

Not a Keeper

(The musical)

The musical follows an emotional journey that begins with the excitement of new connections during college orientation and evolves into a deeper examination of character and integrity through postcollege. The central plot focuses on the “red flags” and deceptive behaviors that define someone as “not a keeper.” It contrasts the hope of finding a soulmate with the harsh reality of betrayal and narcissism. Red flags are central plot devices that signal the deterioration of trust and the emergence of toxic behaviors within two different central relationships. The use of musical and narrative cues highlights the psychological shift from infatuation to self-preservation.

The songs provide narrative arc to trace the trajectory of two main central relationships using heart-wrenching, honest, storytelling words complimented by diverse genres (Pop, Rock, Tropical Rock, Urban, R&B, Techno-Pop Dance, and NOLA Jazz). The genres provide a “cinematic feel” by blending various musical styles to emphasize the psychological toll of unfulfilled promises, empowerment through truth, and the strength found in moving on. One relationship evolves from love and the “Tit for Tat” nature of modern marriages to the eventual realization of a partner’s misleadingly deceptive, unfaithful nature revealed on her birthday. The protagonist, a resilient woman searching for a genuine romantic connection navigates through the initial spark and evolving relationship until the harsh reality of emotional manipulation, nefarious motives, and uncovered deceptions lead to the relationship demise articulated in song “IOUs.”

The red flags (narcissism, deception, infidelity, betrayal, manipulation, ghosting and emotional neglect) present the larger pattern that both the protagonist and main supporting character must learn to recognize. The script uses these red flags to define the title’s meaning—contrasting the qualities of a “keeper” (loyalty, honesty, transparency) with the destructive traits of someone who is “not a keeper.”

Empowerment through truth concept drives the idea of finding strength in the aftermath of betrayal. Tracks like “Tit for Tat” and “Let’s Be Friends” reflect the goal of portraying the resilience needed to walk away from toxic relationships.

The interweaved, storytelling songs create a cohesive, cinematic experience to document the “emotional arc” of finding—and subsequently losing the trust in a partner who proves they are “not a keeper.”

The charming, but ultimately deceptive, “not a keeper” character drives the central conflict of infidelity and emotional manipulation. Concurrently, the support circle characters represent the enduring power of friendship which provides counterpoint to the romantic turmoil of the mind-bending story “Not a Keeper.” Looking for a musical (movie) to take you on an emotional journey? It has arrived.