



Title: Goodbye Forever, Vicky
Author: Latchman Rajrup
Genre: Drama/Romance

Setting: Guyana
Pages: 367
Period: Modern Day

Best Medium for Adaptation:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Studio Feature Film | <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama/Comedy TV series |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent Feature Film | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative/reality TV series | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's TV series |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animation – Feature Film | <input type="checkbox"/> Animation – TV series (adult) | <input type="checkbox"/> Webseries |

Logline

While trying to build a life for himself, a young man endures turbulent highs and lows at the hands of two unpredictable lovers.

Brief Summary

Vicky is abandoned by his deadbeat father but supported by his loving, long-suffering mother and aided by his loyal older sister. He struggles to do well in school in hopes of one day getting a good job. He falls hard for a girl named Julie and finally manages to win her over. However, she becomes cold and jealous when he goes away to university. While he is away, he finds lodging with Stella, an old friend of his mother. During a rough patch with Julie, Vicky ends up sleeping with Stella's teenage daughter Seema and getting her pregnant. They get married to cover up the shame of this affair. Julie and Seema find out about each other, leading both to have very conflicted feelings of love and hate towards Vicky. Vicky and Seema have a daughter named Rosita, but their marriage continues to deteriorate, often due to Stella's emotional manipulation. After countless fights, separations and reconciliations, Seema finally takes Rosita and moves out of the country with her family, leaving Vicky alone. He attempts to reconcile with Julie, but despite still loving him, she also has decided to move on, though she tragically dies before she gets that chance.

Synopsis

Born and raised in a slum in Guyana, VICKY is raised largely by his loving mother ARTI. His deadbeat FATHER is a drunk and a philanderer who abandons them early onto pursue his own interests. He lives nearby, and while he does occasionally pay young Vicky to perform chores, he often acts as a corrupting influence. He also has a sister, JEAN, who is ten years older. She marries and moves off to start a life of her own when he is still a boy, but they see each other often and she and her husband GEORGE try to support the family when they can.



At first, Vicky struggles to do well in school, but his mother sacrifices a lot to allow him to continue his studies, and he eventually becomes a very accomplished student. In addition to his academic pursuits, he begins to take notice of the attractive girls in his class. In particular, he has a serious crush on the beautiful JULIE, who seems to regard his advances with prickly disdain.

Coached by his loyal buddy AMIT, Vicky woos another classmate named MAGGIE in order to make Julie jealous. This ruse is perhaps a bit too effective, and Maggie falls deeply in love with Vicky. Feeling uncomfortable and guilty about the relationship, Vicky distances himself from Maggie before getting in any deeper. He next dates FAZILA who is very assertive and aggressively pushes the relationship forward. Sensing something is amiss, Arti pushes Vicky to end the relationship, which is fortunate, given that Fazila turns out to already be pregnant by another boy, hence her desire to lock down a suitor.

After all of these foolish games, Julie finally comes around and expresses an interest in being with Vicky. He immediately goes out and gets drunk with his pals to celebrate, and ends up making a fool of himself in front of Julie, though thankfully she does not change her mind. After a few missed connections and unsuccessful dates, they finally get in sync and start having sex.

Unfortunately for the young lovers, Vicky has been accepted to university in a neighboring city and must leave Port Mourant soon. Parting is very painful for them, though they make promises to remain true.

Through friends, Vicky is able to find lodgings with a couple named AMINA and KHAN. He is initially dismayed by the dilapidated space he will be inhabiting, but they put in some hard work to fix it up for him and eagerly welcome him into their lives. The Khans and their other tenants are an eclectic bunch, but they soon become like family to Vicky. However, his thoughts are preoccupied with Julie, and he returns home two weeks later to surprise her. She is indeed surprised, and though they are happy, they agree that Vicky doesn't really have the time or money to spend on impulsive trips back to Port Mourant.

Arti pays a visit to Vicky at school and takes him out shopping. While there, they run into STELLA, an old friend of Arti's. She invites them back to her nice home, where they meet her husband SONNY and her numerous daughters and grandchildren. They offer to take in Vicky if he will help by tutoring their children, which seems like an arrangement that will benefit everyone. Vicky accepts the offer, though he is sorry to say goodbye to Amina and the others.

Life in Stella's house is good at first, though there are some warning signs of tension within the extended family. Vicky encounters an unexpected snag when he returns to Port Mourant and goes on a rather chilly date with Julie, who has evidently been swayed by her disapproving mother. Her hostility provokes an argument, and Vicky's inebriated antics after drowning his sorrows with Amit only make matters worse. He returns to school full of resentment and self-pity and continues to waste his limited funds on booze until Stella and her family express concern and make him get his act together.

Still stinging from Julie's rejection, Vicky discovers a mutual attraction with Stella's daughter SEEMA, who is very pretty and a few years younger than he. After flirting lightly during their



tutoring sessions, they finally give in to their desires and sleep together. They are nervous about the family's reaction and decide to keep their relationship a secret.

Vicky still harbors a hope of fixing things with Julie, but life seems to be pushing them apart. Julie sends him a very mean letter, apparently livid over some baseless rumor or imagined slight. Then, Seema collapses in the house and everyone, including Vicky, attends to her with great concern. She later privately reveals to Vicky that she is pregnant.

Justifiably afraid of bringing a child into their current situation, they attempt a number of folk remedies to abort the pregnancy, but have no luck. Stella discovers their secret relationship, though thankfully not the pregnancy, as her wrath is frightening enough as it is. Vicky and Seema conclude that the only way they will be able to go and get a proper abortion from a doctor is if they are married, and they must hurry.

Vicky convinces his mother to support the hasty union, and he and Seema sign the papers to make them legally married. However, Stella and her family will not recognize the marriage without a proper religious ceremony, so Vicky and Seema are forced to live apart for a time while preparations are made. Vicky attempts to hide all of this from Julie, who shows up at his home and attempts to win him back, apparently having had a change of heart. He succumbs to her seductions and sleeps with her, as he really has never stopped loving her.

Vicky receives word that Seema's health has taken a turn for the worse, and he is torn between the two women in his life, scrambling to juggle his complicated situation. Hiding the two women from each other becomes increasingly difficult. Julie eventually learns of Vicky's impending nuptials and confronts him, but she seems eerily calm about the whole thing, as if she doesn't believe that the wedding is real.

Despite Julie's denial, the wedding does indeed go forward with all of the proper customs and celebration, though Vicky is understandably rather half-hearted about the whole affair. Through an intermediary, Julie sends him a box filled with mementos of their relationship: love letters, photos and other trinkets. She wants to see him, but he refuses to leave his bride. Meanwhile, Seema discovers the box and its contents and Vicky tries to convince her that Julie was just an old girlfriend and means nothing to him anymore. She makes him burn the letters, though he manages to save and hide the precious photos.

Seema isn't fully convinced by Vicky's excuses about Julie and they quarrel. She expresses a desire to keep the baby to prevent him from leaving her. She becomes increasingly unwell, but they learn that aborting at this point also poses serious risks. Thankfully, Seema survives the difficult procedure and recovers.

Vicky's father resurfaces in his life, apparently looking for forgiveness for his years of neglect and mistreatment. Vicky doesn't reject him outright, but isn't ready to forgive, either. Vicky and Seema return to live in Stella's home, where they bear witness to Stella's fiery temper with increasing frequency. Her latest vexation stems from daughter INDIRA's relationship with an unsuitable man named FERROZ. Stella is unstable and tyrannical within her home, lashing out at anyone who crosses her, and even those who do not.



Vicky wants to get out of this miserable situation, but he learns that Seema is pregnant again. He convinces her that they need to get out of Stella's house. Vicky sends Seema to live with his mother, while he returns to Amina's home while he continues his studies. When he goes to see how Seema has been settling in, she is again fixated on the topic of Julie and ends up jealously dragging him to stand outside of her house, hoping but failing to provoke some sort of confrontation.

With things more awkward than ever between the newlyweds, Seema voices her desire to return home to her family. She comes and finds Vicky at Amina's house and pressures him to return with her. When Seema eventually goes into the painful throes of labor, the family springs into action, and everyone somehow ends up angry at Vicky for being the instigator of the pregnancy. They welcome a daughter named ROSITA into the world. Everyone gathers to celebrate the birth, though Vicky's relatives are dismayed to observe the way that Stella treats him with casual disdain or outright hostility.

Hoping to move out of Stella's home and get a place of his own, Vicky aggressively hunts for a job and then throws himself into work. Unfortunately, being away from his wife so much of the time causes strain in their relationship, as does the issue of how to handle the money that Vicky brings home. Stella consistently makes these problems worse. At one point, they get into a big fight over Vicky's innocent tutoring of family friend SHELLY, and he ends up getting kicked out of the house. Seema later comes to fetch him home, then runs off when he refuses, forcing him to chase her down, which leads to yet another fight.

After that conflict has blown over, Vicky and Seema finally get an apartment of their own to raise their daughter. Things there are happy and peaceful for a time. Unfortunately, as soon as Stella comes to pay a visit, she fills Seema's head with angry, mistrustful thoughts and things take a bad turn. Vicky goes away on a work trip for several weeks, and he hears troubling rumors about Seema's behavior upon his return. Seema has been living with her family during his absence, and she delays a while before returning to him with Rosita.

Vicky receives a visit from his mother, who tells him that his father is seriously ill, suffering from liver damage after a life of drinking. Vicky tries to go and visit him, but he is too late and his father is already gone. Seema is unsympathetic to his loss. Seema then falls ill and is diagnosed with anemia, and she strongly would prefer to recuperate in her mother's care rather than coming back to Vicky.

Vicky finally graduates from university, and many of his friends and family come to celebrate his success: his mother and sister, Amina and her family, even his current landlady GLORIA; but not his wife or her family. Seema refuses to return to live with Vicky, and the fallout of yet another argument gets him kicked out of Stella's house once again. He goes back to visit his mother and lick his wounds.

He learns that Amit has married his old girlfriend Maggie, and he writes a letter to Julie, receiving a response that gives him a glimmer of hope. Living alone, he misses his daughter,



who loves him very much and has not yet been tainted by the opinions of her mother and grandmother.

He eventually runs into Seema, and though there is still much negative feeling between them, they agree to give it another try for Rosita’s sake. They move into a new apartment and as before they are happy for a time, but it doesn’t last, as Stella’s gravity draws them back in. While gathered for the wedding of Seema’s sister SANDRA, Vicky watches the sisters viciously attack a drunk Feroz after he gets forceful with Indira.

Things with Seema soon get very fraught. She moves out of the apartment and returns to her family, demands money from Vicky, then cleans out their apartment while he is at work and refuses to return anything. Rosita wants to be with her daddy, but Seema confides to Vicky that she would rather kill the girl and herself before giving up custody. She is just unbalanced enough that Vicky believes she might go through with it. Vicky hires a lawyer, MR. NELSON, and begins divorce proceedings, which of course only further enrages Stella and Seema.

Six months pass, and Stella and Sonny immigrate to the U.S. along with Indira, who leaves Feroz. Once the divorce is finalized, Seema announces that she will be taking Rosita and following them to America, where Rosita may never see her father again. Despite all the unpleasantness that has transpired between them, their final parting is a surprisingly wistful as they recall the good times that they have shared.

Three weeks later, Vicky receives an unexpected visit from Julie. He lies about his situation at first, but then come clean about his wife and daughter leaving him. It turns out that Julie has been keeping tabs on him all this time, having never fully stopped loving him, despite the pain he has caused her. She has been miserable and haunted for years, not able to move on, and it has adversely affected her health. Clearly, they both have regrets for the choices they made as naïve young lovers, and Vicky wonders whether they have finally reached a point where they can be together happily.

Unfortunately, Julie reveals that she will soon be moving to London, which will supposedly help with her fragile health. As if to illustrate this point, she then collapses in Vicky’s arms. He later hears that she has been hospitalized, and tries to go and visit her, only to discover that she has already passed away. He is told that she suffered from serious heart problems, and he cannot help but feel responsible. He attends her burial and grieves the passing of his first love. One of her sisters passes along a letter meant for Vicky, in which she bids him a loving farewell. Despite his now empty life and uncertain future, Vicky observes a rainbow in the sky, which he takes as a sign from Julie in the afterlife: a reminder for him to hold onto hope and keep moving forward.

Element Ratings

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Development Needed
Concept	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Story	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Characters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Comments/Suggestions for Adaptation

Goodbye Forever, Vicky is a tale of romance and heartbreak overflowing with raw emotion that would surely play out well on screen, giving the right actors a wealth of opportunities to showcase their skills. The length and structure of the book are fairly appropriate for the constraints of a film narrative, and there are not any particularly complicated or expensive elements from a production standpoint.

Finding authentic and appropriate locations for shooting would be an important part of bringing the story to life, but there are not really any details essential to the storyline that would require filming in specific places. On that note, it might be interesting to highlight the unique cultural aspects of the setting in order to better set the story apart. Most viewers are likely unfamiliar with the realities of life in Guyana, which seems much like anywhere else in certain ways and more distinctive in others. On top of that, Vicky and Seema’s families belong to a specific Indian-descended diaspora within the larger island community, and the unique features of this subculture should be highlighted as well.

The love triangle between Vicky, Julie and Seema is obviously front and center within the story, though ultimately it is Stella who comes across as the primary antagonist. Finding ways to develop these three central romantic leads is essential to the success of an adaptation. Each of them is complex and conflicted, making numerous painful mistakes and suffering for it in due time. Helping viewers to understand why these mistakes make sense to them in the heat of the moment, and how they later come to look back upon their choices with regret is important to making them sympathetic and to making the story compelling.

More generally, a screenplay should make a concerted effort to see that all of the many conflicts within the narrative feel organic and motivated by the individual personalities and desires of each character involved, rather than arising in a contrived fashion simply for the sake of creating tension. Care should also be taken to avoid potential repetition, as an audience may tire of seeing the characters have the same fight over and over again. A sense of forward momentum, whether it is leading to positive or negative results, is key.

<i>Final Recommendation</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly Consider
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consider
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider with Development