Interphase
“Kathy, what’s the matter?”
“I just, I don’t know what to do… Hermione and I have just started growing apart,” she mumbled.
John tried to put his arm over Kathy’s shoulders but she shrugged it off.
“I’m sorry, I just don’t know how to deal with this right now…I’ve already copied my chromosomes after I could tell she had copied hers,” John’s eyes went wide.
“You…copied your chromosomes?”
“Come on John, don’t act so surprised. We’re doing so many different things now it was only natural,” Kathy said defensively.
John lowered his voice to a whisper and leaned in close to Kathy’s ear.
“Did you copy your centrosome too?”
“John! For the LAST time, we are plant cells!”
“Oh right, sorry I always forget,”
“You animal cells are all the same,” Kathy muttered under her breath.
“What was that?” John quipped.
“Nothing! Nothing!” Kathy fretted, pulling her jacket on and waving goodbye.

Prophase
Kathy hesitantly knocked on Hermione’s door, almost cringing at the thought of seeing what her expression will be.
After a minute or two Hermione appeared, looking a bit tired and unamused.
“Hey Kathy…” she trailed off.
“Hi Hermione Moo,” Kathy replied, almost regretting calling her by the endearing nickname.
Hermione didn’t respond to the nickname, and walked back into her house, leaving the door open for Kathy to close.
Kathy followed Hermione to the living room, building up the courage for what she was about to say.
“We need to talk,” she said, a bit too awkwardly.
“What about?” Hermione almost snapped back.
“Well…” Kathy started, “It feels like we’ve been growing further apart recently,”
Hermione took this into consideration and nodded.
“I just feel like there’s something- “
“A spindle,” Hermione interrupts.
“-between us,” Kathy finishes, looking up at Hermione in awe of what she just said.
“I’m surprised you haven’t noticed,” Hermione chuckles, “I don’t know about you but my nucleolus has broken down,”
Kathy’s heart sunk. She thought that only her nucleolus had done that.
“My chromosomes are so condensed...” Kathy’s voice breaks.
Hermione walks over and puts her hand on her shoulder.
“I can feel the spindle capturing my chromosomes, I’m not sure if there’s anything we can do,” she said, looking off into the distance quite dramatically.
Kathy gently nudges away from Hermione, crying quietly if only to herself. What could she have done to deserve this?

**Metaphase**
Kathy and Hermione sat apart from each other in the living room, both knowing that this would be the last time they’d see each other as lovers.
Hermione tried offering Kathy some water, but she refused, looking away.
Kathy felt that all her chromosomes had been captured by the spindle, they were lining up between her and Hermione…getting ready to divide.
She and Hermione had tried everything they could to stay together, but it was too late.
“Are all the chromosomes aligned?” Hermione whispered.
“Yep,” Kathy said through tears, “they’re attached to the microtubules too...” she trailed off.
Kathy and Hermione had been through everything together, but now it seems it is all coming to an end... Everything was on the table. Could their relationship be saved?

**Cytokinesis - Part One: Anaphase**
“I think you should leave,”
Kathy looked up at Hermione, dried tears on her cheeks.
“Hermione, please,” she begged.
But Hermione stood firm.
“You need to face the facts. Our protein has already broken down, and the microtubules are pushing us apart,” she said matter-of-factly.
“Okay,” Kathy croaked, slowly gathering her things and heading for the door.
How could Hermione be so self-assured that this was the right thing to do? Had she known this was going to happen?
Kathy’s mental questions remained unvoiced as she tugged the handle of the front door and turned back around to face her now ex-girlfriend.
Hermione’s face was stone cold, no emotion was to be found. Kathy thought back to all the times she had seen that face lit with joy and excitement, these memories caused her to start crying again.
Hermione’s expression changed, a mysterious, un-readable emotion flickered across her face, almost as if she regretted the whole ordeal. However, she grasped the edge of the door, muttered a goodbye under her breath, and slowly closed it on Kathy’s face.
Kathy considered sitting on the front stoop, but she realized what she needed now was space. She climbed into her Range Rover and drove off, to where? She didn’t quite know.
Cytokinesis - Part Two: Telophase
Kathy knew that as soon as she was past the town limit, their biotic spindle had broken down.
She could already feel the new structures rebuilding themselves inside of her. She tried to focus on this instead of thinking about Hermione.
Exits flew by as her nucleus, nuclear membranes, and nucleoli reformed. By this time, she was in a different state. After driving for several hours, her chromosomes slowly began decondensing, and she took a deep breath and could finally relax.
Almost all at once Kathy finally felt independent from Hermione. As if they were both beginning their own lives, completely separate from one another. Perhaps this is how it was meant to be.
Kathy didn’t know much for sure, but what she did know was that she never wanted to go through another mitosis like that ever again.