

ANNA: But still . . .

MARTHA: Anna, no.

*(The utter degradation)* Just look what's become of Ilse now! Living who knows where—with who knows who?!

WENDLA: I just wish I could somehow go through it for you . . .

*(A beat.)*

THEA: My Uncle Klaus says, "If you don't discipline a child, you don't love it."

MARTHA: That must be.

*(A beat.)*

ANNA: When I have children, I'll let them be free. And they'll grow strong and tall.

THEA: Free? But how will we know what to do if our parents don't tell us?

*(A menacing eighth-note guitar riff. The lights shift. We enter the song world of Martha. Her mother, Frau Bessell, casting a long shadow.)*

*Over the course of the first verses, Wendla, Anna and Thea walk off, one after the other.)*

FRAU BESSELL: Martha, time for bed now.

MARTHA:

*There is a part I can't tell  
About the dark I know well . . .*

FRAU BESSELL: Martha, darling . . . ?

*(No response.)*

Put on that new nightgown. The pretty ruffled one your father bought you.

MARTHA:

*You say, "Time for bed now, child,"  
Mom just smiles that smile—  
Just like she never saw me.  
Just like she never saw me . . .*

*So, I leave, wantin' just to hide.  
Knowin' deep inside  
You are comin' to me.  
You are comin' to me . . .*

*You say all you want is just a kiss good night,  
Then you hold me and you whisper, "Child, the Lord  
won't mind.  
It's just you and me.  
Child, you're a beauty."*

*"God, it's good—the lovin'—ain't it good tonight?  
You ain't seen nothin' yet—gonna treat you right.  
It's just you and me.  
Child, you're a beauty."*

*(A knocking on a door. Ilse is revealed in song light. Her father, Herr Neumann, peers out of the dark.)*

HERR NEUMANN: Ilse . . . ? Ilse. Story time.

ILSE:

*I don't scream. Though I know it's wrong.  
I just play along.  
I lie there and breathe.  
Lie there and breathe . . .*

*I wanna be strong—  
I want the world to find out  
That you're dreamin' on me,  
Me and my "beauty."*