

Beth #1 start

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Act I Scene 4

1

FRANK

How is Frankie?

BETH

How do you think he is, Frank? All I keep thinking is 'I could have stopped it.' I warned about Gussie. I could have stopped it.

FRANK

Do you still love me?

BETH

Did you sleep with her, Frank?

FRANK

*(Insistently)*

Do you still love me?

BETH

*(Quietly at first)*

NOT A DAY GOES BY,  
NOT A SINGLE DAY  
BUT YOU'RE SOMEWHERE A PART OF MY LIFE  
AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL STAY.

AS THE DAYS GO BY,  
I KEEP THINKING, WHEN DOES IT END?  
WHERE'S THE DAY I'LL HAVE STARTED FORGETTING?

*(With increasing fury)*

BUT I JUST GO ON  
THINKING AND SWEATING  
AND CURSING AND CRYING  
AND TURNING AND REACHING  
AND WAKING AND DYING  
AND NO,  
NOT A DAY GOES BY,  
NOT A BLESSED DAY  
BUT YOU'RE STILL SOMEHOW PART OF MY LIFE,  
AND YOU WON'T GO AWAY.

*(Raging)*

SO THERE'S HELL TO PAY,  
AND UNTIL I DIE,  
I'LL DIE DAY AFTER DAY  
AFTER DAY AFTER DAY  
AFTER DAY AFTER DAY  
AFTER DAY

~~TILL THE DAYS GO BY!  
TILL THE DAYS GO BY!  
TILL THE DAYS GO BY!~~

2

have stopped it. I

*(Quietly again)*

Did you sleep with Gussie?

FRANK

I love you, Beth.

BETH

Did you want that kind of life so much you went with her?

FRANK

I'll always love you.

BETH

But did you?

FRANK

*(Looks away. Then)*

Yes.

BETH

*(Puts out her hand and steps toward him)*

Frank, I want us to —

*(Suddenly FRANK JR. runs ONSTAGE toward FRANK, with MR. SPENCER running in after him)*

FRANK JR.

Daddy! Daddy! Daddy!

*(BETH pulls him back to send him to his grandfather so that she and FRANK can talk)*

BETH

No, Frankie, no. You're to stay with —

FRANK

*(Holding onto FRANK JR.)*

He's my child, too!

TING?

*(K.T. and the PHOTOGRAPHER have quickly moved in and suddenly there is a flash as he shoots a picture of this momentary struggle. FRANK and BETH stop, shocked. FRANK wheels around to the PHOTOGRAPHER)*

Get out of here!

*(CHARLEY, MARY, JEROME and the others come rushing back in)*

BETH

*(Holding FRANK JR.'S hand, EXITS with him and MR. SPENCER)*  
I can't live like this!

FRANK

Beth, wait!

*(The PHOTOGRAPHER takes another shot of FRANK calling after the EXITING BETH. FRANK turns on him)*

End

I said get out of here!

*(FRANK pushes the PHOTOGRAPHER, THEY scuffle and FRANK shoves him down on the ground)*

Are you satisfied?

PHOTOGRAPHER

It's my job, man.

FRANK

Then go find a decent one, man.

CHARLEY

Hey, take it easy. Calm down, buddy. Cool off.

*(The PHOTOGRAPHER gets up and crosses to the steps)*

K.T.

I'll kill those photos, genius. But you owe me one.

*(K.T. also crosses to the steps as CHARLEY leads FRANK back to the group)*

MARY

Listen to Charley and me, Frank. We want you to get away.

FRANK

We're coming.

MARY

Me, too.

BETH

What about the opening party?

CHARLEY

You two go to the party.

*(Hands the tape recorder to FRANK, starts to EXIT, turns back)*

Frank, I'll do one more for Joe Josephson. But just one more.

FRANK

*(Puts tape recorder down at the side of the stage)*

One more. And then it's our time.

*(FRANK, CHARLEY, MARY and BETH huddle and jump)*

CHARLEY

One more.

*(THEY hug. BETH cheers. CHARLEY, EXITING STAGE LEFT, to MARY)*

Come on.

In a minute.

*start*

BETH

*(After CHARLEY EXITS, to FRANK)*

Frank, I was there for Evelyn's last baby and I want to be there for this one, too. You go on ahead.

FRANK

No, honey, absolutely not. No, no, no.

BETH

Yes, yes, yes. I am so proud of you. If I don't see you at the hospital, I'll see you home.

*(A slight pause)*

Oh, I love you so much.

*Beth + Mary*

*(SHE kisses him and pushes him into the theater. HE EXITS through the stage door and RE-ENTERS UPSTAGE where he is visible backstage through the scrim wall)*

MARY

*(Stopping BETH)*

Beth, with Gussie there, I urge you to go with Frank.

BETH

*(Moving)*

Sometimes you have to trust, Mary.

MARY

*(Stopping her again)*

And sometimes you don't.

BETH

I would never want a man I couldn't trust.

*(BETH EXITS STAGE LEFT, with MARY following. JOE comes upon FRANK ENTERING from behind the scrim)*

JOE

Hey, Big Man! You got a ride to this fancy-schmancy party?

FRANK

I can only stay one or two minutes.

GUSSIE

*(ENTERING, seeing them, calling down from a level above)*

Oh, was that not why we do all this? Was that not just heaven?

JOE

I gotta go make nice with the backers. You two take our car.

*(EXITING, calling to GUSSIE)*

I won't be able to afford this Big Man now, you watch!

GUSSIE

Oh, what a blessing it's been to find another pure artist. So often I have just wanted to thank you. But Franklin Shepard, I think there has been a conspiracy to keep you from me.

FRANK

Miss Carnegie, I owe you so much.

End

back)

np)

LE LEFT, to

for this one, too.

pital, I'll see you