

# MOVIE DISCUSSION GUIDE



For small groups



TOPICS

PEOPLE



SCENES

SKYCHASE PICTURES

# **Movie Discussion Guide for Black Oasis**

061506

DISCLAIMER: This movie and the discussion guide are for entertainment purposes only. They are not intended to be a substitute for appropriate treatment by a qualified counselor or therapist.

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## Welcome

Black Oasis is a film that portrays some of the many struggles faced by teens and their families. It attempts to reveal the deception and expose the lies of suicide. It is our desire that the viewer be challenged to consider the truth of God's word, and be encouraged to trust Him for help in life's darkest hours.

The purpose of this discussion guide is to assist people in leading open discussion on a variety of relevant topics affecting teenagers, young adults and parents. The story is open to different interpretations. Each character and every situation shows both good and bad qualities. The story is powerful and will open up the hearts and minds of its audience. Through effective discussion, audiences will gain insight into their own lives, struggles and begin to see the truth of their situations. NOTE: These discussions are not intended to be a substitute for appropriate treatment by a qualified counselor or therapist.

## Moderator Instructions

After receiving your Black Oasis DVD and Discussion Guide, sit down and watch the movie from beginning to end. Don't take notes, put the guide aside, and just let yourself get caught up in the story. At the end of the movie, take stock of your initial gut reactions – Anger? Confusion? Hope? Fear? Think about why you might have the reactions you did – What emotional triggers does the story hold for you? By experiencing the movie for the first time the same way that your group will, you will be better able to understand their emotional reactions and to effectively moderate the discussion. Now take a moment, search your heart, and ask God to help guide your group time by giving you the wisdom to know what questions to ask.

Next, think about the unique needs of your group based on their ages, whether they are boys and/or girls, parents, Christians, non-Christians or both, and the participants' familiarity with the group discussion format. A group of 8th grade girls who watch the movie will want to discuss very different topics than a group of male and female high school students. On what themes do you want your group to focus?

Next, grab a pen, pad, your Bible and the Discussion Guide, and watch Black Oasis again, this time pausing after each scene to consult the scene by scene breakdown questions, highlighting the ones you want to ask, and probably adding a few of your own. Not all the questions given will apply to all groups. If you approach the movie with your theme in mind, you will quickly see which ones you want to use and be able to create a powerful discussion outline targeted directly to the needs of your group.

## The Dove Language Track

There is a single word "B\*\*\*h" that some may find unacceptable in certain venues or audiences (DVD Chapter 7, 9 min 30 sec). This word can be replaced with "Bad" by selecting the Dove Language track under the Audio Options menu on the DVD. This was created to assist in showing BLACK OASIS in church venues.

## Showing the Movie

Have the movie set up and ready to roll before the group arrives. Show the movie in a darkened room, movie theater style, and perhaps provide a few snacks to enliven the atmosphere and get participants excited. After the movie ends, you will want to split large audiences into smaller

discussion groups, or split by ages and sexes. An ideal group size is 4-8 participants, and each group should have its own moderator who is already familiar with the movie and this guide. As you begin the session, be sure that the group has a clear understanding of the time frame and purpose of the discussion. It may be helpful in some groups to establish some ground rules for the discussion, especially if you expect significant differences of belief and opinion. Your tone and approach as leader will go a long way toward setting the atmosphere of the session.

### Discussion Guide Structure

There are over twenty pages of questions in this discussion guide. The purpose is to select those that are most relevant to your goal as a discussion leader. You can follow any number of formats, like starting with general topics, then selecting a character to focus on, review a specific scene that will help illustrate a situation. The questions are broken up into three categories, Topics, People and Scenes. In a box at the bottom of each topic/question is a brief description of each character or situation that will provide some additional light on the subject.

<p><b>TOPICS</b></p>	<p>General themes and questions covering the movie as a whole, as opposed to character and scene by scene breakdowns below. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Main Themes</li> <li>▶ Divorce and Rejection</li> <li>▶ Friendships</li> <li>▶ Life After Death</li> <li>▶ Forming Your World View</li> <li>▶ The Demonic and Deception</li> </ul>
<p><b>PEOPLE</b></p>	<p>Questions surrounding the major characters in the movie.</p>
<p><b>SCENES</b></p>	<p>A scene by scene breakdown covering specific issues raised in each scene. Each scene has its own DVD chapter setting, 20 total, with corresponding time in minutes:seconds.</p>

### Subtitles

Black Oasis can be viewed with either Spanish or English subtitles. They can be a helpful addition in a room that is noisy or with poor acoustics. Also, subtitles are helpful on a second viewing to emphasize the nuanced quality of the dialogue.

Subtitles can be turned on or off in the Black Oasis DVD menu SUBTITLES, or with a button on the DVD remote control, usually called Subtitles.



### Main Themes

- ▶ We often interpret who we are based on how others treat us.
- ▶ Fear of abandonment, rejection.
- ▶ Assurance we will not be left alone.
- ▶ Lies often resemble truth, but always lead to death and destruction.
- ▶ Change is scary and unwelcome.
- ▶ Satan is present and attempts to work in our lives when we are not aware.

After the opening scene with the little girls and Mom, Black Oasis covers 24 hours in the life of Emily, an angst-ridden teenager struggling with a broken home, changing relationships, and the dark new figure of Amber who has entered her life. The viewers see how Emily's childhood hurts have affected her as she grows up, causing her to push away old friends and become seduced by the idea of suicide as a way to escape her pain. Black Oasis is an authentic, cautionary look at the struggles of today's American family, the dark forces that seek to rip them apart and challenge the core of their faith.



### Divorce and Rejection

- ▶ How have Emily and Mom been affected by divorce?
- ▶ What kind of pressures does Emily face at Dad's home?
- ▶ How does Dad's little daughter, Madison, make things worse for Emily?
- ▶ Have you ever been placed in the middle of a hard situation that seemed to have no way out?
- ▶ What do you think it is like living with Dad and Step Mom? Is meeting Emily's needs their priority? What needs are not being met?

At the opening scene, little Emily's father has left home for another woman at the office, who later became her Step Mom. The divorce was very messy. Mom was hurt and angry. At the time of the divorce, Dad's career really began to take off, but he has not shared the wealth with her, sticking to the original terms of the divorce settlement.



## Friendships

- ▶ Contrast and compare Emily’s relationship with Christine and with Amber.
- ▶ Emily expects a lot from her friends. Is this reasonable?
- ▶ One of Emily’s greatest fears is being abandoned. How have your fears placed “expectations” or “requirements” on others around you? Do others really have the ability to meet these expectations?
- ▶ How do you handle things when you are disappointed because others do not meet your expectations?

Christine and Emily have grown up together, and they have a bond that runs very deep. Emily went through a bad divorce and Christine has been there through all her struggles over the divorce and her relationship with her father. She is now afraid of losing Christine. Amber is a new friend who seems to understand her better than anyone, and doesn’t try to make her any different than she wants to be.



## Life After Death

- ▶ Emily says she has been born again nine times. What does she mean by this. Do you agree/disagree with this? Why?
- ▶ What do you think happens when you die?
- ▶ What do you believe a parent’s job is in teaching their children regarding spirituality?
- ▶ Is Emily’s need for her “daddy” really a metaphor for her need for God?
- ▶ How does Emily’s view of life contrast with the “new life” that Christ promises? How is it different?
- ▶ Do you believe there is more than one way to heaven?
- ▶ On what do you base your beliefs?

Emily believes in being born-again. In fact, she says she has been born again nine times. Emily believes we all go to an Oasis, “where we get to start a new life”. This view started when she was a little girl and her pet bunny, Houdini, died. Little Emily learns that heaven is just a fairy tale. Her bunny has gone to a better place... an Oasis, “where we all get to start a new life.”



## Forming Your World View

- ▶ Mom says that that heaven is just a fairy tale. What message does Emily get from this?
- ▶ How has her mother's belief systems and attitudes helped to shape her understanding of the purpose of life, death and God.
- ▶ What do you believe about Heaven? When did you become aware of a God or Higher Power? (whether you are a Christian or not.)
- ▶ What, if anything, is affecting your relationship with God right now?
- ▶ How do our early influences/messages impact our lives? Think specifically about your messages growing up. Who has had the most impact on your thinking about your life? How do your early influences still impact you today?
- ▶ List two or three of the most influential people in your life, as a child/adolescent. What did they tell you, about you?

Little Emily's pet bunny, Houdini, has just died. Mom tells her Houdini has gone to a better place, but not heaven, an Oasis where we all get a new life.



## The Demonic

- ▶ The bible says that Satan appears as an angel of light. How is Amber like that to Emily?
- ▶ Describe the ways that Amber deceives Emily.
- ▶ The bible says that Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy. There are at least three instances of this in the movie. Can you find them?
- ▶ Can you find an instance where Amber tells Emily the truth?
- ▶ How does Satan squirm his way into our lives? How can we be more aware of the schemes that Satan attempts to place in our lives?
- ▶ How does Satan use experiences from our childhood to plague us through our life? What should we do about old "beliefs" during our childhood as we mature and age?

Amber is a mysterious new friend of Emily. The fact that Christine sees her at the car wreck dispels any notion about her being a fantasy.



Young Emily

- ▶ How has her mother's beliefs and attitudes helped to shape Emily's understanding of the purpose of life, death and God?
- ▶ How do our early influences/messages impact our lives? Think specifically about your messages growing up. Who has had the most impact on your thinking about your life? How do they still impact you today?
- ▶ Who were the most influential people in your life, as a child/adolescent? What did they say to you, about you?

In the middle of a divorce, little Emily is struggling with the abandonment of her father. All she has is best friend Christine and her little Bunny, Houdini, who has just died.



Emily

- ▶ Emily is in a hard situation. What motivates her choices?
- ▶ How does Emily's fear of rejection affect her friendships?
- ▶ Have you ever been placed in situations like Emily's? Would you do anything different?
- ▶ Who was trying to help Emily? Would there have been better ways to help her?
- ▶ Would a relationship with Christ have helped Emily? How would she have viewed her situations differently?

Emily is highly intelligent but wears a tough girl mask to hide her insecurity. A life of divorce, changing friendships, drug use, feelings of abandonment has affected her view of life.





Christine

- ▶ Christine has known Emily since they were little girls. How does this affect their relationship today? What additional pressures does this put on Christine?
- ▶ Christine attempts to stand her ground with Emily, but for a moment succumbs to her “old ways” of living (smoking, cursing). Why do you think she did this?
- ▶ How does Christine respond when she is “caught” by her “God squad” friends?
- ▶ Who is the real Christine? Have you ever been in a situation where you have tried to change, and it was difficult because of “old” ways, memories, or people?
- ▶ Is there anything Christine should have done to better help Emily?

A free spirited dreamer, Christine is people driven - a crowd pleaser who is trying to find herself. At first glance she seems superficial, but underneath lies a girl savvy in her understanding of life and people. She and Emily have been party girls, a changing mix of boys, drugs and sex. Through this, Christine has made some moral decisions she now regrets, and sees her life in a downward spiral. This has motivated her to seek a new group of friends who are trying to make better moral choices.



Amber

- ▶ Amber seems to really understand Emily’s pain, her circumstances. Is this true? Is she helping Emily?
- ▶ What role does Amber play in Emily’s life?
- ▶ Is she a real person? If not real, then why did Christine see her in the car and after the crash?
- ▶ What does Amber represent to you? Are there “Amber’s” in your life? If so, then how are you dealing with them?

She is intelligent, and on the surface seems passive and empathetic. But she is really manipulative and seductive, with a touch of evil. Her goal is to befriend Emily and ruin her friendship with Christine. Has the same look and style as Emily.

## PEOPLE



Mom

- ▶ Sometimes pain can prevent us from giving to others. How does Mom's pain affect her ability to care for her daughter?
- ▶ What do you think Mom is searching for in her life? What are her needs?
- ▶ In the coffee shop (DVD Chapter 8), Emily brings up her mother's beliefs about the Oasis. What is a parent's job in rearing their children with spiritual beliefs? Is spirituality learned or figured out when they get older?

Emily's mom is a former beauty, now past her prime and divorced. She was once immersed in the role of the perfect wife, totally in control of the household while Dad started his career. Now, Mom is divorced, neglected and bitter. She was replaced by a younger woman who is now enjoying the fruits of Dad's career. Her relationship with Emily is about gone, but she continues to try and keep it alive.

## PEOPLE



Dad

- ▶ Dad is caught between two families, his old and his new, with very difficult choices and much conflict. Could he do anything better at this point? Any way to reach out to Emily?
- ▶ Dad controls Emily's behavior with the threat of losing her support checks. How does fear of loss of money and provision affect your behavior?
- ▶ Why does Dad lie to Emily about visitation? How do his actions make you feel?

He has become very successful in business. He is a workaholic who carries guilt over his divorce and loss of Emily, to whom he feels a deep connection. He is working hard not to repeat this same mistake with Step Mom and Madison. While confident and focused with his career, he is not confident about what it means to be a Dad. He is in control at the office but leaves the home to Step Mom.

## PEOPLE



### Step Mom

- ▶ Step Mom has a great conflict, fighting the battle between two families? Are you in the middle of one of these? Do you have a Step Mom? Is this fair to Emily?
- ▶ She keeps telling Emily about boundaries they have set with their therapist. Is this helpful?
- ▶ Step Mom tells Emily “we know you’re hurting right now.” Is that a good thing to say? Why or why not?
- ▶ What do you think Step Mom’s needs are?

Step Mom was a coworker of Dad, and had an affair with him while still married to Emily’s Mom. They are now married with their beautiful little daughter, Madison. She is trying her best to let Emily be a part of their family but she will not follow any of Step Mom’s rules. One time, Madison saw Emily cutting herself. Step Mom fears that Emily will have a very detrimental effect on Madison.

## PEOPLE

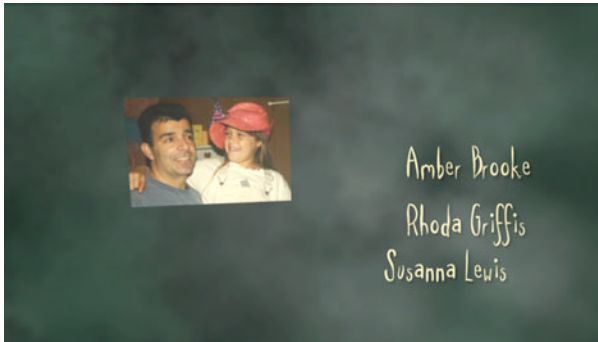


### Jackie and Monica

- ▶ They have met Emily for the first time. Do you think they are treating her with an open heart?
- ▶ They seem to exclude Emily from Christine’s invitation to church. Why would they have done this? How could it have been handled better?
- ▶ How do you respond to people who have different beliefs than you?

Christine met Jackie and Monica at school. They have been taking her to their youth service. Emily considers them a threat to her relationship with Christine, plus she is very against what they believe and represent.

## SCENES



### Opening Credits

**Chapter 1**

**00:00**

- ▶ What do these pictures tell you about Emily's life? Her relationship with Mom and Dad.
- ▶ What kinds of memories do you have when you view pictures of your life?

Photos float through the opening credits. They show Emily's life with her parents and Christine, young and old. They show the strain in relationships, her affection for Dad, her love of the party life and her tight relationship with Christine and Joey.

## SCENES



### An Encounter with Death

**Chapter 2**

**1:10**

- ▶ Mom says death is a better place, that heaven is just a fairy tale. Do you think mom really believes what she is telling Emily, or is she just trying to comfort her daughter?
- ▶ Little Emily wants to know if Daddy will be with her at the Oasis. What does that reveal about her fears?
- ▶ What does Christine's promise, "I'll always be there with you," tell you about their relationship? Is this healthy?
- ▶ How do our early influences and messages impact our lives? Who has had the most impact on the spiritual side of your life? How do these early influences affect you today?

A summer evening, Mom is putting her little girl Emily, and best friend Christine to bed. They discover the pet bunny, Houdini, has died. Emily learns that heaven is just a fairy tale. Her bunny has gone to a better place... an Oasis, "where we all get to start a new life." All Emily wants to know is whether her Daddy will be at the Oasis. This question grieves Mom.



### Seven Years Later

**Chapter 3**

**3:35**

- ▶ Why do Emily's bedroom wall photos tell you about her?
- ▶ She wipes blood only on her face. Why? Where does the blood come from?
- ▶ How did Mom and Emily's interchange make you feel?
- ▶ Who is the mother in this scene? The daughter? Does it appear to be role reversal? How do their roles affect them?
- ▶ Who appears to have the most esteem?
- ▶ At the end of the scene, Mom makes a guess at what Emily needs. Why doesn't this work?
- ▶ What are Mom's issues?

Seven years later. Emily's bedroom wall is covered with photos of her party life with Christine. She wipes blood across her face. In the kitchen, Mom, haggard and angry, is getting coffee for a sleep over boyfriend. All Emily and her Mom do is fight. Clearly, Emily and Mom are not the same happy people we saw in the opening scene. Emily is still very attached to her father and deeply resents Mom bringing



### Let Me Come Home

**Chapter 4**

**4:45**

- ▶ Why is it so important to Emily to come home?
- ▶ Why is Step Mom trying to stop Emily? Where is Dad in this? What do you think about the boundaries they have set for her? How does Emily feel about these?
- ▶ What is Emily trying to say? What does she need from her father?
- ▶ Why does Dad lie to Emily about visitation? How do his actions make you feel?
- ▶ Emily's begging shows her feelings of helplessness and her lack of control. Have you been in a position like this with your own family? How do you handle your feelings of helplessness? What obstacles were in your way? How do you cope?
- ▶ Have you ever felt this way with God? Has He heard your cry? Do you feel that He has responded to you?

At his estate home, Dad is rushing out the door with his young wife and daughter reviewing the last minute details of their Hawaiian vacation. To their dismay, Emily arrives unannounced, begging Dad to let her come back home. Dad puts her off with a promise to talk in their next visitation on Saturday.

## SCENES



### Just Like You Said

**Chapter 5**

**6:42**

- ▶ Who is Amber? Is she helpful to Emily at this point in her life?
- ▶ Emily says, “it went just like you said.” What role did Amber play in the visit?
- ▶ What need in Emily’s life does Amber seem to be meeting? Is she the right person for this?
- ▶ This is the second time we have heard someone tell Emily, “I will never leave you.” Has anyone ever said that to you? Did it turn out to be true?
- ▶ It did not go well at her father’s house. Why do you think Emily tells Amber things went well? Have you ever wanted something so badly that you made yourself believe it was happening even when it was not?

Emily is talking with Amber, the only person she trusts. When Christine walks in with her new friends, Amber points out how Christine has changed, emphasizing that she has abandoned Emily for a new life – Amber then emphasizes that she will never leave Emily.

## SCENES



### Meeting New Friends

**Chapter 6**

**7:56**

- ▶ Why do you think Emily is so cold to Christine’s new friends?
- ▶ Emily brings up the party life from Christine’s past. Why does she do this? How does this affect their relationship?
- ▶ Have there ever been times when you have said something that you knew would have hurt someone else? Why did you say it? How did this affect your relationship? How were you feeling at the time?

Christine wants Emily to meet her new friends. Emily is unfriendly and embarrasses Christine with talk of their old party life.



## Not Again

Chapter 7

8:36

- ▶ Christine has a negative reaction to Emily's news - opposite of Amber's reaction. Why? Does this make Christine a bad friend? Or is she just being honest?
- ▶ Has there ever been a time when you felt you should be truthful with a friend, but he or she did not want to hear it? What about when a friend was truthful with you and you didn't want to hear it?
- ▶ Christine attempts to stand her ground with Emily, but succumbs to her old habits (smoking, cursing), although only momentarily. Why do you think Christine did this? Has this ever happened to you?

Minutes later in front of the coffee shop, Emily takes an affectionate break with Joey, Christine's ex-boyfriend. Christine follows her outside, upset about Emily's behavior with her friends. Emily wants to talk about her morning visit with Dad, but Christine has heard this story before, and it stresses her out.



## What I Believe

Chapter 8

10:09

- ▶ How does Christine respond when she is "caught" by her "God squad" friends? Who is the real Christine?
- ▶ Emily uses sarcasm to get her beliefs across to the other girls. What do you think that she is feeling when they are talking about being "born again" and accepting Christ?
- ▶ When Monica said that Emily's version of the afterlife was "just some made up thing", do you think she realized how deeply Emily really held that belief? Was there a better way that the girls could have reached out to Emily?
- ▶ How did Christine handle the conflict between the girls? Did she seem to pick sides? Have you ever been in a position like Christine's, where friends were forcing you to choose between them? How did you handle it?

In an awkward meeting in the coffee shop alcove, Christine's friends confirm their plans for that night, forcing Christine to promptly invite Emily to their church. Emily becomes angry and takes the opportunity to cleverly put the girls down for their religious beliefs.

## SCENES



### Choices

**Chapter 9**

**11:22**

- ▶ Emily has a very negative opinion of Monica and Jackie. Why? Is her motive to help Christine, to protect her?
- ▶ Emily brings up Christine's past of having an abortion, and asks, "do they know who you really are?" From God's perspective, what determines who we are?
- ▶ Christine promises, "I'm not going to leave you Emily," just as she promised when they were little girls. Why do you think this is the most important thing to Emily?
- ▶ How does Emily's fear of rejection affect her friendships?
- ▶ How have your fears placed "expectations" or "requirements" on others in your life? Do they really have the ability to meet these expectations? How do you handle it when you are disappointed when others do not meet your expectations?

In the front yard, a beautiful summer afternoon at the same location as the opening scene. Emily is embarrassing Christine with a stash of old party photos. Emily wants to get high, but Christine has left this life behind, and Emily resents her choices.

## SCENES



### Telling the Truth

**Chapter 10**

**13:50**

- ▶ Describe Emily's treatment of Mom? Does that behavior seem normal to you?
- ▶ Mom states, "I wish I had never met him (Dad)." How does this impact Emily? Do you think Emily's mother meant to hurt her?
- ▶ Emily learns that Dad lied to her about being with her on visitation. What impact does this have on her? Has anyone broken a promise to you?
- ▶ Mom tells Emily the truth, that Dad is not going to take her back. Is she trying to help her or hurt her? Is there a time in your life when someone told you something you did not want to hear?
- ▶ When we are hurting inside sometimes we say things we don't really mean. Have you done this?

In the kitchen, Mom is aggravated by her struggles with Emily and her dad. Harshly, she breaks the news - Dad is not going to make their Saturday visitation. Yet another broken promise for Emily. Mom, absorbed in her own pain, tells Emily she wishes she'd never met Emily's dad. Mom accuses Emily of taking her sleeping pills. Emily denies it and then gives her the brush off.



## SCENES



### My Sleeping Pills

**Chapter 11**

**14:59**

- ▶ Did you think Emily was being truthful about taking Mom's sleeping pills?
- ▶ How do you respond when you are confronted about specific behaviors?
- ▶ Emily's mother tells her, "If you need anything, just ask your therapist." Does this send a positive or a negative message to Emily? How do you think Mom sees the role of the therapist?
- ▶ When Mom attempts to console Emily, she tells Mom to "give it up." Why? What does this say about their relationship? Do you think Emily really wants Mom to just "give it up?"

Mom follows Emily to the living room and accuses her of taking her sleeping pills. Emily denies it and then gives her the brush off.

## SCENES



### Showdown with Dad

**Chapter 12**

**15:36**

- ▶ Was Emily right to accuse her father of lying? What did she mean when she said, "you lie worse than I do."
- ▶ Both Dad and Step Mom attempt to "connect" with her in her pain. Why does Emily reject this?
- ▶ Dad controls Emily's behavior with the threat of losing her support checks. How does fear of loss of money and provision affect your behavior?
- ▶ What is Emily trying to accomplish by showing them her cutting? Do you think she is trying to manipulate Dad or just desperate to connect with him?
- ▶ What do you think that she needs from her father? What does her father offer her?
- ▶ Do you think he is justified in telling her to talk to her therapist, or is he being callous?
- ▶ Why do you think Emily's father ultimately rejects her?

Dad is leaving with his family for their trip to Hawaii. Emily confronts her Dad and accuses him of lying. He does not deny it, but just explains the importance of the trip. Emily shows them the results of her cutting and Dad gives Emily her final rejection.



### You're Such a Good Girl

**Chapter 13**

**16:40**

- ▶ Emily is essentially taking care of her mother. How do you think this role-reversal affects Emily? How do you think she is feeling?
- ▶ Do you see Emily in a different way after this scene? What about Mom?
- ▶ Does this scene help you understand a little more about their relationship?
- ▶ Have you ever been in a situation like this with your Mom or Dad? How did it make you feel?

In this scene we see a role reversal as Emily helps a drunken Mom off the couch.



### Amber Closes the Deal

**Chapter 14**

**17:20**

- ▶ What do you think of Amber after watching this scene? Were your initial thoughts about her character confirmed, or were you surprised by what you saw?
- ▶ Why do you think Amber says that Emily's cuts are so beautiful? Has she played a part in it?
- ▶ Why is Amber at Emily's house? What does she promise Emily? What sort of "new life" does she promise Emily?
- ▶ How does Amber encourage Emily to commit suicide? Why does Emily hesitate?
- ▶ What sort of "new life" does she promise Emily? How is it a lie?

Amber comes over for a late night visit and gets Emily to commit to make the final decision — they both will take their life with an overdose of pills. Emily reveals her bad of stolen sleeping pills. She also makes a threat against Christine.



## A Journey to Suicide

**Chapter 15**

**18:45**

- ▶ Why do you think Emily is trying to kill herself?
- ▶ Does she show hesitation?
- ▶ How does your taking control of things affect your life? Why does suicide seem to be an answer to people ridding themselves of pain?

Mom is late for work. Emily is preparing a concoction of pills and vodka in a carton of lemonade. She takes pills and a big swig of the mixture and heads outside.



## Reaching Out

**Chapter 16**

**19:55**

- ▶ Are you surprised that Christine called Emily? What does this say about the strength of their friendship?
- ▶ Christine wants to connect with Emily. How does this interfere with Amber's plans? What does Amber do in order to ensure that her plan succeeds?

Emily is outside and is surprised to see Amber. She gets a call from Christine who is driving over to take her to coffee and donuts. Christine is putting on her makeup while on the phone.

## SCENES



### Amber Appears

**Chapter 17**

**20:23**

- ▶ Who or what does Amber represent now? Does this help make more sense about her previous statements and lies?
- ▶ How does Satan squirm his way into our lives? How can we be more aware of the schemes that Satan attempts to place in our lives?

Christine is about to arrive at Emily's house. Amber distracts Christine by showing up in her backseat, then in the road ahead. Christine swerves to miss Amber and hits a telephone pole in front of Emily's house.

## SCENES



### Hold Me, Em'

**Chapter 18**

**20:48**

- ▶ Describe Amber's plans for the three of them to go to the "Oasis" together.
- ▶ Amber says the phrase "friends forever" to encourage Emily. Have you ever had someone turn something special against you?
- ▶ Why does Emily make herself throw up? Does it suggest that she now understands what she has done/
- ▶ Amber tries to stop Emily from throwing up, but does nothing to physically stop her. What does this say about our ability to choose?

Emily arrives at the accident scene to help Christine out of the car. Amber is there, too, but will not get help, as she wants them all at the Oasis. Emily tries to reverse her suicide by forcing herself of vomit, and then passes out.

## SCENES



### The Black Oasis

**Chapter 19**

**22:15**

- ▶ Is this experience real or made up?
- ▶ What is suggested by Emily's initial visit with a loving Mom and Dad and little Christine?
- ▶ Then the visit turns to Amber, with Emily as a little girl. What does that suggest?
- ▶ Where do you think the cuts covering Emily came from? Is Amber causing them?
- ▶ How do the facial cuts relate to twisted memories Amber is tormenting Emily with? (Emily's outward wounds are the physical manifestations of her inner pains. This scene partially functions as a visual metaphor for the act of cutting.)
- ▶ How does Satan use experiences from our childhood to plague us through our life?

An eerie, surreal night in front of Emily's house. Mom and Dad are on the porch, happy and holding hands. Young Christine runs on to the porch, an invitation to come on in. Inside the house, she sees herself as a Young Emily, her hair being brushed by a scarred Amber. She runs out of the house and is tormented by Amber. Emily asks God for help. Then, the sound of a defibrillator.

## SCENES



### Back to Life?

**Chapter 20**

**23:12**

- ▶ What do you think happens at the end? Did Emily die?
- ▶ How does the end make you feel about yourself, your choices and the truth about your life.
- ▶ If you could write the next scene, what would you say happens next?

Back at the accident scene, the rescue squad has arrived. Christine grabs Emily's hand, as the rescue squad works on Emily, then puts her into the ambulance. The camera moves to the setting sun.