'S NO ANTIDOTE FOR ME

I'M YOUR POISON

I'LL FEED YOUR MISERY

I WILL SHAKE YOU TO YOUR CORE

THE ONLY WAY TO EASE THE PAIN'S

TO HAVE ME SOME MORE

POISON WITH ONE KISS

POISON WITH ONE LOOK

POISON IS THE WAY YOU SEE ME AND YOU'RE HOOKED

POISON IN YOUR MOUTH

POISON IN YOUR HANDS  
POISON IS THE WAY YOU TOUCH ME AND YOU'RE DAMNED

I'M NOT THE DEVIL'S EYE  
I'M NOT YOUR GOD ON HIGH  
ALL I NEED'S COMPLETE DEVOTION  
TO OWN ALL OF YOUR EMOTION

CHORUS:

I'M YOUR POISON  
THERE'S NO ANTIDOTE FOR ME  
I'M YOUR POISON  
I'LL FEED YOUR MISERY  
I WILL SHAKE YOU TO YOUR CORE  
THE ONLY WAY TO EASE THE PAIN'S  
TO HAVE ME SOME MORE

(SKYLAR appears to sing the next  
verse right to REMY in slow  
motion. Perhaps a strobe effect.  
Spotlight on SKYLAR and REMY. All  
else fades away.)

I'LL TAKE YOU TO OBLIVION

VULTURES  
AHHHHH

SKYLAR  
OPEN YOUR LIPS AND LET ME IN

VULTURES  
AHHHHH

SKYLAR  
I WILL HOLD YOU WHILE YOU FALL

VULTURES  
AHHHHH

VULTURES AND JESSIE  
BUT WHEN YOU'RE DOWN

(Music snaps back to real time as  
JESSIE blocks REMY from getting  
closer to SKYLAR.)

DON'T LOOK FOR ME AT ALL  
WITHOUT ME YOU ARE WEAK  
WITHOUT ME YOU ARE SICK  
YOU CANNOT FEEL THE BLOOD

THAT TRICKLES FROM ONE PRICK  
WITHOUT ME YOU ARE DRY  
WITHOUT ME YOU ARE NUMB  
YOU MAY AS WELL JUST DIE  
WITHOUT YOUR POISON  
OH, I'M YOUR POISON  
THERE'S NO ANTIDOTE FOR ME  
I'M YOUR POISON  
I'LL FEED YOUR MISERY  
I WILL SHAKE YOU TO YOUR CORE  
THE ONLY WAY TO EASE THE PAIN'S  
TO HAVE ME SOME MORE

JUST HAVE A LITTLE MORE  
JUST ONE MORE LITTLE TASTE  
JUST HAVE A LITTLE MORE  
DON'T LET ME GO TO WASTE  
I'M YOUR POISON

(The VULTURES cheer wildly.  
JESSIE embraces SKYLAR while REMY  
cleans the bar tables and VULTURES  
filter out with excited adlibbed  
banter: "She's so hot" "I love  
that song." "I want those pants."  
"That fucking rocked.")

JESSIE

It's so good to see you! I missed you so much.

SKYLAR

It's good to see you too, Jess!

JESSIE

We have so much catching up to do! What was your favorite  
tour city? Was there tequila skinny dipping? Tell me  
everything!

SKYLAR

(Strokes her throat)

The gift is tired, Jessie. I'm still on Japan time. How  
were sales tonight?

(JESSIE hands her a wad of cash)

SKYLAR

This is it? Not exactly the big "welcome home" I was  
hoping for. You got the other stuff?



(JESSIE holds up a packet of powder. SKYLAR gives back the wad of cash in exchange for the drugs.)

SKYLAR

Ah, just like old times. Thanks, girl. You're a life saver.

JESSIE

You're thirty bucks short. Just like old times.

SKYLAR

I'll just have to make it up to you somehow. *(She winks)*

JESSIE

How?

SKYLAR

We'll talk soon, I promise.

JESSIE

Just like we talked while you were on tour? You didn't reach out once. I kept hoping to hear from you.

SKYLAR

Things just got too hectic. You know how it is. Yo, I gotta go change out of this leather. I'm chaffing!

JESSIE

See you outside then? Everyone is waiting.

SKYLAR

Good to know the Vultures are still hungry!

(JESSIE exits. SKYLAR drops her rockstar demeanor and looks around at her old stomping grounds)

SKYLAR

*(With slight disdain)*

Hello, old friend.

(SKYLAR picks up an acoustic guitar from the stage. She sits on the edge of the stage and begins to play and sing a

melancholy tune, as it comes to  
her)

SKYLAR  
I'M HOME AGAIN  
AND IT FEELS SO SMALL  
YEAH, HOME AGAIN  
DON'T RECOGNIZE IT AT ALL  
SOMETIMES THE TRUTH  
IS A HARD TO SWALLOW PILL  
LIFE CATCHES UP  
WHEN YOU'RE STANDING STILL  
WHEN YOU'RE STANDING STILL

(SKYLAR puts her head in her hands.  
REMY quietly tries to exit, but  
clumsily knocks into a table)

SKYLAR  
Hello? Sorry, I didn't know anyone was still here. Did  
you want me to sign somethin'?

REMY  
(*Rambling*)  
No, I was just, I'm, I was working, but now I'm done  
working, so I was leaving, from the working- I didn't mean  
to intrude on your privacy. (*She starts to leave again,  
then comes back*) But I wanted to meet you my whole life  
and now you're here, and I'm here and suddenly I can't  
think of how to make words... happen-am I really still  
talking right now? Yep. Yes I am. In that case, I just  
have to say, you are so-

SKYLAR  
(Looking up and really taking REMY in)  
You. Are so. Beautiful.

REMY  
I... wait, I'm supposed to say that to you.

SKYLAR  
I saw you out there in the crowd, mouthing the words. Your  
shirt was very...white.

(SKYLAR tenderly strokes REMY'S  
shirt)

SKYLAR  
Ooh, crispy.

REMY  
If we don't iron and starch we get sent home.

SKYLAR  
You're funny. You got a name?

REMY  
Remy.

SKYLAR  
I love that. Remy. Rem de la crem. I'm gonna remember that. (*Putting out her hand*) Skylar Cole.

REMY  
I know who you are.

(A clap of THUNDER as their hands touch)

SKYLAR  
Damn rain's gonna mess up my weave.

REMY  
That's not real?

SKYLAR  
Girl, please. It's all an illusion. Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain.

REMY  
(*Rambling*)  
Is this really happening? I've been listening to you for years and you're the reason I started writing music myself. "Poison" is my go to song to sing in the shower. Not that I think about you in the shower... Oh god, I can't believe I just said that.

SKYLAR  
Relax. You're so cute. (*Wiping tears*) I must look like a frickin' mess.

(REMY awkwardly hands SKYLAR her dish rag to use as a tissue)

SKYLAR  
Thank you. I swear this place used to be a lot bigger. I remember when it was packed wall to wall. Standing room only. There was a giant mosh pit right here. I could leap off the stage and know that a crowd would be there to catch me. If I tried that now, I'd just fall flat on my damn face.

REMY

Everyone loved the show tonight. And that was a great song you were just playing. I didn't recognize it.

SKYLAR

I suddenly got an idea for this tune and I had to get it out. I'm just a vessel. But nobody wants to hear new stuff nowadays. They only ever want to hear the old hits. No one gives a shit about the artist. At the end of the day, you just gotta give the people what they want.

REMY

Well, I want to hear it. And I want to write with you sometime and sing with you and pick your brain and-

SKYLAR

Do you want to see backstage?

REMY

I'm not allowed back there.

SKYLAR

Well, I say you are.

(SKYLAR takes her hand. JESSIE enters.)

JESSIE

Hey, are you coming?

SKYLAR

Not tonight, Jess. Text me. Love you, mean it!

JESSIE

I thought you were tired.

(JESSIE glares angrily and exits)

REMY

Who is that?

SKYLAR

Oh, just one of the Vultures.

REMY

Vultures?

SKYLAR

That's what I call you guys. (Pause) Oh, but not you.  
You're cool.

**ACT 1. SCENE 3: SKYLAR'S DRESSING ROOM**

(There is a velvet chaise lounge,  
a small vanity with a mirror  
surrounded by lights, Christmas  
lights, and Renaissance print  
paintings of the ancient Greek  
sirens. SKYLAR lights some  
incense.)

SKYLAR

Glamorous isn't it? Stinks like mold and b.o. One day all  
this shall be yours!

REMY

I wish.

SKYLAR

Hey, I can trust you right?

REMY

Of course.

SKYLAR

Good. I don't take trust lightly, Remy

(SKYLAR prepares a line of coke)

SKYLAR

Did you want?

REMY

Oh, no. I don't...

SKYLAR

Good for you. Don't let me corrupt you.

REMY

(Deep breath)

So... how do you do it?

SKYLAR

Well, you use a credit card to grind it and then-

REMY

No! I mean, how do you write? You've made four albums. Where do you get your inspiration?

SKYLAR

You're gonna think I'm loony tunes, but I swear, my best songs were divine intervention. You said you were a songwriter too?

REMY

Aspiring. I guess. I've been writing my whole life, but I've never experienced being "a vessel."

SKYLAR

Why do you write music?

REMY

Because I want to be a singer and so I-

SKYLAR

When you write a song not because you want to, but because you HAVE to, then people will listen. I promise. And if you're all blocked up, try the bacon burger here, that should do it. (Pause) I'm kidding! Definitely don't eat the bacon burger. Shit, man. Music used to be about heart and soul! Now it's just boy bands gyrating. Hey, you should check out Echoes Bar sometime. They have these open mic Mondays. You never know who might hear you.

(SKYLAR does a line. REMY looks at photos on SKYLAR'S dressing room mirror)

REMY

Oh, I'd be too scared to play out in front of people.

SKYLAR

If you never do the things that scare you, how can you grow?

REMY

You make a good point. Where are these pictures from?

SKYLAR

Oh, that's me at the Liquid Room in Japan this past year. And that's from the Matrix Club in Berlin, back in the early 80's. You were probably a fetus then. Oh, yeah, you like that outfit? I picked that out while in Amsterdam and on blow.

REMY

Wow. You've seen and done it all. I've seen...Ohio.

SKYLAR

You're in New York now, baby. You'll make the rounds.  
Why'd you leave?

REMY

My dad is a pharmacist and my mom is a math teacher.  
That's not what I saw for myself. I wanted to be like you.  
I never fit in back home. New York was always the goal. So  
as soon as I saved up enough money I hopped the bus and got  
out of there! My parents don't support it but they know  
they can't stop me.

SKYLAR

Renegade Remy! Being stubborn is a good trait for a  
musician to have. This business can be ruthless.

REMY

You must love it. Seeing the world, sharing your music,  
meeting the fans...

SKYLAR

Yeah. 'cept I thought I could come back and pick up where  
I left off, but the rest of the world seems to have  
forgotten about me.

REMY

How could anyone ever forget about you?

**SONG: AMAZING**

SKYLAR:

NO ONE'S BUYING ALBUMS ANYMORE  
NO ONE BUT THE VULTURES ARE HANGIN' ROUND THE STAGEDOOR  
ONCE YOU'VE BEEN AWAY, NEW YORK FORGETS  
JUST HOW MUCH YOU MATTERED, AND HOW YOUR LIFE WAS SET

WHO AM I WITHOUT THE FAME?  
WHO AM I IF NO ONE'S CALLING OUT MY NAME?  
I'M SOMEONE CLINGING ONTO THE PAST  
NOT LETTING GO, JUST TRYING TO MAKE IT LAST

REMY

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL YOU'VE GOT IT ALL  
SITTING AT THE TOP, THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM TO FALL  
BUT WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO SING LIKE YOU  
TO PUT MY MUSIC OUT THERE, AND HEAR THE CROWDS SING TOO

YOU'RE AMAZING  
YOU SET THE ROOM ABLAZE  
YOU'RE AMAZING  
I'LL ALWAYS SING YOUR PRAISE

SKYLAR

Man. You remind me why I got into all this in the first place. That drive, that hunger...never lose that. Yo, it's gettin' late. I'm about to turn into a pumpkin. Why don't you come by next week before the show? Maybe we can jam a little.

REMY

Seriously?

SKYLAR

Why not? Meet me on the roof. I like to unwind up there. Stellar view of the city. I think it'll be good to have you around.

SKYLAR

LIVING ON THE ROAD CAN MAKE YOU NUMB  
UNTIL THE DAY YOU REALIZE HOW LONELY YOU'VE BECOME  
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WEIGH THE SACRIFICE  
SO MANY THINGS WE GIVE UP, JUST TO LIVE THIS LIFE

REMY AND SKYLAR

PEOPLE LEAVE BUT WE'LL LIVE ON  
IMMORTAL IN THE MUSIC  
AND THOSE WHO PLAY OUR SONGS  
I CAN'T HELP FEEL WE'VE MET BEFORE  
YOU UNDERSTAND, WE HAVE COMMON GROUND FOR SURE

REMY AND SKYLAR

IT'S AMAZING

REMY

TO BE AT THE SIREN'S DEN

REMY AND SKYLAR

IT'S AMAZING

SKYLAR

TO FEEL RELEVANT AGAIN

REMY AND SKYLAR

I LIKE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT ME  
LIKE YOU CAN SEE RIGHT INTO ME  
I'LL BE WHAT YOU WANT ME TO  
I WILL BE SOMEBODY WHO'S

AMAZING

SKYLAR

Hey, I gotta go. Can you spot me some money for a metro card?



GOODNIGHT, REMY.

(SKYLAR gently pecks REMY on the lips. SKYLAR and REMY'S hands slide apart. SKYLAR exits. REMY smiles, touching her lips.)

**ACT 1. SCENE 4: SIREN'S DEN STAGEDOOR**

(JESSIE exits and the VULTURES clamor around her, expecting Skylar.)

VULTURE 1  
Skylar, I'm going as you for Halloween!

JESSIE  
Calm down, it's just me. She's not coming.

VULTURE 2  
We've been waiting all night!

VULTURE 3  
More like all year!

VULTURE 1  
Did your big reunion tire her out?

JESSIE  
Yeah right. She barely even acknowledged me.

VULTURE 3  
After everything you've done for her? That's messed up.

VULTURE 4  
Maybe she's just enjoying her alone time.

JESSIE  
Oh, she's not alone. There's some girl with her. Who she's "enjoying."

VULTURE 2  
Maybe she got a new dealer?

JESSIE  
That mousy little white girl isn't dealing anything.

VULTURE 1  
Doesn't that bitch know who runs the fan club?

JESSIE  
Apparently not. But she will.

**ACT 1. SCENE 5. SIREN'S DEN ROOFTOP**

(REMY enters out of breath)

REMY  
Hey!

SKYLAR  
You made it! Check it out! It's my favorite place in the whole city. Helps me clear my head.

REMY  
Wow. Is that a shooting star?

SKYLAR  
Uh, it's a airplane. Man, you ARE from Ohio.

(SKYLAR plays with her necklace)

REMY  
Is that the necklace from the cover of your Whips and Chains album?

SKYLAR  
Good eye! You know what? It's yours.

REMY  
Oh, no I couldn't pull that off, I-

(SKYLAR fastens the necklace on REMY)

SKYLAR  
Looks good on you.

REMY  
If I wore something like this back home, I'd never live it down.

SKYLAR  
Girl, I grew up in bumblefuck Pennsylvania and still wore leather pants to History class on Mondays. Be who you are.

REMY  
I'm a fuckin' bad ass.

(REMY makes the "rock" sign and sticks out her tongue. SKYLAR laughs, and her laughs

turn to tears)

REMY

Are you...what happened?

SKYLAR

Oh man, just hearing you curse. I'm sorry, when I laugh real hard I start cryin'. I don't know who I was in a past life to be punished with this affliction, but-

REMY

You believe in that past life stuff?

SKYLAR

Oh, it's totally legit! We travel in these soul circles and reconnect with our kindred spirits, but we're doomed to keep coming back and making the same mistakes over and over until we learn the lesson. But fuck me, I never learn!

REMY

Do you think WE knew each other? Before?

SKYLAR

Oh, I know we did. I'm glad I found you again.

(Thunder CRASH)

REMY

It's gonna rain. Maybe we should head back in.

SKYLAR

Mmmm I love the rain. It's cleansing, you know? Washes away sins. What's the harm in getting' a little wet?

(The innuendo is not lost on REMY. SKYLAR positions herself with her guitar. SHE strums)

SKYLAR

C'mon, let's do this! Jam session '96! You wanted to know how I write? This is it. No judgment, we're just gonna let it flow. You're an artist, you get it. What comes to mind?

REMY

Ummm...falling raindrops. Wet pavement. Lightning.

SKYLAR

What else? How does it make you feel?

(REMY pulls out her waitress notepad. She writes down the lyrics as they come to her.)

**SONG: KISSING IN THE RAIN**

REMY  
FALLING SO GENTLY  
LIKE I FELL FOR YOU  
BRUSHING THE ROOFTOPS  
IN GLIST'NING CRYSTAL HUES  
  
WASHING AWAY THE TEARS  
REFLECTING ALL THE STARS  
PURIFYING OUR SOULS

SKYLAR  
TONIGHT THE SKY IS OURS

REMY  
I WANNA KISS YOU IN THE RAIN  
I WANNA WIPE THE DROPLETS FROM YOUR EYES  
I WANNA KISS YOU IN THE RAIN  
BEFORE WE HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE  
THE SALT OF YOUR LIPS

SKYLAR  
THE WHISPER OF THE RAIN

REMY  
KISSING TO TAKE AWAY THE PAIN

SKYLAR  
Nice! My turn.

SKYLAR  
THE STARLIGHT SPARKLES  
UPON YOUR FACE  
MIST AND WIND SURROUND US

REMY  
Ooh!  
LIKE AN EMBRACE

SKYLAR  
WASHING AWAY THE FEARS  
OF OUR MORTALITY  
AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER

REMY  
WE'LL CREATE OUR OWN REALITY

REMY AND SKYLAR  
I WANNA KISS YOU IN THE RAIN  
I WANNA WIPE THE DROPLETS FROM YOUR EYES

I WANNA KISS YOU IN THE RAIN  
BEFORE WE HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE  
THE SALT OF YOUR LIPS  
THE WHISPER OF THE RAIN  
KISSING TO TAKE AWAY THE PAIN

(SKYLAR jams out on her  
guitar. A full band kicks  
in, as if they can both hear  
the music in their heads.  
REMY dances in the rain)

REMY  
THE RAIN WASHES OVER  
THE PAST MISTAKES WE'VE MADE  
WE'LL KEEP RETURNING  
UNTIL THE PRICE IS PAID  
I WAS BORN ANEW  
SO THAT I COULD FIND YOU  
YOU'RE PART OF MY TRIBE, I NEED YOU TO SURVIVE  
KISS ME TO STAY ALIVE

SKYLAR  
Come 'ere.

(SKYLAR puts down the guitar  
and pulls REMY in for a  
kiss)

**ACT 1. SCENE 6: TRANSITION INTO ECHOES BAR OPEN MIC**

(During the musical interlude,  
ECHOES bar appears around them.  
VULTURES as bar patrons sit at  
candlelit tables. LOGAN sits at  
the bar. He is an attractive 30  
something in a corduroy blazer.  
REMY sits at the piano in front of  
the band and concludes her open  
mic song)

**SONG: KISSING IN THE RAIN CONT.**

REMY  
I WANNA KISS YOU IN THE RAIN  
I WANNA WIPE THE DROPLETS FROM YOUR EYES  
I WANNA KISS YOU IN THE RAIN  
BEFORE WE HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE  
THE SALT OF YOUR LIPS  
THE WHISPER OF THE RAIN  
KISSING TO TAKE AWAY THE PAIN

KISSING TO TAKE AWAY THE PAIN  
KISSING TO TAKE AWAY THE PAIN

(PATRONS applaud. REMY exits the stage)

LOGAN

Hey, I dug your song. There was real feeling in there.

REMY

Thank you. It's brand new. I was so nervous.

LOGAN

Well, you were great. Usually when I come in here the singers are, I don't want to say, "talent free," but... Yeah. That's what I'll say. You're a diamond in the rough, for sure.

REMY

I was inspired. The song practically wrote itself.

LOGAN

And now you've inspired me! I'm here scouting tonight and I was wondering if you-

REMY

Sorry, I'm not interested.

LOGAN

You don't even know what I was going to say.

REMY

You were about to say how you've been scouting the women in here and were wondering if you could buy me a drink. Thank you, but I didn't come here for that. I just wanted to be heard.

LOGAN

Well, I heard you. And I was *wondering* if you had any representation or if I should talk to you directly. Logan Grant. Talent scout. From Midnight Muse Records.

REMY

I am so frickin' rude! I've heard of your label. You're huge! I mean, it's huge. It's a huge label. Remy Morgan. And it's just me. I mean, you should just talk to me. Like you're doing now.

(Awkward silence as LOGAN stares.  
They remain stuck in a way too  
long handshake.)

REMY

What happened to the talking?

LOGAN

I'm sorry it's just, your whole energy...you remind me of  
someone.

REMY

I do?

LOGAN

Yeah, just this singer who... She's... Nevermind.

REMY

So, about that drink that I rudely refused...

LOGAN

That I never offered you...

REMY

Right...

LOGAN

I don't even drink. Anymore. Here's my card. Let's set  
something up.

#### **ACT 1. SCENE 7: RECORDING STUDIO**

(REMY is behind a standing  
microphone and wearing  
headphones.)

LOGAN

You're a natural. A one take wonder! You sure you've  
never been inside a recording studio before?

REMY

First time.

LOGAN

I'm really glad we're doing this demo.

REMY  
Me too.

(Awkward silent moment of  
flirtation.)

LOGAN  
The final mix of this is going to be killer.

REMY  
Did Skylar Cole ever record here?

LOGAN  
(He is taken aback)  
Years ago. On that very spot in fact.

REMY  
Were you at her recording sessions?!

LOGAN  
I've been at this label a long time. I know what  
you're thinking. He can't be older than 25! I  
moisturize. (Pause) Why do you ask?

REMY  
I work at The Siren's Den. We hang out sometimes after her  
show.

LOGAN  
Has she mentioned me?

REMY  
No, why would she?

LOGAN  
No reason. Okay, back to work! I'll pump up the reverb  
and cue you in. From the chorus. Yeah? A 1, 2, 3...

REMY  
Does she bring a lot of people backstage, do you think?

LOGAN  
What does it matter?

REMY  
I don't know.

LOGAN  
We only have the studio for another half hour. We  
should probably track these vocals and-



REMY

The thing is, ever since I met her, I can't stop writing. I can't get the words down on paper fast enough. It's like divine intervention or something. I think...I think I maybe love her.

LOGAN

(Hangs his head)  
Of course you do.

REMY

What does that mean?

LOGAN

Her JOB is to make people fall in love with her. That's how she sells tickets, that's how she makes her money. You did exactly what any good fan girl is supposed to do. I get it, I fell for it once myself. But when you love damaged people...all you get is more damage.

REMY

Oh, trust me, I am not just a fan to her.

LOGAN

Does she know that?

REMY

Yes! I mean, I think. I'm pretty sure.

LOGAN

You should probably find out and be sure.

REMY

How? What would I say?

LOGAN

You don't have to say anything. Just let her hear your music.

**ACT 1. SCENE 8: SIREN'S DEN STAGEDOOR**

(The VULTURES are hanging around,  
waiting for a glimpse of their  
idol.)

JESSIE

Look who's back! Where's the penguin uniform?

REMY

It's my night off. I just wanted to give Skylar my demo.

JESSIE

A demo! So professional. We haven't formally met. I'm Jessie Thornbury. I run Skylar's official fan club which means I have access to insider info and I get some special privileges. The thing is, you're not in the club, so-

REMY

So?

JESSIE

It's gonna make a lot of people really angry if you just break the rules and skip the line to get the privileges.

REMY

I'm not breaking any rules, she's my- (Pause) She's my friend

JESSIE

Oh, I know that look.

REMY

What look?

JESSIE

Awww, someone's in love.

REMY

What? No! I just-

JESSIE

Please, there's like a flashing neon sign on your forehead. A little advice? I wouldn't get too close, if I were you.

REMY

Why not?

JESSIE

Shhh, here she comes!

(SKYLAR's LAUGH is heard. SHE enters with GARRETT, kissing him passionately. He is a sexy, tattooed boy-toy. They are pressed up against a wall, oblivious. REMY and JESSIE are stunned. JESSIE loudly clears her throat.)

SKYLAR

Girls! You scared me! Oh, sorry. How frickin' rude of me, right? This is Garrett. My boyfriend.

GARRETT

How's it goin'?

(REMY doesn't shake his hand.  
JESSIE doesn't shake it either.)

SKYLAR

Isn't he eye candy? He's such a traitor, he's been away with another band the past few days. You're supposed to be MY roadie, bitch! Gare, these are some of my Vultures. What's up girls?

REMY

*(Devastated)*

I just wanted to give this to you. My first demo.

SKYLAR

Oh my goddess, I'm sure it's frickin' amazing!

REMY

I wanted to tell you, I checked out that open mic at Echoes Bar with the song we wrote and I met this guy named Logan Grant who-

SKYLAR

*(Instantly Paranoid)*

What did he say about me?

REMY

Nothing, he liked my sound and helped me to record this.

SKYLAR

Logan has a reputation in the industry for being, well, not very stable. *(She feigns drinking)* He used to sing himself, he was real good too, but he had a bit of trouble staying on the wagon. I'd be weary about working with him.

REMY

He seemed really nice.

SKYLAR

No one in this business is what they appear to be, Remy. I'm just looking out for you. *(Gentler tone)* But I'll give it a listen. I promise.

(They stare at each other, each with a hand on the demo, almost under a spell)

GARRETT

Babe, you're gonna be late.

SKYLAR

Oh man, what would I do without this one? I forgot I have to do an interview before sound check. My new album pleased the man upstairs and I'm goin' back on the road to promote it! Isn't that great?

REMY

You're leaving? But you just got here.

JESSIE

(Pushing REMY out of the way)

Will we be going to the west coast? I've always wanted to check out the music scene in LA.

SKYLAR

Oh, no, love, it's just me and my crew. They're gonna take care of everything.

JESSIE

Last time you said if you got a tour closer to home that I could-

SKYLAR

I'll see you as soon as I get back! I need to keep this momentum going. I hope you both get to catch the show at some point though. It's gonna rock so hard!

REMY

But...

(REMY reaches out for SKYLAR'S hand. GARRETT wraps his arms around SKYLAR'S neck, kisses her, then pulls her away from REMY.)

GARRETT

Let's go. Now.

SKYLAR

Alright. Text me! I love you!

(SKYLAR and GARRETT exit.)

JESSIE

What. The fuck.

REMY

You must have known she had a boyfriend. With all your "insider info."

JESSIE

I didn't. Surely she mentioned him before the private encore performance in her dressing room.

REMY

She didn't. What now?

**SONG: REPLACEABLE**

JESSIE

FIRST IT WAS ME  
THEN SHE FAVORED YOU  
BUT IT'S CLEAR TO SEE  
YOU'RE AN AFTERTHOUGHT TOO

HOW DOES IT FEEL  
TO BE CAST ASIDE  
LIKE SOMEONE'S DIRTY LAUNDRY  
HUNG OUT TO DRY

LEAVE NOW, SHE WON'T NOTICE YOU'RE GONE  
A RUN OF THE MILL HANGER ON

YOU'RE REPLACEABLE  
JUST A FACE IN THE CROWD  
IN A SEA OF BODIES  
SCREAMING SO LOUD

BUT SHE'LL NEVER HEAR YOU  
NO MATTER YOUR PLEA  
SHE NEEDS HER VULTURES  
AND YOU'RE A NOBODY

Remy  
She's not like that with me!

SHE WAS ONCE MINE  
AND SHE WILL BE AGAIN  
THE LINES WERE UNCLEAR  
WHAT YOU CALL A FRIEND

BUT KEEP COMING 'ROUND  
HOPING TO TALK TO HER  
SHE'LL WRITE YOU OFF  
AS A DANGEROUS STALKER

JESSIE AND VULTURES

SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT YOU  
ONCE YOU'RE ATTACHED, YOU ARE THROUGH

YOU'RE REPLACEABLE  
JUST A FACE IN THE CROWD  
IN A SEA OF BODIES  
SCREAMING SO LOUD

BUT SHE'LL NEVER HEAR YOU  
NO MATTER YOUR PLEA  
SHE NEEDS HER VULTURES  
AND YOU'RE A NOBODY

JESSIE  
YOU'RE IN WAY OVER YOUR HEAD  
PUT ALL THOSE FEELINGS TO BED  
TELL ME WAS IT YOUR GRAND PLAN  
TO WALTZ IN HERE AND BE HER NUMBER ONE FAN?

VULTURES  
AHHH-AHHHH

JESSIE AND VULTURES  
YOU'RE REPLACEABLE  
JUST A FACE IN THE CROWD  
IN A SEA OF BODIES  
SCREAMING SO LOUD

BUT SHE'LL NEVER HEAR YOU  
NO MATTER YOUR PLEA  
SHE LOVES HER VULTURES  
WE ARE THE VULTURES  
AND YOU'RE A NOBODY