

ILSE: Well, walk me at least.

MORITZ: Honestly, I wish I could.

ILSE: You know, by the time you finally wake up, I'll be lying on some trash heap.

(Ilse goes. Moritz winces.)

MORITZ: For the love of God, all I had to do was say yes.

(Calls after her) Ilse? Ilse . . . ?

(He waits. If only he could run after her . . . But now, she's gone.)

So, what will I say? I'll tell them all, the angels, I got drunk in the snow, and sang, and played pirates . . . Yes, I'll tell them, I'm ready now. I'll be an angel.

(Moritz sighs, looks out on the night. He withdraws the gun from his pocket.)

Ten minutes ago, you could see the entire horizon. Now, only the dusk—the first few stars . . .

So dark. So dark. So dark . . .

(Moritz cocks the hammer of the gun. Sets the gun in his mouth. Blackout.)

SCENE 3

A cemetery in the pouring rain. Moritz's father, Herr Stiefel, stands, stoic, beside an open grave.

Frau Gabor approaches the grave to offer a flower. As she does, Melchior is revealed in song light. He begins to sing, giving voice to Herr Stiefel's inner thoughts.

One by one, the Boys and Girls step forward, dropping a flower on Moritz's grave, then continuing on their way, rejoining as a chorus.

MELCHIOR:

*You fold his hands, and smooth his tie.
You gently lift his chin—
Were you really so blind, and unkind to him?*

*Can't help the itch to touch, to kiss,
To hold him once again.
Now, to close his eyes, never open them? . . .*

MELCHIOR, BOYS AND GIRLS:

*A shadow passed. A shadow passed,
Yearning, yearning for the fool it called a home.*

MELCHIOR:

*All things he never did are left behind;
All the things his mama wished he'd bear in mind;
And all his dad ever hoped he'd know.
O-o-o-o-o—*

*The talks you never had,
The Saturdays you never spent,
All the "grown-up" places you never went;*

*And all of the crying you wouldn't understand,
You just let him cry—"Make a man out of him."*

MELCHIOR, BOYS AND GIRLS:

*A shadow passed. A shadow passed,
Yearning, yearning for the fool it called a home.*

MELCHIOR:

*All things he ever wished
Are left behind;
All the things his mama
Did to make him mind;
And how his dad
Had hoped he'd grow.*

*All things he ever lived
Are left behind;*