

Peering into the Window

Rita stood on the sidewalk, peering wistfully at the beautiful home.



Through the curtained windows, she saw nicely dressed people chatting with one another and enjoying refreshments. She clutched an engraved, personal invitation to the dinner party in her hand.

Her professor, impressed with her academic abilities, had invited her to attend this evening's affair so that she might meet others at the university.

Rita carefully fingered the invitation, looked down at her party dress, which seemed dull and ordinary in comparison to the gowns she saw through the window. With a sadness of the soul, she turned and slowly walked away. Clutched between her fingers: the unused invitation.

This poignant and painful scene from the British movie *Educating Rita* demonstrates just how difficult it is for one to accept the possibility of a new life. Rita came from a lower middle-class family, and no one had attended a university before her. She struggled with feelings of inadequacy and was forever wondering how she would fit in. It is this sense of self-doubt that caused her to fail to take action on the invitation.

Thanks to a persistent professor, however – who saw more in her than she saw in herself – she eventually accepted his invitation to join a new world. By the movie's end, this once modest woman excelled as a scholar.

The invitation to become and then excel as a Christian is for each of us. The greatest joy, though, is in knowing that our Master Teacher always sees more in us than we usually see in ourselves.

God does not ask about our ability, but our availability.

The son said unto him, Father, I ... am no more worthy to be called thy son (Luke 15:21 KJV).

– Beecher Hunter