

**MAESTRO**

by

Bradley Cooper & Josh Singer

*"A work of art does not answer questions, it provokes them;  
and its essential meaning is in the tension between the contradictory answers."*

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

OVER BLACK:

We HEAR the piano beginnings of the Postlude from A Quiet Place...

1 INT. HALL/LIVING ROOM, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY (1989) 1

IN COLOR.

THE MUSIC CONTINUES. We find ourselves in a living room. **LEONARD BERNSTEIN (LB)**, early seventies, alone, seated at a piano playing the notes we have been listening to, moving through the Postlude to A Quiet Place. But as he continues to play, we see a camera crew around him. He's not alone at all.

Of course, as we pan back to him, it's as though he's alone... pushing through the discordant notes, pushing toward the resolve...

Then he pauses, takes off his glasses and rubs his eyes. Struggling. A beat.

Our angle shifts as LB turns, addresses our interviewer and the cameras.

LB

It was always better on the piano, I don't know why. So to answer your question, yes, I carry her around with me quite a bit. I've often seen her in the garden working. Julia Vega swears that she's at the top of the stairs every morning when she comes down to do the laundry. Making sure she's separating the whites and the darks. And our children are very jealous because they've never seen her. I... I miss her terribly.

2 INT. APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - MORNING (NOVEMBER 14, 1943)

2

IN BLACK AND WHITE.

Shades drawn. Near black when a phone begins RINGING. We see a **YOUNG LEONARD BERNSTEIN**, 25 years old, thin, handsome, shirtless, lumber over and pick up the phone. His eyes are closed, he's still half asleep.

LB (INTO THE PHONE)  
Hello?... Yes.  
(and turning on the light)  
Of course... Yes, I'm aware... Oh.  
Can you hold on one second, please?

He puts the phone to his shoulder. He reaches for a cigarette and lights it.

LB (INTO THE PHONE)  
 Well, that's terrible news, is he going to be okay?... No, I understand... And no chance for a rehearsal?... Yes. Alright...  
 (then)  
 May I get three tickets for today?... Yes... Alright, alright, yes, thank you.

LB hangs up. Processes.

WIDE as he climbs onto the window sill and throws open the drapes. We hear the DRUMS from the open to his Symphonic Suite from 'On The Waterfront': Andante.

Light pours into the one room apartment. A kitchenette in the wall, some striped wall hangings, a Steinway, composition paper everywhere and... a **YOUNG MAN**, sprawled face down on the fold out bed. Naked.

LB  
 You got 'em boy!

LB jumps from the window sill onto the naked man, drums his buttocks and rolls off as he grabs his robe and we MOVE WITH LB as he throws on the robe and...

ANGLE ABOVE LB [*in a G-D POV we'll hold for most of this next sequence*] as he heads out the door into --

3 **INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

3

A long hall in a bit of daze. He gets to a door, opens it and runs through to --

4 **INT. BALCONY BOX, CARNegie HALL - CONTINUOUS**

4

He leans over and the drums PUSH THE CAMERA past him... flying into the empty house, FALLING toward the stage....getting our first view of CARNegie HALL - four balconies, 2804 red seats in a white jewel box of a house; it's at once intimate and imposing. And far away, up in the high balcony, we see... LB.

We PUSH BACK towards him as the drums drive him back out the door he came and into --

5 **INT. BACKSTAGE, CARNegie HALL - EARLY AFTERNOON**

5

A hallway floor with the shadow of LB coming toward us now dressed in a double breasted suit and bowtie.

The heavy bass of the drum beats pounding. He continues to walk as a man - **BRUNO ZIRATO**, 59, a Neapolitan, greets and walks along with him talking and gesticulating.

LB  
Hello. BRUNO ZIRATO  
Did you get any sleep?

LB  
No, I didn't get any sleep, Bruno.  
Manfred starts with a down beat rest  
and you didn't give me a rehearsal  
with the orchestra.

BRUNO ZIRATO  
I told you you were going on!

LB  
No, you told me it was a  
possibility, Bruno!

They reach the edge of the curtain. LB peers out at the PACKED HOUSE... and starts to sweat. The drums still blaring reaching what feels like a summit!

CBS ANNOUNCER (OVER PA)  
*Good afternoon. United States  
Rubber Company again invites you to  
Carnegie Hall to hear a concert of  
the New York Philharmonic Symphony  
Orchestra of which Artur Rodziński  
is musical director.*

And BAM! The last drum beats and the music ends.

CBS ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
*Bruno Walter, who was to have  
conducted this afternoon, is ill and  
his place will be taken by the  
young, American-born assistant  
conductor of the Philharmonic  
Symphony, Leonard Bernstein.*

We hear grumbling and groans from the audience. LB goes a bit PALE. A beat. Then he walks out onto --

6 **INT. STAGE, CARNEGIE HALL - CONTINUOUS**

6

The long walk to the podium. We feel the audience now, LB sweats more with every step... We WIPE AROUND LB, maybe catching a few skeptical looks from the orchestra before we ISOLATE ON LB, leaving us only with the silent auditorium, LB's breathing and the sound of his hands opening the score. He peers down at it. A BEAT.

HE LOOKS UP AND MAKES EYE CONTACT WITH EVERY ORCHESTRA MEMBER. We see a GLINT in his eye as he confronts this challenge... and rises to it... He lifts his hand with shocking self-assurance.

CLOSE ON that hand as it drives through the downbeat rest then jerks back up, seizing the moment.

BRUNO ZIRATO (PRELAP)  
Today, you were here for an historic performance...

DISSOLVE TO:

7 **INT. STAGE, CARNEGIE HALL - LATER**

7

LB next to Bruno Zirato, who addresses the audience, rapt, still standing from their ovations. The energy is palpable.

BRUNO ZIRATO (CONT'D)  
This performance, that was fantastic, was broadcast all over the world. And I feel obliged to say that Maestro Bernstein was called this morning at nine-thirty and he was told that he would actually conduct here, for the first time, after many years --

LB  
With no rehearsal!

BRUNO ZIRATO  
...without rehearsal...

The audience laughs, simply captivated by LB.

BRUNO ZIRATO  
...but he loves the music, he doesn't need rehearsal, he feels it so much! And after many years, and he really wanted this, it has happened and I'm so proud, Carnegie Hall is so proud of you, and New York is proud of you.

He turns to the audience, introducing the world to --

BRUNO ZIRATO (CONT'D)  
Leonard Bernstein!

The audience erupts in applause.

8 **INT. LB'S APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - DAY (1943)**

8

The sun pours into the downstairs area of LB's apartment. There is a man, **JERRY ROBBINS**, who seems to be almost stretching by the way he is seated on the piano bench. Another man, who we recognize from the bedroom, **DAVID OPPENHEIM**, now in a suit, is seated in a chair reading from a newspaper. In the far right, there is a door left ajar. LB is behind it, on the toilet with what looks like a score on his lap.

LB

Well, I'll tell you fellas, I don't remember a thing after that downbeat rest. I must have blacked out, and then when the audience applauded, I came to.

JERRY

Listen, don't let this get in the way. We are on a roll here, baby, and I want to be able to choreograph the last segment with the dancers while I'm in Cincinnati.

LB

Okay, but Jerry, I'm in love with the music. I told you, as soon as I have something that I'm cooking up, I'm going to record it and send it to you.

David reads from the paper.

DAVID

This the new ballet he's composing for you? The one about three sailors on leave in New York getting up to no good?

JERRY

That's the one.

DAVID

Don't argue with him, Jerry.  
(off the Times)  
He is a young man, "to be reckoned with!" You can read it right here!

LB

Oh, David, please...

But David holds up the paper.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
"Bernstein shows mastery of  
score. Youthful conductor LB  
carries out an exacting David, please!  
program in sudden emergency."

JERRY  
Sure, right next to Hitler's  
bombing of Poland.

There is a KNOCK at the door.

LB  
Come on in, it's open!

ISAAC, the assistant stage manager to the NY Phil, enters. But  
as he opens the door, it hits the other open door to the room  
LB has been in. Isaac looks over to LB on the toilet.

ISAAC  
Sorry, gentlemen...

DAVID  
No, no, he likes leaving the door  
open.

ISAAC  
Oh for god's -- LB  
Oh hey, Isaac how are you,  
you know David, and that's  
Jerry Robbins.

JERRY  
Hi, Isaac.

ISAAC  
Hello.  
(to LB)  
Listen, listen, we've gotta get you  
downstairs, you're an hour late  
Lenny--

LB  
I'm coming, I'm just working on the  
score and--

ISAAC  
I understand, Rodziński's  
coming in at 11:30 to LB  
rehearse -- Rodziński's here?

ISAAC  
Yes... LB  
Ok well, I'll be down in a  
second, I promise.

JERRY  
 Isaac, Isaac, don't forget your  
 show pony here is a composer.

We begin to hear a four hands piano piece and we cut to --

9 INT. LB'S APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - DAYS LATER

9

Four hands come down on a piano, play us through Fancy Free  
Ballet: VI. Three Dance Variations: Var. I (Galop).

Find LB at the piano, in a sleeveless undershirt, a cigarette dangling from his mouth, alongside **AARON COPLAND**, 46, sad eyes and a receding hairline, in a shirt and tie. The two of them play four hands off a handwritten score, a microphone beside the keyboard wired to an early, piano disc recorder, where David, in a robe, tends to the disc. They finish with a flourish.

10 INT. LB'S APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - LATER

10

David Oppenheim lays back while getting a foot massage from LB.

LB  
 I'm learning not to do it so hard,  
 right?

DAVID  
 It's perfect. Whatever you're doing  
 right now, it's perfect.

LB  
 I always do get a bit too  
 overzealous.

David laughs as we hear romantic notes from The Lonely Town  
Pas de deux from On The Town, which continues throughout.

LB  
 I get too excited. Both your feet  
 went up, I don't know what to do  
 with myself. It's just too much!  
 It's too much for one man.

DAVID  
 I think it's just because it  
 was on a liver spot--

LB  
 No, no, it's just too much  
 for one man to take.  
 Honestly, David.

DAVID

You're too much.

LB

I mean, I'll never leave the apartment, I just won't. That's just the reality.

DAVID

Please don't...

Then LB leans into frame, revealing the piano disc microphone. He talks into it while gently continuing the massage.

LB (INTO MICROPHONE)

Dear Jerry, this is an impromptu apology for the record, which isn't so very bad, but it's not so very good either.

(perusing the score)  
I'm looking through the score now, exhausted, and, uh, everything's okay up to number three, when all the counterpoint comes in with the two pianos. I'm afraid it's sort of messy there.

David sits up and tends the recording.

LB (INTO MICROPHONE)

At any rate, it's hard to do on two pianos, so with an orchestra I think you will be able to be very clear. And pardon all the mistakes...

(laughing)  
...but it was all Aaron Copland's fault...

AARON COPLAND (O.C.)  
It was all my fault!

LB (CONT'D)  
...and there he sits now!

AARON COPLAND (O.C.)  
It's not true!

LB

Anyway, I'll leave it to you to figure out, Mr. Robbins, how to dance to this type of music... but give my love to everybody, in the thing, and I hope you like it. Good luck, Jerry.

LB nods to David, who turns off the recorder.

LB  
Well, I've got to get to rehearsal  
and--

DAVID OPPENHEIM  
I've got it.

LB  
(off David)  
You do? Aw you're such a  
chap!

AARON COPLAND  
It's downstairs, you're still gonna  
be late.

LB grabs a blazer and bowtie, rushing out.

DAVID  
Put in a word for me with  
Rodziński for me, will you?

LB  
(strokes David's hair)  
I will. I'm not his favorite,  
but I will. Love you baby.

DAVID  
Love you.

The Lonely Town Pas de deux continues, taking us to...

11 EXT. SUBURBAN STREET, QUEENS, NY - NIGHT

11

The MUSIC CONTINUES. 23-year-old **FELICIA MONTEALEGRE** steps off a city bus, onto a triangulated suburban street in Queens.

She begins to walk toward us as the music swells then fades as we switch to her POV and move across the street toward a house. We hear music and voices from within, which grow louder as we approach a front door left ajar.

12 INT. LIVING ROOM, CLAUDIO ARRAU'S HOUSE, QUEENS, NY - NIGHT

12

We are with Felicia as she enters a packed, smoke-filled living room. There is a congregation around a piano. Felicia makes her way there as we find a man and a woman performing Carried Away from On the Town.

Felicia reaches the edge of the small crowd, but we hold on her as the music ends and everyone roars with laughter. A woman enters frame, **SHIRLEY BERNSTEIN**.

SHIRLEY  
Brilliant, but... but what no one  
here knows is how he beat the  
Soprano out of his poor baby sister  
performing all those Operas when we  
were children. Let that be fair  
warning to you and to everyone!  
(to Felicia)  
(MORE)

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)  
 Hello, I thought you might be here.  
 You've certainly been making the  
 rounds. Have you met the gang?

FELICIA  
 No. SHIRLEY  
 (turns to)  
 Betty and Adolph, they're  
 just a riot...

Now we ANGLE on the woman and man who were singing Carried  
 Away, BETTY COMDEN and ADOLPH GREEN...

FELICIA  
 Hello.

BETTY COMDEN  
 Hello. ADOLPH GREEN  
 Hey there.

...and now we pan to a young **ELLEN ADLER**, draped over the  
 piano player who is facing away from us, a familiarity which  
 comes from a sexual history together.

SHIRLEY  
 ...Ellen, of course you've run into  
 her at her mother's studio, no  
 doubt.

ELLEN ADLER SHIRLEY  
 Hello, Felicia. (tongue in cheek)  
 Who did I miss? Have I missed  
 anyone?

LB  
 Just the piano player.

And as the piano player turns toward us, we reveal it's a  
 young LB. He looks at Felicia.

SHIRLEY  
 Well, I figured you needed no  
 introduction.

LB  
 Hello. I'm Lenny. FELICIA  
 Hello, Felicia.

Bernstein.  
 (points to Shirley)  
 Like that one.

FELICIA  
 Montealegre.

LB  
Montealegre?

FELICIA  
Montealegre-Cohn.

LB  
Cohn? Montealegre-Cohn... well,  
that's an interesting marriage of  
words.

He plays Loesser and Hollander's You've Got That Look and we --

13 INT./EXT. LIVING ROOM, CLAUDIO ARRAU'S HOUSE, QUEENS, NY - LATER<sup>13</sup>

CLOSE ON Ellen Adler, who sings the Marlene Dietrich classic which will play through the scene. From a window, we reveal we're outside with LB and Felicia mid-conversation.

LB  
...fascinating, because you come  
from an aristocratic European family  
on your mother's side and your  
father is American, and he's Jewish,  
and then you moved to Chile because  
your father... It's amazing I  
remember all this, isn't it?

FELICIA  
I know!

Felicia laughs, flush with excitement at having LB's full attention, yet desperately trying not to reveal it.

LB  
I remember everything... FELICIA  
I don't know how!

LB  
So you moved to Chile because of  
your father's business, and now, now  
you're firmly planted in New York  
City studying piano...

FELICIA  
Yes.

LB  
...but you're actually studying  
acting and that is a career which  
demands the versatility to play a  
panoply of characters and that is my  
conclusion... that you, my dear, are  
very similar to me.

FELICIA

How?

LB

Because you had to take all the pieces of all the bits of you that are scattered across these varied landscapes and form, create the veritable person that stands before me now.

FELICIA

And how is that similar to you?

LB

You just asked me and I just told you!

FELICIA

I know, I know, I know! Okay, Russian Orthodox Jew growing up in Boston...

LB

Oh, someone else was listening.

FELICIA

Child of immigrants...

LB

Yes.

FELICIA

Your father a self-made businessman steeped in Talmud. Harvard, then Curtis School for Music...

LB

Institute.

FELICIA

Institute of music in Philadelphia. Now firmly planted here...

LB

Very firmly.

FELICIA

...in New York City, pursuing composition and conducting...

LB

...under the guise of a concert pianist, drawn to this artistic mecca, fleeing my puritanical origins. Just like you.

FELICIA

Come now, surely your family was a tad more supportive.

LB

No, my father imagined me a Klezmer playing for Kopeks on a street corner. He was desperate for me to join the family business so I could make a living.

FELICIA

What was the family business?

LB

Samuel J. Bernstein Hair Company.

FELICIA

(laughing)

Really?

LB

Yes. So I had no choice but to become a composite of adopted speech, manner, outlook on life, a composite which enables me to be many things at once. And that's why we, you and I, are able to endure and survive. Because the world wants us to be only one thing, and I find that deplorable.

(then)

I find you very attractive, Felicia.

FELICIA

Me?

COMDEN AND GREEN

(sing, through window)

*Carried away! Carried away!*

They're interrupted by Comden and Green, belting a reprise of the chorus to Carried Away up against the window.

COMDEN AND GREEN

(pointing at LB)

*You get carried, just carried away!*

LB

(to Felicia)

It's really too much. I'm very sorry.

We hear the Prelude from LB's Trouble in Tahiti. LB and Felicia laugh and shout as they race to catch a CITY BUS. They make it just before it pulls away...

15 **EXT. STREET, GREENWICH VILLAGE, NY - NIGHT**

15

The MUSIC CONTINUES as Felicia and LB walk in step together, rounding a corner heading toward the Provincetown Playhouse.

FELICIA  
...Oh, I like that.

LB  
You have a lot of energy I have to tell you.

They reach the door and as they disappear into the theater...

16 **INT. STAIRWAY, PROVINCETOWN PLAYHOUSE, GREENWICH VILLAGE - NIGHT**<sup>16</sup>

We are below the two of them coming down the stairs.

LB  
I'm just following you, I don't know where, I never go to this part of town.

FELICIA  
I know-- I can't imagine you ever being in a place like this. Now you go in here, just on the stage...

LB  
Oh, okay.

She points him onto...

17 **INT. STAGE, PROVINCETOWN PLAYHOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

17

A stage lit by a lonely ghost light. LB heads in as Felicia continues off camera, leaving LB alone on the stage.

FELICIA (O.C.)  
Take your shoes off!

LB  
Oh, okay, where do I put them?

FELICIA (O.C.)  
Over on the other side.

LB takes his shoes off, tiptoes across the stage, calls out...

LB  
Where are you going?

FELICIA (O.C.)  
I'm just getting the script!

LB pulls out a cigarette, lights it and calls out again.

LB  
The script?

FELICIA (O.C.)  
Yes!

LB  
What, I have to act, too? FELICIA (O.C.)  
What?

LB  
Do I have to do something?

FELICIA (O.C.)  
Well... Maybe!

LB  
Well, now I'm nervous.

FELICIA (O.C.)  
You should be nervous.

LB looks around.

LB  
Well, this is just lovely. This is  
just lovely.

ANGLE ON the ghost light, Felicia appearing behind it out of  
the backstage shadows with a copy of the script.

FELICIA  
If I'm going to read a scene with  
Maestro Bernstein, I better make a  
show of myself.

LB  
Maestro Bernstein? That FELICIA  
sounds very fancy. (laughs)  
Yes.

She handing him the script, Lorca's When Five Years Pass.

FELICIA  
Here.

LB  
Okay... we're going to read it?  
We're actually going to do it?

FELICIA  
Yes.

LB  
And I'm the king?

FELICIA  
You're the king and this is your  
castle.

LB  
Oh wonderful.

FELICIA (CONT'D)  
Now, even though you're the king,  
you're quite taken with me...

LB  
Yes.

FELICIA  
...and so you've decided to give me  
a white rose from your crown.

LB  
Of course I did.

LB makes to hand her his pretend flower.

FELICIA  
No, no, you don't have it yet. I  
have to give it to you!  
(hands him a pretend flower)  
Here's your flower.

LB  
I didn't read the play. FELICIA  
(laughs)  
No, I know.

LB  
Now, hold on... Can you hold this,  
please?

He hands her back the script, takes off his jacket, throws it  
off stage and then gets down on one knee.

LB  
Alright, since I'm the king, FELICIA  
who's in love... Mmm.

And now, he extravagantly hands her the flower.

FELICIA  
A gift for me, my liege?

LB  
Oh, that's very good.

FELICIA  
It's your line.

LB  
 (reading, ACTING)  
 Oh, uh, with your little spots of  
 wax, white rose, you look like, the  
 extravagantly hands her the flower --

FELICIA LB  
 No, no... (realizes, ACTING)  
 You look like the eye of a  
 broken moon.

Felicia can't help but laugh at him.

FELICIA  
 You are terrible.

LB  
 Well, it's your line.

FELICIA  
 You're always changing, my love.  
 (pulls him up)  
 I didn't see you yesterday, but I  
 looked at your horse. He's so  
 beautiful, but not as beautiful as  
 you are. Because you are a dragon.

She leans in and kisses him. LB's surprised. He returns the kiss, passionately... but she pulls back, still in character.

FELICIA (CONT'D)  
 I believe you could break me in two  
 with your arms, as weak as I am,  
 like frost, burned in the sun.

We hear an electrical surge as bright stage lights flicker on.

JOSEPH  
 That's a bit better, isn't it, Miss  
 Montealegre? A little more light?

A janitor (JOSEPH) walks through the house towards the stage, stopping to pick up the jacket LB flung into the aisle.

FELICIA  
 Why, thank you, Joseph.

LB  
 Oh, Joseph, I apologize. I got  
 nervous, I thought there was a  
 spider and I... tried to kill it  
 with my jacket.

JOSEPH  
 Give the stage door a shove on your  
 way out. It'll lock on its own.

LB  
 Thank you, Joseph.

FELICIA  
 Good night, marvelous. Thank  
 you, Joseph.

He goes. LB turns to Felicia.

LB  
 You didn't tell me your father owns  
 this place.

She laughs, moving off and lighting a cigarette.

LB  
 Is this how you lure in all your  
 male suitors?

FELICIA  
 No, I rarely stay out past nine.

LB  
 Well, hold on a second, you made an  
 exception for me?

FELICIA  
 I thought maybe you were worth  
 making an exception for.

LB  
 Oh, well, I hope it doesn't cost you  
 too much. How can I make it worth  
 your while?  
 (then)  
 Oh, I've got it. Something's wrong.

FELICIA  
 What?

He moves to her, takes her hand.

LB  
 What's your character's name?

FELICIA  
 Uh... Margaret.

LB  
 Margaret?  
 (laughs, spins her centerstage)  
 Margaret.

FELICIA

Yes?

LB

And you're the understudy?

FELICIA

Yes.

LB

No, I think you should be Margaret.  
 I think you should be Margaret eight  
 shows a week. That's what I think.  
 Front and center...

FELICIA

No, no, no...

LB

...and if it's fear that's  
 stopping you, Felicia...

FELICIA

There are many things stopping me,  
 Lenny, but fear isn't one of them. I  
 wouldn't be standing here in front  
 of you, heavens I wouldn't even be  
 in New York City if fear had gotten  
 the better of me. It's just not that  
 easy. We'd be fools not to think  
 that luck plays a part as well as  
 talent and determination.

LB

I'm a perfect example of that.

FELICIA

Oh, you must be joking.

LB

If Bruno Walter hadn't gotten sick  
 that fateful day and Rodziński  
 snowed in upstate, I never would  
 have had my debut at the  
 Philharmonic.

FELICIA

That, my sweet boy, is an  
 attempt at humility, but the  
 truth is if it wasn't that  
 day, it would have been  
 another...

LB (CONT'D)

I'd be teaching piano to  
 little eight-year-olds who  
 complain...

LB

Oh, is that what you think?

FELICIA

Yes, I know it.

LB  
Really?

FELICIA  
Of course. And don't forget you are  
a man.

LB  
I never do.

FELICIA  
Right.

PRELAP a roar of applause and the open of *Paris Waltz* from *Candide*. Felicia walks past LB, who wipes frame and we're --

18 INT. STAGE, BROADWAY HOUSE, NEW YORK, NY - NIGHT 18

The MUSIC CONTINUES. Felicia, now in costume, walks downstage. We pan around her to see a theater now crowded with people on their feet, clapping and cheering...

FELICIA  
Oh my God!

Felicia bows, back to us, taking in the standing ovation as the cast joins her and a young man with flowers runs up. She takes his flowers...

We come round front. She holds out her hands and the cast of *When Five Years Pass* joins her. The applause continues. They take one final bow and move below frame as we MATCH TO --

19 INT. STAGE, CARNEGIE HALL, NEW YORK, NY - NIGHT 19

LB rises into frame from his own bow, absorbing the adulation of the even larger full house, an immense and ecstatic crowd.

LB takes it all in then gestures to his orchestra, inviting them to join him.

20 INT. DRESSING ROOM, BROADWAY HOUSE - NIGHT 20

A long mirror. The post performance melee. The women each sit at their stations to take off their makeup. Shirley sits down.

SHIRLEY  
You were marvelous.

Felicia turns to Shirley.

FELICIA  
Oh my goodness. Shirley Bernstein!  
It's very kind of you to come!

SHIRLEY

I brought Richard Hart and  
his wife, Lil.

FELICIA

No, you didn't.

SHIRLEY

Dick is rehearsing his new broadway  
show with Eva Gabor and he is not  
long for this marriage, and, well, I  
think he's your type.

FELICIA

What type is that?

SHIRLEY

Same as mine, unavailable.

**DICK HART**, 30s, a handsome young actor, walks in with his  
wife. Felicia's taken with Hart, who's captivated by Felicia.

DICK HART

Marvelous.

He reaches out, kissing her hand.

FELICIA

It's so kind of you to come. I just  
loved Dark of the Moon.

DICK HART

Oh, stop. You're marvelous. The  
production is better for you being  
in it.

FELICIA

Well, it's only for the week, but  
it's so kind of you to say.

DICK HART

If they had any sense, they'd tell  
Miss Jones to stay in bed. You  
really are wonderful.

He's forward, seductive. Dick's wife (LIL) doesn't like it.  
And as Felicia responds, she reaches in for him.

LIL HART

Dear.

FELICIA

Oh, thank you, it's so kind  
of you to come.

DICK HART

My pleasure.

FELICIA

Thank you.

Lil pulls Dick away from Felicia and out the door.

SHIRLEY

Come have a bite with us.

FELICIA

Oh I, I can't, I'm catching the train to Tanglewood in the morning.

SHIRLEY

Tanglewood? You're going to see my brother?

FELICIA

Well, don't look so surprised.

SHIRLEY

(a bit flustered)

I'm not, I just... he didn't mention it.

FELICIA

Well. Perhaps he was being discreet.

SHIRLEY

My brother? I doubt it.

Shirley exits, leaving Felicia slightly embarrassed. She turns toward the mirror as we DISSOLVE TO --

21 **EXT. TANGLEWOOD, LENOX, MA - DAY**

21

HIGH AND WIDE as we CRANE DOWN upon LB and Felicia sitting in the grass under the shade of a large oak tree. LB is laughing.

FELICIA

...no, try again.

LB

Oh gee, it's six!

FELICIA

No.

LB

Eight.

FELICIA

You're terrible at this.

LB

It's four.

FELICIA

No.

LB

Three.

FELICIA

No.

LB  
Well, it has to be seven, then.

FELICIA  
Can you try to... just concentrate.

LB  
Maybe I should stop and think for a second.

FELICIA  
You should stop and think because I am sending it to you. Right now.

A beat, then --

LB  
Twenty. FELICIA  
No.

They laugh, comfortable together.

LB  
So how long do we have to do this for?

FELICIA  
Oh, we need to build up a very strong connection.

LB  
I can't-- I don't know what you're doing. FELICIA  
Hmm?

LB  
You could be building a bomb back there for all I know. FELICIA  
Blow the whole place up. (laughs)  
I'm just very, terribly, terribly relaxed. Aren't you?

LB  
Yes, I am.

FELICIA  
Are you?

LB  
Yes.

FELICIA  
I've never seen you sit still for so long. Are you itching to move?

LB  
No, I'm not... FELICIA  
Good.

LB  
Actually, at all.

We hear the haunting clarinet from *Facsimile - Choreographic Essay for Orchestra: Part I - Molto Adagio* and we...

22 **EXT. 2ND FLOOR BEDROOM/TERRACE, SERANAK HOUSE, TANGLEWOOD - DAY** 22

MUSIC CONTINUES as Felicia puts clothes from a small suitcase on the bed. She notices LB fumbling with his tie, grabs another tie and reaches for his hand.

FELICIA  
Come here, I'll do it. My goodness.

LB takes her hand and lets her lead him to the terrace.

LB  
I'm useless, aren't I?

FELICIA  
You are! LB  
(she turns him around)  
Where am I going?

FELICIA  
Here, stand there. Not this one.

She pulls off the tie haplessly hanging from his neck and lays it on the bannister. She puts the other tie on him.

LB  
Oh, why not?

FELICIA  
Well, a little garish maybe. Also, you were fumbling so much...

LB  
I like this.

She pulls the tie through and gently begins to knot it.

FELICIA  
I love your smell...

LB  
You do?

FELICIA

I do. It's my father. Isn't that odd? I used to just love wrapping myself up in his trench coat when he would walk in the door at night from work. That smell would intoxicate me. I always associate it with feeling safe.

She finishes his tie but her eyes are still locked on his.

KOUSSEVITZKY (PRELAP)

She's so beautiful, tell me about her.

23

INT. FOYER, SERANAK HOUSE, TANGLEWOOD - DAY

23

Follow LB and **SERGE KOUSSEVITZKY** (KOUSSEY), 70s, as they walk through the foyer trailing behind **OLGA KOUSSEVITZKY**, 44, and Felicia walking toward a table set for lunch...

LB

Oh, she's wonderful, she's a lovely girl and we're just happy to be here.

KOUSSEVITZKY

Yes, where did you meet?

LB

We met at a party, at Claudio Arrau's.

24

EXT. DINING TERRACE, SERANAK HOUSE, TANGLEWOOD - LATER

24

On Koussey, at the head of a long table, eating lunch with LB, Felicia, Aaron Copland and Olga.

OLGA

So, Felicia, are you an actress?

LB

Marvelous actress.

FELICIA

I am. Well, sort of. Well,  
no, I am. I am!

LB

Of course you are!

FELICIA

Unbelievably, I am. And he is  
not.

LB

No, horrible.

FELICIA

I'm just finishing up a play--

LB

Screen tested in LA and it  
was horrible.

FELICIA  
No, he's a terrible actor.

LB  
Terrible. They sent me all the way to Hollywood, then they put me on camera and they said, 'Thank you...

FELICIA LB  
They sent him straight home! ...here's a one-way ticket  
back to New York City.'

FELICIA  
Oh no. COPLAND  
Oh, no is right.

## Copland beams at Felicia.

COPLAND  
He was a student here our inaugural summer. And now he's everyone's favorite teacher and you can't even get into the shed when he's conducting the student orchestra because it's so full.

LB  
Oh, it's only because I love KOUSSEVITZKY  
them so much, that's all. Tell what happened with,  
Lenny, Lenny, Lenny...

LB turns to Koussey, smiles. But Koussey's dour.

KOUSSEVITZKY  
Tell me what happened with the  
Rochester Philharmonic.

LB  
Oh, they passed me over.

KOUSSEVITZKY  
Yes, I know.

LB  
They thought I was spending too much time with you in Boston.

KOUSSEVITZKY

LB  
I believe it was.

LB's unusually quiet. Copland tries to change the subject.

COPLAND  
 Koussey, we should really discuss  
 Our Town if you have--

KOUSSEVITZKY  
 Running off to Hollywood,  
 wasting time on musical LB  
 theater... I promise you I'm giving up  
 that musical theater stuff.

KOUSSEVITZKY  
 Lenny, you are responsible on  
 account of your gifts.  
 (to Felicia)  
 He can be the first great American  
 conductor...

OLGA  
 Serge --

KOUSSEVITZKY  
 ...but he would have to conduct his  
 life in such a way that when he  
 comes out on stage to lead his  
 orchestra, he can truthfully say to  
 himself, my life and my work are  
 clean.

OLGA  
 Serge.

Olga speaks to him in Russian; he responds in Russian, then...

KOUSSEVITZKY  
 And the name... to a Bernstein they  
 will never give an orchestra. But a  
 Burns? Leonard S. Burns.

LB  
 I'd have to sleep on that.

Koussey quiets. It's a bit awkward. He leans into Felicia.

KOUSSEVITZKY  
 I used to entertain people on the  
 train going back and forth to Moscow  
 and upon every arrival, I had to  
 return straight away because, of  
 course, as Jews, we weren't allowed  
 to live there. I never saw the city,  
 not once. But I got to play.

A pause at the table. Olga turns to Koussey, talking in  
 Russian once more, running interference for LB.

As Koussey turns and responds in Russian, we see Felicia reach for LB's hand. Felicia leans in to LB, sotto --

FELICIA  
I want to see them.

LB  
See what?

FELICIA  
All the things Maestro Koussevitsky  
wants you to give up. All the music  
you have made.

LB  
You do? FELICIA  
Yes.

LB  
Well, we can't just leave.

FELICIA  
Oh, yes we can.

As she pulls LB by the hand, and us along too, away from the table, we hear the four drum beats that mark the open to Bernstein's ballet, Fancy Free: I. Enter Three Sailors, and we DOLLY BACK, leading them as they walk underneath the terrace balcony and we MATCH CUT TO --

25 INT. HOUSE/STAGE, ADELPHI THEATER, NEW YORK - NIGHT

25

The MUSIC CONTINUES. LB and Felicia emerge from underneath the balcony of the Adelphi theater, the music louder now as LB and Felicia head down an illuminated path surrounded by darkness. They sit in the house for a moment...

...then Felicia pulls LB up onto the stage where the Ballet is underway and we see the iconic set of Fancy Free; the three sailors dancing under the New York street lamp next to that bar. LB and Felicia rush to take their seats in the bar at the table. The three sailors start to strut about the stage... Felicia smiles, loving the performance.

FELICIA  
Unbelievable.

LB watches her, appreciates how much she's enjoying it. Felicia catches LB looking at her, leans into him.

FELICIA  
Why would you ever want to give this  
up? It's so wonderful.

LB  
It's not serious music, is it?

FELICIA  
Well, what does that mean?

LB  
It means... he thinks I could be the  
first great American conductor.

FELICIA  
Is that what you want?

LB  
I want a lot of things...

He smiles at her. A smile that'd make another woman blush. Felicia pulls back up against her seat to watch the ballet. We've jumped later in the piece to Fancy Free: VI. Three Dance Variations, Variation III (Danzon) and one of the sailors is dancing solo, like a serenade for the other two sailors. We PUSH IN on the dancer; the movements are sensual.

And we see the sailor is now LB himself, through Felicia's eyes, lost in his own movements, the eroticism of it all, titillating both to himself and his audience. We see this land on Felicia's face, this recognition of this complicated man.

On stage, LB moves through the end of the Variation, closer and closer to Felicia. First coming up to the barstool, drumming on his knee. Then standing on top of one, pounding on his chest, gorilla style, declaring his art form and then leaping up, landing almost in front of her as the music stops.

Felicia shoots up from her chair and claps energetically for LB breaking free and expressing himself fully. LB beams, and moves right toward her, and they embrace and kiss.

We go into the kiss, close on them, the passion of their embrace as the top stage lights flair and BAM!!!

We hear the horn wail that marks the beginning of On the Town: Act 1: Opening: New York, New York. This breaks them apart.

We PULL BACK and now the horns wail three more times, LB takes Felicia's hand and begins to pull her across the stage, seemingly away from all this, but as they move, dancers pass us in the foreground, and we see the entire set has transformed into the original production of 'On the Town.'

EXCITED SAILORS on leave dance along with FEMALE CIVILIANS under what seems like a night sky filled with stars.

They are now enmeshed in one huge choreographed dance piece.

Within this, we realize one of the sailors staring at Felicia is Dick Hart. He looks knowingly at her and she reacts... but she is pulled away as the tubas begin chortling through the familiar base line, dancers spinning around LB and Felicia, bewildered.

Dancers begin running toward them from downstage, holding huge white sheets, the sheets billowing up and around them, enveloping the two of them and everyone else, including the frame, until it backs away as if pulled off the stage, now revealing just Felicia and LB stranded alone.

And as the music crescendoes into the familiar open, we PUSH IN as LB and Felicia run and cling to each other, followed by all the dancers too, everyone coming together!!

THREE SAILORS (SINGING)  
*New York, New York!*

26 **INT. BEDROOM, SERANAK HOUSE, TANGLEWOOD - NIGHT**

26

TWO FEET, a sheet rolling off them to reveal LB and Felicia, smoking, half-naked, sprawled on the floor, post-coital.

THREE SAILORS (SINGING)  
*It's a helluva town!*

The music cuts out. Beat.

FELICIA  
 How do you feel?

LB  
 I think it's better.

FELICIA  
 (her head on his shoulder)  
 Is it okay if I put my head like  
 this?

LB  
 It's terribly embarrassing.

FELICIA  
 No... no.

LB  
 If I don't, I just don't  
 breathe, I'll be fine.

FELICIA  
 No!

LB  
 It happens every time.

FELICIA

Every time, what? What do you mean?

LB

Every time, I go to bed, that  
I-- What are you trying to  
imply?

FELICIA

Oh, I see. Well, I don't know  
what you meant.

LB

I just-- Oh...

FELICIA

Oh, goodness.

LB

The lower spine is just  
always--

FELICIA

You take any pills or  
anything?

LB

Pills? I take plenty of pills.

FELICIA

No, I'm sure you do, but I mean  
specifically for this.

He winces in pain.

FELICIA

Oh, dear. Sorry. You poor thing.

LB

That's much better actually,  
being on the floor.

FELICIA

Yes.

LB

Much better. Thank you, it  
was a great idea.

FELICIA

Well.

LB

And you set it all up with the  
pillows, you really do take care of  
me, don't you?

FELICIA

I wanted to make you comfortable.

LB

Well, I have a game we can play.  
Envy and secrets, you know that  
game?

FELICIA

No.

LB  
We both tell each other a secret,  
then we both tell each other  
something that we're envious of, and  
then we become closer.

FELICIA  
I feel pretty close already.

LB  
Well, you certainly seemed close twenty minutes ago! (laughs) Okay, I'll play... FELICIA

LB  
I saw different sides of you that I  
only sort of dreamt about.

FELICIA

LB  
So, do you want to say something  
you're envious of or something  
that's a secret?

FELICIA  
Tell me a secret.

LB  
I'm going to tell you a secret? Okay. Yes. FELICIA

LB  
(takes a drag)  
Did I just ash on you? No. FELICIA

LB  
Okay. Well, when I was a boy, I used to have dreams where I would kill my father. And the thing of it is, I would wake up from the dream and I would sit in bed and then I would just fantasize about it. Because he was so cruel. Sometimes... I just can't seem to find myself.

FELICIA  
Well... I agree, by the way.

LB  
About what?

FELICIA

About the name. Felicia Burns has absolutely no luster. It just sounds wrong.

LB laughs, as her head rests down on his chest.

LB

Your sound soothes me, God.

FELICIA

Does it?

LB

I actually envy the air that gets to funnel its way through you.

FELICIA

Out of my mouth, I hope.

LB

Any which way, actually. I never thought about that.

FELICIA

(laughs)  
No!

LB

But there would definitely be some tonal and pitch variations if it came out the other end, wouldn't it? Just as pleasing, I assume.

FELICIA

(laughs)  
Oh, no, disgusting...

LB

Am I shaking?

FELICIA

Yes.

They look into each other's eyes. She puts a hand on his cheek. And in whispers...

FELICIA

Those eyes... You don't even know how much you need me, do you?

LB

I might.

LB strides down the aisle of an empty auditorium toward the stage where the orchestra starts to disperse.

LB

Sweetie! That was better than Philadelphia.

DAVID  
Really?

We see a familiar face, David Oppenheim. LB affectionately cups David's face in his hands.

LB  
Oh, it took everything not to leap right into the orchestra!

DAVID  
You're too kind.

David appreciates his enthusiasm, but is distracted by Felicia walking in, Aaron Copland not far behind her.

LB  
Oh, did I tell you about the girl?  
That I wrote letters about?  
(calling out to her)  
Felicia!

David watches Felicia walk towards the stage.

LB (CONT'D)  
The one I wrote about... DAVID  
Yes, yes...

Felicia reaches the stage. LB makes introductions.

LB  
So, this is David and he, he plays the clarinet... What else?

FELICIA DAVID  
Hello! Yes, I can see. (laughing)  
I play clarinet.

LB  
And he's extraordinary...

FELICIA  
Yes, oh, well, I was listening. You were wonderful.

DAVID  
You as well. Broadway star.

FELICIA  
Oh, no...

LB  
 Well we're going to have lunch with Kouss, otherwise, we'd meet up with you now, but what about later? Have a drink or something?

DAVID  
 I would love that, yeah, yeah...

Oppenheim seems a bit uneasy, more so as LB isn't at all.

LB  
 I didn't mean to spring that on you.

DAVID  
 No, that's alright.

LB  
 Maybe that was insensitive of me.

DAVID  
 No, not at all.

LB  
 So, we'll see you later on?

DAVID  
 Yes. LB  
 (to Felicia)  
 Okay, let's go.

They head back up the aisle, away from David. LB pulls Copland in, patting his behind as he ushers them out.

LB  
 Come on, come on little birdie!

DAVID  
 Lovely to meet you! FELICIA  
 (calls back)  
 Lovely to meet you!

We HOLD on David, as we begin to hear the orchestrated version of LB's Anniversaries: X. For Felicia Montealegre...

28 EXT. FIELD, BEYOND SERANAK HOUSE, TANGLEWOOD - DAY

28

The MUSIC CONTINUES. We're looking over a wide field of grass, the expanse of Tanglewood and the town of Lenox off in the distance. We PUSH IN, revealing LB and Felicia, arm in arm, walking away from us.

29 EXT. TOPIARY MAZE, TANGLEWOOD - DAY

29

The MUSIC CONTINUES as LB and Felicia walk through a large topiary maze, his arm around her.

FELICIA

Oh, life is not that serious, honest  
it isn't. What age are we living in?  
One can be as free as one likes,  
without guilt or confession, please.  
What's the harm? I know exactly who  
you are. Let's... give it a whirl.

He pulls her in for a kiss. And when they pull back, face to face...

LB

Yes.

FELICIA

Yes?

LB

I mean...

He drops to one knee...

FELICIA

No!!!

LB

No, not here, no...

FELICIA

No, not here. No... That's  
not how I meant it to be.

And as the music swells, we FADE TO --

30 INT. HALL/STUDIO, OSBORNE APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - DAY (1955) 30

LB, now 37, carries **YOUNG JAMIE**, three years old, with Felicia, now 33, in their hallway -- LB with a hint of gray in his hair and Felicia blonde, both dressed in evening attire.

MURROW (O.C., ON TV)

*Leonard Bernstein is a composer,  
conductor and pianist. His wife,  
Felicia Montealegre, is an actress.  
Both lead full professional lives  
but they're seldom apart.*

And as we hear the voice of **EDWARD R. MURROW**, LB sets Jamie down, leaving her with the nanny, **JULIA VEGA**.

MURROW (O.C., ON TV)(CONT'D)

*Mr. Bernstein is thirty-seven years old, but he has been in the public eye for a dozen years, from the time he substituted for Bruno Walter to conduct the philharmonic symphony at the age of 25.*

*(MORE)*

MURROW (O.C., ON TV)(CONT'D)

*Since then, Leonard Bernstein has conducted or played all over the world, and he's written Symphonies, Ballets and Opera, as well as scores for the Broadway musical 'Wonderful Town' and the motion picture 'On the Waterfront.'*

We TRAVEL WITH THEM through and into LB's music studio, now converted into a makeshift television studio with TWO LARGE TV CAMERAS with accompanying OPERATORS; TWO MEN holding large BOOM MICROPHONES; another PERSON holding a clip board and wearing a headset; and large, powerful lights facing the direction of an L-shaped couch they have both landed on. They are currently getting camera ready to respond to a TINY MONITOR where we see an IMAGE OF MURROW.

MURROW (O.C., ON TV)(CONT'D)

*Felicia Montealegre came to Broadway and American Television from Santiago, Chile. She is one of television's first full-fledged dramatic stars.*

And as we begin this interview, we are struck by the harshness of the light on them, as if they are staring into the sun.

MURROW (O.C., ON TV)(CONT'D)

*The Bernsteins, Leonard, Felicia and their children, Jamie and two-month-old Alexander, live in New York City near Carnegie Hall and Broadway. They've been here for about three years.*

And now...

MURROW (O.C., ON TV)  
*Good Evening, Felicia.* FELICIA  
 Hello, Ed.

MURROW (O.C., ON TV)  
*Good evening, Lenny.* LB  
 How are you, Ed?

MURROW (O.C., ON TV)  
*Good. Lenny, it's always for me rather difficult to classify you professionally since you do so many things at the same time. What do you consider your primary occupation?*

We see the beginning of this as if on TV.

LB (ON TV)

I guess I'd have to say that my primary occupation is musician. Anything that has to do with music is my province.

(to Felicia)

Wouldn't you say? Whether it's composing it or conducting it or teaching it, or studying it, or playing it, as long as it's music, I like it and I do it.

MURROW (O.C., ON TV)

*Uh, Felicia, do you have any trouble keeping up with Lenny's activities?*

FELICIA (ON TV)

Well, it gets pretty hard, Ed. He's taken on a great many activities. This season promises to be a very hectic one. Among them, he's writing two musical shows, one of them is an adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*, that's *West Side Story* with, uh, Jerry Robbins and Arthur Laurents and wonderfully talented young lyricist Stevie Sondheim; and then he's doing four feature presentations in *Omnibus*, the CBS television program...

And now we're back in LB's music studio with LB and Felicia.

FELICIA

And, um... Was that right?

LB

You know my schedule better than I do.

MURROW (O.C., TV)

*Felicia, what about you? Are you engaged in other things besides acting?*

FELICIA

Well, it gets pretty hard to do much more than take care of this household-- my husband, the children. And acting takes the rest of the time that's left over.

LB

And memorizing my projects!

FELICIA

(laughs)

Well, I can't help that.

HOLD ON Felicia as Ed quickly moves back to LB...

MURROW (O.C., ON TV)  
*Lenny, what's the big difference in  
 the life of composer Bernstein and  
 conductor Bernstein?*

Felicia's heard this answer before, but she forces a smile.

LB  
 Well, I, I suppose it's a difference  
 -- it's a personality difference  
 which occurs between any composer  
 versus any... or any creator versus  
 any performer. Any performer,  
 whether it's Toscanini or Tallulah  
 Bankhead or whoever it is, leads a  
 kind of public life, an extrovert  
 life, if you will. It's an  
 oversimplified word, but something  
 like that. Whereas a creative person  
 sits alone in this gray studio that  
 you see here and writes all by  
 himself and communicates with the  
 world in a very private way and  
 lives a rather grand inner life  
 rather than a grand outer life.

(then)  
 And if you carry around both  
 personalities, I suppose that means  
 you become a schizophrenic and  
 that's the end of it.

LB laughs at his own joke, glancing at Felicia, who smiles;  
 it's genuine, her delight in him.

MURROW (O.C.)  
*Felicia you must be interested in  
 music too, aren't you?*

As the interview fades, we hear the second measure of LB's  
*Songfest: Three Solos. IV. To What You Said* and FADE TO --

31 **INT. STAIRWELL/LOBBY, OSBORNE APARTMENTS, NEW YORK, NY - DAY**

31

The MUSIC CONTINUES. We're in a beautiful, carved-wood  
 stairwell, looking up toward a skylight overhead, sun  
 streaming toward us from way, way up in the distance...

...along with something small and white, floating down through  
 the center of the stairwell. We hear footsteps coming down the  
 stairs as a little girl shouts out...

YOUNG JAMIE (O.C.)  
 Daddy, Daddy, catch!

And now we see the small white floater is a paper airplane. It swoops down, a hand reaching into frame, catching it and unfolding it to reveal a message. **I [HEART SYMBOL] YOU, JAMIE.**

Find LB, smiling down at the note. He calls up to Jamie.

LB  
 Well, I love you too, darling, so much. Thank you!

He tucks it into his pocket, picks up his briefcase and walks through the lobby, pushing through glass doors into the city.

32 **EXT. STREET BY CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK, NY - DAY**

32

The MUSIC CONTINUES as LB crosses a crowded avenue; we are in his POV coming towards a very handsome man, who we see is David Oppenheim. David stands at the entrance to the Park with his wife, Ellen Adler, and a NEWBORN; but the look on David's face as LB approaches tells us just how much he loves him.

LB  
 Well hello, children of Zeus!

DAVID OPPENHEIM  
 My man.

ELLEN ADLER  
 Hello, Lenny, what a lovely surprise.

LB grabs both of them, planting a kiss on each one's mouth.

LB  
 That's why I love New York city, you come right out of your apartment and all of a sudden you just run into people that you love.  
 (then)  
 Well, I'm going downtown.

DAVID OPPENHEIM  
 So am I.

LB  
 Oh.

ELLEN ADLER  
 Well, we are cutting across the park to Saks before the deluge.

LB  
 (to the baby)  
 And who are you?! Hello, hello! You are so beautiful. You're so precious.

LB leans in close to the baby.

LB  
Can I tell you a secret? Do you know  
I've slept with both your parents.

Off David and Ellen's laugh, he looks to them.

LB  
It's too much, isn't it? Too much. I  
love too much, what can I say, but  
I'm reigning it in.  
(extravagant)  
I'm reigning it in!

33 **EXT. STREET ALONG CENTRAL PARK - MOMENTS LATER**

33

The MUSIC CONTINUES as LB and David walk. Neither of them say a word. After some time, LB stops. This is where it ends. David turns to him.

David extends his left hand and caresses LB's cheek. LB takes in that moment of intimacy while simultaneously glancing across Central Park South at some people looking at him.

LB  
You see those people across the  
avenue, staring at us? Saying, 'It  
can't be him, he's much better  
looking on television, isn't he?  
Certainly has Leonard Bernstein's  
ears, though, doesn't he?'

They laugh together.

LB (CONT'D)  
'Can that be him? Is that possible?'

LB still glancing across the street, has nothing more to say.

34 **EXT. 2ND FLOOR TERRACE, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY**

34

LB stands out on the terrace smoking. Felicia steps out through the double doors to join him.

FELICIA  
How embarrassing. We don't even have  
silverware...

LB  
Oh, I'm sorry, darling. What's wrong  
with the silverware, we don't need  
it. I ordered Chinese food,  
remember? The problem is I need  
those fucking curtains so I can  
sleep.

(MORE)

LB (CONT'D)

I walk around like a zombie, scare  
our children. Do we have children in  
this house?

FELICIA

We do, we do.

LB

I don't know how the Burkes do it,  
three children.

FELICIA

Three? I know. It's unbelievable,  
unreasonable.

LB

Alex doesn't make any noise,  
so I think we'll be fine.

FELICIA

No, for now...

LB

Sleeps all day. Alexander,  
our sleeping little baby...

FELICIA

He won't sleep for long.

LB

It's like he isn't even real.

FELICIA

No, he's a dream baby.

LB

I'm sad, darling, and I don't know  
why.

FELICIA

Darling, you're so tired, you just  
need to sleep.

LB

Yes.

(quoting)

*"Summer sang in me a little while,  
that sings in me no more."* Edna St.  
Vincent Millay.

FELICIA

If summer doesn't sing in you, then  
nothing sings in you. And if nothing  
sings in you, then you can't make  
music.

LB takes that in. Kisses her.

SHIRLEY (PRELAP)  
 There is a price for being in my  
 brother's orbit, you know that...

35 **EXT. YARD, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY**

35

Felicia is mid-conversation with Shirley, lounging on a quilt, the remnants of a picnic around them. Deep in the background, we see LB and YOUNG JAMIE and her friend RORY playing. We will see them throughout the scene coming closer and closer to us.

SHIRLEY  
 ...as much as he would love to  
 believe the opposite is true.

FELICIA  
 I suppose I do understand what you mean. You know, it's very strange, but I do believe there is that in everybody. One wishes to make adjustments to one's self but having this imposition of a strong personality is like a way of death, really. Yet the moment I see that that is making him suffer, I realize that it's not worth it. No, what for? It isn't going to kill me, really, and if it's going to give him pleasure or stop him from suffering and it's in my power to do it, then what the hell, you know?

LB crashes down next to her on the picnic blanket.

FELICIA  
 But one has to do it completely without sacrifice. And if it is going to be a sacrifice, then I disappear.

We hear ***St. Louis Blues*** as played by Louis Armstrong with the Lewisohn Stadium Symphony (LB conducting) and we CUT TO --

36 **EXT. YARD, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY (MONTAGE)**

36

The MUSIC CONTINUES. LB is prostrate on the grass. Felicia and Jamie balance atop his back in their socks as Julia Vega watches in amusement, holding baby Alex.

FELICIA  
 Is that good?

LB lifts them in a push up and they topple over laughing.

LB  
That's how I really mess up my back!

FELICIA  
No, you really do -- LB  
I tried to become Hercules.

LB snatches up Felicia's shoes to entertain Jaime and takes off running. Jamie laughs...

LB  
I'm gonna steal mommy's FELICIA  
shoes! (grabbing LB's shoes)  
Now I've got your shoes!

37 INT. SALON, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - NIGHT (MONTAGE) 37

The MUSIC CONTINUES. A group has gathered, dinner party now in full swing, everyone dancing, LB and Felicia locked in a sweet embrace as the jazz transitions to Mahler's Symphony No.5 in C-Sharp Minor: IV. Adagietto.

38 EXT. YARD, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY (MONTAGE) 38

The MUSIC CONTINUES. LB walks towards us with baby Alex swaddled in his arms, Young Jamie and her friend chasing each other in the b/g. LB joins Aaron Copland on a tree swing where Aaron Copland. They look upon baby Alex, LB a doting father.

39 INT. BACKSTAGE, CONCERT HALL - NIGHT (MONTAGE) 39

The MUSIC CONTINUES. HIGH AND WIDE on Felicia in the wings, dwarfed and engulfed by LB's shadow while conducting, summoning Mahler No.5 in C-Sharp Minor: IV. Adagietto.

40 EXT. YARD, FAIRFIELD HOUSE - CONNECTICUT - DAY (MONTAGE) 40

The MUSIC CONTINUES as LB and Felicia dote on baby Alex bouncing in Julia Vega's arms and on Jamie, staring back at them. She smiles, then turns and runs from them, away, down and through the garden pergola.

41 INT. STAGE, CONCERT HALL - DAY (MONTAGE) 41

The MUSIC CONTINUES. We go LOW AND TIGHT on LB, 40s, in tails, conducting with everything he's got, and as the music swells --

42 INT. BACKSTAGE, CONCERT HALL - NIGHT (MONTAGE) 42

LB comes offstage to Felicia, in her elegant gown. He crashes into her, full embrace. Pure joy. A deep kiss before he heads back out for the encore. Mahler No.5 in C-Sharp Minor: IV. Adagietto nears its end as she takes a drag from her cigarette, watching him take his applause from the wings as the backdrop fades, morphing into yet another backstage wing.

Felicia, resigned with a cigarette in hand, can only watch on as we SMASH TO --

43 **INT. LIVING ROOM, DAKOTA APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - NIGHT (1971) 43**  
**IN COLOR.**

Felicia, cigarette in hand, holding the same position but she's faced away from us at a bay of windows.

The MUSIC FADES as we hear sounds of a jovial party. We are WIDE in this very airy, high-ceilinged, two-floor apartment, which is filled with familiar and new faces. We hear a shout --

MENDY (O.C.)  
 Wicker!

It startles Felicia. She turns as **MENDY WAGER**, mid 40s, gay and dapper, crosses to her. They sit under the bay window.

MENDY  
 White antique wicker, with FELICIA  
 pierre deux cushions... I love it.

MENDY  
 It will give it that whimsical  
 Victorian conservatory look.

FELICIA  
 So you want to lock me up in a glass  
 cage like some sort of exotic bird?

**ANGLE ON** the other side of the room. It's noisier here, LB and Shirley surrounded by a crowd. LB lights a cigarette.

SHIRLEY LB  
 I'm surrounded by men and it (leaning into Shirley)  
 feels so right. They are I think Felicia... I don't...  
 really better. I just can't make heads or  
 tails of it.

SHIRLEY  
 She's fine. She's just, you know, I  
 mean...

LB sees someone has spilled a drink.

LB  
 Are you alright? Do you need to get  
 a towel or something?  
 (to no one in particular)  
 Can we get him a towel?  
 (shouting)  
 (MORE)

LB (CONT'D)  
 Julia, Julia... Julia! I think we  
 need a towel.

SHIRLEY  
 It's that you're so  
 distracted all the time. LB  
 (kisses her forehead)  
 I'm going to go take a big  
 dump.

SHIRLEY  
 Okay, wonderful.

He walks off, leaving her, as we...

**ANGLE BACK ON** Felicia, still mid-conversation under the window  
 with Mendy and her friend **CYNTHIA O'NEAL**, mid 30s, pretty.  
**JAMIE BERNSTEIN**, now a precocious Harvard student, rushes up.

FELICIA  
 Oh my God. JAMIE  
 Has Daddy mentioned anything  
 to you about Harry and  
 Amberson this summer?

FELICIA  
 No.

JAMIE  
 Harry's offered me a job at Amberson  
 this summer. What do you think?

FELICIA  
 What does Daddy say?

JAMIE  
 Daddy thinks it's a great idea.

FELICIA  
 Well, then I think it's a great  
 idea.

JAMIE  
 So I have your blessing?

FELICIA  
 Yes, you do.

JAMIE  
 Okay, thank you! Bye! FELICIA  
 (laughs)  
 Okay, bye.

Jamie beams with excitement, heads back across the apartment.

CYNTHIA

She looks so grown up.

FELICIA

Yes, well, looks can be  
deceiving...**ANGLE ON JAMIE** as she marches across the room, right up to  
**HARRY KRAUT**, portly, glasses, amish beard.

JAMIE

I got the go-ahead! Thank you  
so much.

HARRY

(happy for her)  
Be really good at this. Be  
really good. So happy you're  
doing this.

JAMIE

You're intimidating me but I  
will try my best.

LB

(joining them)  
I just got trampled on.

JAMIE

Alright, Daddy.

LB

I almost got trampled on in  
my own house

Jamie walks off as Harry leads LB across teh room.

HARRY

Come here, I want you to meet a few  
people.

LB

Literally, this guy almost  
trampled me. I was almost  
decapitated, I wouldn't have  
any-- Please, I'm too tired,  
please God no...

HARRY

Yeah, listen, I want you to  
meet...  
(to Jim)  
Excuse me... Jim? Jim? Jim,  
this is Lenny...

LB turns on a dime --

LB

Hello! How are you!

(hands full)

Sorry, all my hands are taken, and  
now, your big paw... Wow, you're a  
grand man, you're a huge fellow.

LB puts his cigarette away, shakes hands.

JIM

Jim.

CHARLIE BASSETT

(hand out to shake)  
Charlie.

LB

(shaking Charlie's hand)

Hello Charlie, pleasure to meet you.

(MORE)

LB (CONT'D)  
How are you, are you having a good time?

**ANGLE BACK ON** Felicia, Cynthia and Mendy at the window.

FELICIA  
Lenny should be composing. You know Harry just loves to play to that side of him with the appearances and the recordings and the cookie cutter boys, you know, it's not my favorite.

MENDY  
My favorite. FELICIA  
(laughs)  
No, I know, it's not my favorite.

CYNTHIA  
Well, you're taking it like a champ.

MENDY  
You are...

CYNTHIA  
I would never know. MENDY  
...handling it quite well,  
our little Joan of Arc.

CYNTHIA  
Yes, but remember what happened to Joan at the end, it didn't work out so well.

**ANGLE ON** LB, across the room.

SCOTT (O.C.)  
So bored.

LB turns to **SCOTT**, a bleary man we may have seen at the bar earlier. At this point, Scott is so blotto, he's just standing there, hands touching his face.

LB  
Hello, Scott. SCOTT  
Hello.

LB  
We don't say that in our family,  
Felicia doesn't like it.

Scott stares at LB, a mixture of strange and somewhat terrifying emotions.

SCOTT  
In your family?

LB SCOTT  
In my family, yes. (begins to laugh)  
In your FAMILY, Lenny?!

Harry quickly intercedes, moving Scott off.

HARRY  
Okay, okay, okay, that's enough.  
That's enough.

Scott heads off toward the bathroom. Harry watches him go.

HARRY  
We've been together for ten years. LB  
Oh, believe me, I know three of them.

HARRY  
I guess denial is not just a river in Egypt. LB  
That was the crossword last week, three letters. Do you know what it is?

TOMMY  
Pun.

LB turns and finds **TOMMY COTHRAN**, 25.

LB  
(delighted)  
Yes, it is pun.

TOMMY  
Yes, it is.

LB  
Did you do the Thursday?

TOMMY  
Yes, I did.

LB  
It's quite easy, but--

It catches LB, he resets.

LB  
Hello.

TOMMY  
Hi, I'm Tommy.

LB  
Did you just appear out of... out of  
my handkerchief?

TOMMY  
Oh, yes, I live here now!

LB  
Are you a genie?

TOMMY  
I wish!

LB  
Do I get three wishes? TOMMY  
What's your first wish?

LB  
Oh, my first wish is...

Tommy finally sees Harry there, gives him a warm hug.

HARRY  
(to LB)  
Good luck!  
(to Tommy)  
Bye, Tommy.

LB  
Sorry... I don't even know  
you, I feel like I've known  
you for years... TOMMY  
(off LB's pocket square)  
This is beautiful.

LB  
Oh, thank you. I have to be honest,  
Felicia puts it together.

TOMMY  
Well, she's done a good job.

LB  
If I was left to my own  
devices, I would be dressed  
as a clown. That's the truth. TOMMY  
But don't tell anybody. (laughs)  
You're very funny.

LB  
Do you mind if I just walk in the  
other room?

He pulls Tommy toward the foyer.

LB  
 Where do you live? Who are  
 you? TOMMY  
 I'm from San Francisco.

LB  
 Oh, so you're from earth! You're not  
 an angel...

TOMMY LB  
 Yes... (touching his hair)  
 Your hair is just glorious,  
 my God.

LB (CONT'D)  
 Listen, I have to go to the roof, I  
 just need some air, would you like  
 to come with me?

TOMMY  
 I'd love to.

LB  
 Okay, well, that's wonderful.  
 (taking his hand)  
 Come here, come here, come here,  
 Tommy is it?

**ANGLE ON** Felicia on a couch now, speaking with Comden and Green, as LB and Tommy slip out of the party.

FELICIA  
 The toast of the party... BETTY COMDEN  
 The bell of the ball!

FELICIA  
 Bell of the ball! Oh my god,  
 are you kidding me? ADOLPH GREEN  
 Both, both at the same time.  
 Somehow! A high-wire act!  
 Toast bell! Toast bell!

Felicia laughs.

44 **INT. FOYER, DAKOTA APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - LATER** 44

Shirley stands just inside the door, looking out towards where LB and Tommy disappeared. Felicia finds Shirley.

SHIRLEY  
 Hi.  
 FELICIA (CONT'D)  
 Have you seen Lenny anywhere?

SHIRLEY

Uh, do you want me to fetch him?

FELICIA

No, I don't mind.

We hear the ding of an elevator and we CUT TO --

45

INT. HALLWAY, THE DAKOTA, NEW YORK, NY - MOMENTS LATER

45

LB and Tommy come in from the elevator, laughing mid-conversation.

LB (CONT'D)

That's what I'm saying. That's why  
 I'm saying that I needed the  
 turtleneck, you know I needed the  
 turtleneck and you didn't. You know  
 what I'm saying?

Tommy laughs as they crash to the hallway wall, face to face.

LB

You know, that's the fact-- as I  
 break this fucking wall! So how are  
 we going to solve your problem?

The two men, their back to us, one's arm around the other, a cigarette dangling from his hand.

TOMMY

I don't know what to do.

LB

Well, I'm worried about it,  
 we have to figure it out.

TOMMY

I don't know what to do, my  
 producers are so pissed.

LB

Well, don't they... do they take, do  
 your listeners know what you look  
 like? The problem is that you're in  
 radio and you need to be in  
 television, that's the...

TOMMY

Stop that.

LB

No, you're gorgeous... May I?  
 May I? God...

LB reaches for Tommy, then kisses him. The feeling is mutual.

As they kiss, Felicia rounds the corner, walks toward the elevator and sees them. LB spots her.

LB  
Darling, this is Tommy.

Felicia looks at him, then turns and walks back toward the apartment. LB takes Tommy's hand and follows her.

TOMMY  
Is everything okay?

LB  
It's okay.  
(to Felicia)  
Darling.

They turn the corner, walk towards the apartment.

LB  
Why don't you go in. It's fine...

46 INT. FOYER, DAKOTA APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - CONTINUOUS

46

Tommy disappears into the party as LB catches up with Felicia.

LB  
Darling, darling, I'm so sorry. I'm  
so sorry.

FELICIA  
Fix your hair, you're getting  
sloppy.

Felicia leaves him. Alone.

47 INT. LIVING ROOM, DAKOTA APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - LATER

47

The party is over. LB sits alone under the window where we saw Felicia sitting earlier. A drink in one hand, cigarette in the other. Julia Vega cleans up in the b.g. LB's lost in thought.

GRUEN (PRELAP)  
Well, like it or not...

48 EXT. POOL PATIO, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY

48

LB is seated with a man, JOHN GRUEN, whose voice we just heard. It is autumn.

GRUEN  
...this world is utterly fascinated,  
or obsessed even, with everything  
about you. Ever since that famous  
phone call which led to your debut  
at Carnegie Hall. And you have not  
let them down, my dear.  
(MORE)

GRUEN (CONT'D)

Fifteen years on television,  
teaching us all the magic of  
classical music with the Young  
People's Concerts and *Omnibus*,  
reaching hundreds of millions all  
over the world. Ten years at the New  
York Philharmonic, and then there  
are the compositions.

GRUEN (CONT'D)

*West Side Story* redefined the LB  
American musical... Oh, Jesus Christ.

GRUEN

And then there's *Candide* and *On the  
Town*... But what this is--

LB

Actually, when you add it up,  
there's not much that I've created.  
And music is, and I know this is  
going to sound strange to you, it is  
the most important thing that I can  
do. And it's a great source of  
dissatisfaction that I haven't  
created that much at all. I mean,  
when you add it up it's not a very  
long list.

GRUEN

Well. What this is, this is an  
opportunity for the world to get to  
know you apart from all that. This  
book, this book is to understand  
what you think about in your private  
moments. Your personal feelings on,  
well, on life as you know it.

LB

Well I feel like the world is on the  
verge of collapse. That's what I  
feel like.

Gruen laughs.

LB

I'm quite serious.

GRUEN

(stops laughing)  
Yes...

LB

The diminution of creativity, which  
has come to a grinding halt. I mean,  
not scientifically, that has  
exploded.

(MORE)

LB (CONT'D)

But as we sit here, I find it very difficult to think that whether I'm a conductor or a composer of any note at all has any bearing on anything or that my existence is even worth talking about for this book.

GRUEN

No, I agree. I agree, and I think this has marked many artists, and you can see it in their work. There seems to be a, it seems to seep into the subconscious so that there's this great depression.

LB

Well, I know that Felicia, she senses it enormously.

GRUEN

It's all pervasive.

LB

It's almost as if she can't enjoy anything anymore.

GRUEN

I know. It just seems so sad.

LB

I know. Picnic. The water. Lunch. Just sitting around, being together.

GRUEN

What is that?

LB

I think she has a keen sense of futility.

GRUEN

No, I sense that too about her. And I had no idea, because, you know, I had this feeling of her at first, you know incredibly, which she is, vivacious and marvelously alert and aware and a happy person, but something in her seems crushed.

LB pauses.

LB

She said to me in Vienna last month,  
 "I want to get off. I want to stop  
 the bus and get off."

GRUEN

And how do you feel about that?

LB

Well, I have one or two saving factors, John. One is that I love people. And I love music. I love music so much it keeps me glued to life even when I'm most depressed. And I can get very deeply depressed. But I have a work ethic and that keeps me afloat. And the other is that I do, I love people so much that it's hard for me to be alone. Which is part of my struggle as a composer.

GRUEN

Yes, you are the only person I've ever met who leaves the bathroom door open for fear of being alone.

LB

I mean, can one really believe that man is just this trapped animal who's a victim of his own greeds and follies and... Either one believes in the divine element in this or one doesn't. And as long as I believe it, which I assume is why I love people so much, then I have to believe that in some remote corner of my soul there is a way out.

CHORUS MEMBERS stand on risers, waiting to begin. We're in rehearsal for the 1973 revival of *Candide*.

LB

Okay, so sopranos, you're in the hot seat!

The chorus laughs as LB moves to the podium, cigarette dangling from his lips, his baton at ease in his hand.

LB

Take it from bar 44, just at the end of "Make Our Garden Grow" heading to the a cappella, and sopranos, make sure that you make space so that the high notes can soar.

Then with his hands up, the piano begins the chorale finale from Candide, Act II: No. 31, Make Our Garden Grow. LB conducts from his stool, very relaxed and filled with joy. All 74 of the chorus belt out LB's music.

CHORUS (SINGING)

*Let dreamers dream what worlds they please  
Those Edens can't be found.  
The sweetest flowers, the fairest trees  
Are grown in solid ground.*

**ANGLE ON** Felicia, sitting in a house seat, watching. And as the music plays, it's as if LB is conducting it for her, and the words are meant for them. He even mouths the words to her. There they are, the two of them, at the center of this wave of music pouring down on them.

CHORUS (SINGING)

*We're neither pure, nor wise, nor good  
We'll do the best we know.  
We'll build our house and chop our wood  
And make our garden grow.  
And make our garden grow.*

LB cuts them all off. For the the chorus, it's just the end of another rehearsal and they begin shuffling music.

THE OLD LADY

I can't get this one...

**ANGLE ON** the woman playing THE OLD LADY, who's sat down next to Felicia. She points to a line of text. Felicia looks at the libretto and reads the verse with the proper pronunciation.

FELICIA

*"Me muero me sale una hernia."* It's, it means...

LB

It means I'm dying and I'm growing a hernia.

LB crashes into the seat next to the woman. She laughs. LB smiles at Felicia.

LB (CONT'D)  
 It's an old Chilean  
 expression. I was desperate FELICIA  
 to find a rhyme, I couldn't -- Well, it's not your fault  
 your mother was from Rovno  
 Gubernia.

LB  
 ...and I woke her up in the middle  
 of the night, desperate, and she had  
 this Chilean idiom right off the top  
 of her head.

FELICIA  
 Well, you woke me from a very deep  
 sleep and begged me to solve it!

LB smiles, takes Felicia's hand and kisses it.

LB  
 Thank heavens, it saved this exact  
 piece. In fact, all of the Spanish  
 here is all from Felicia, so we're  
 very lucky that she's here today to  
 help with the pronunciation...

TOMMY (O.C.)  
 That's why!

Tommy, the young man from the Dakota party, has been buried in  
 the score down the row. He stands, comes up to them.

TOMMY  
 Sorry, I've been, I've been looking  
 through Voltaire's work and I  
 couldn't find that place, "Rovno  
 Gubernia."

LB  
 That's because I made it up, my dear  
 boy.

Tommy laughs, flush with admiration. Felicia looks down at  
 Tommy as we PRELAP the famous horn open from the Symphonic  
Dances from West Side Story: Prologue (Allegro moderato)...

50 EXT. FRONT YARD/DRIVEWAY, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY 50

The MUSIC CONTINUES. We are over 20-year-old Jamie, sitting on  
 a tree swing, head down, slightly melancholic. She looks up,  
 toward the long driveway. We SEE OVER HER in the distance a  
 Blue Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme convertible turn and drive up  
 their long winding driveway toward their red-clad house.

The car pulls up. LB, Harry Kraut, and Tommy get out.

LB  
Let's see what you think. TOMMY  
This place is gorgeous.

LB  
I know isn't it lovely?

TOMMY  
Lenny, what do you want me to get?

LB  
You could just get that big ass bag  
of kibble...

Tommy pulls a LARGE BAG of dog food from the trunk and onto his shoulder. LB claps him on the shoulder

LB  
Oh lord, thank you.

TOMMY  
Course. There's Jamie.

He waves to her. She waves back.

LB  
And I want to have a drink. TOMMY  
I am in awe of this place.

We see them head towards the house with luggage and a dog, SWEET GENE. The tumultuous music continuing under.

50A EXT. POOL, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - MOMENTS LATER

50A

**ALEXANDER**, now 15, and the Bernstein's youngest child, **NINA**, greet LB with open arms, happy to see him.

NINA LB  
Daddy! (takes her in his arms)  
Hello, darling.

POV from an UPSTAIRS WINDOW as the men continue on into...

51 INT. KITCHEN/STAIRS/HALLWAY. FAIRFIELD HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

51

Looking from the stairs through the hall toward the kitchen, we see the men enter the kitchen. Tommy walks into the hall towards us, stopping to take in a painting.

TOMMY  
Oh wow!

LB  
(to Harry)  
Help yourself after. Help  
yourself, just go right  
there.

Lenny follows Tommy into the hall.

TOMMY  
Lenny is this all Felicia's idea?

LB  
I had nothing to do with that.  
That's her painting as well.

TOMMY  
It's so beautiful.

FELICIA (O.C.)  
(calling out)  
Lenny.

LB looks up. TILT UP to Felicia. At the top of the stairs.  
Looking down at LB. Something amiss.

52 **INT. MASTER BEDROOM, FAIRFIELD HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

52

Felicia sits on a bench, smoking. LB enters.

LB  
What is it, darling?

FELICIA  
No, I just... have you seen Jamie?

LB  
I have not seen Jamie.

FELICIA  
Oh, you haven't seen her.

LB  
No. Why, is she here?

He crosses her to the chair opposite the room. He sits down,  
takes off his shoes and begins to undress.

FELICIA  
Yeah, she's here. She's terribly  
upset, darling.

LB  
Well, what is she upset about?

FELICIA  
She's been hearing gossip.

LB  
Excuse me?  
FELICIA  
Gossip.

LB  
Gossip about what?

FELICIA  
About you, darling.

LB stops what he's doing.

LB  
What about me?

FELICIA  
Well, I don't know. She's been up at  
Tanglewood all summer, I can't  
imagine what she might have heard.

LB looks upset. He continues undressing to his underwear.

LB  
Well, what did you tell her?

FELICIA  
Darling, it's not for me really to  
say. I said there was-- I said she  
should speak to you.

LB  
Well, I think she's old enough,  
don't you think...

FELICIA  
Well, I don't care how old she is.  
I asked that you be discreet.

LB  
Well, I think that she's coming into  
an age where she needs to, deserves  
to know what it is that --

FELICIA  
Darling. She didn't ask for any of  
this. It was my decision.

LB  
Well, no, it was our decision. It's  
not just yours.

Both let that linger. Then --

FELICIA  
Don't you dare tell her the truth.

LB ashes his cigarette and walks off.

53 **EXT. PORCH, LB'S STUDY, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY** 53

Jamie is now seated on the porch platform of LB's Study. After a beat, LB comes from the distance toward Jamie.

LB  
Jamery-Creamery!

She gets up and goes to him with open arms, crashing into him.

JAMIE  
Welcome home. LB  
Well, look at this welcome.  
Hello! Hello!

She kisses his cheek and then they continue back to where she was sitting on the porch.

LB  
Wow. Not what I expected. Did you write a new song or something?

JAMIE  
I was just reading. Keeping my journal. Did you have a nice trip?

LB  
Did you see Tommy's here?

JAMIE  
Oh yes, he waved.

LB  
I thought that would make you happy.  
He's going to spend the weekend...

JAMIE  
Oh, wonderful.

LB  
Smart as a whip that boy, keeps me on my toes. Let's see how he does at anagrams tonight.

JAMIE  
He's a sweet boy.

LB  
You know your mother told me that  
you, um... are very upset because  
you heard some rumors about me at  
Tanglewood this summer.

JAMIE

Oh, I really wish she  
wouldn't have said anything, LB  
I'm, it's fine. Now, Jamie.

JAMIE  
It's no big deal.

LB  
It is a big deal, because you are  
upset.

JAMIE  
I wasn't upset.

LB  
So, let's discuss it. Your mother  
and I have talked about it and I  
said I'd come down here and talk to  
you about it. Try to enlighten or  
shed some sort of understanding on  
what could have happened so...  
'jealousy' is the word that I would  
use. Jealousy.

JAMIE  
What?

LB  
Jealousy. When I was a student at  
Curtis there was a boy, seemed like  
a very nice boy, brought a pistol to  
school and tried to kill me... cause  
he was jealous at my musical talent.

JAMIE  
Your musical talent.

LB  
It just drove him to the brink of  
murder. Artur Rodziński was the  
musical director of the New York  
Philharmonic, God told him to hire  
me, tried to strangle me during a  
rehearsal.

Jamie laughs.

JAMIE  
I remember that...

LB  
Because of jealousy.

LB (CONT'D)  
Now I don't know what happened or  
who said what, or where. But I can  
only imagine that it was spurned on  
by jealousy, darling. Jealousy of,  
of whatever it is that I do. And  
it's plagued me all my life and I  
apologize for it plaguing you now.  
But I hope that helps.

JAMIE  
So the rumors aren't true?

LB  
No, darling.

Jamie smiles with relief.

JAMIE  
Thank you... for coming to talk to  
me. I'm relieved.

LB looks at his daughter. Looks as though he might say  
something more, but instead...

LB  
Let's go inside.

They get up. He puts his arm around her and they head inside.

54 **INT. DRAWING ROOM, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY**

54

Felicia sits on the couch painting Nina's nails, Jamie with  
them. Tommy walks over from the table, where he was with Alex.

TOMMY  
Alright, what color?

NINA  
Here, we have, here, let me check.

JAMIE  
We've got three shades of the  
exact same red that everyone  
else is convinced is  
different. NINA  
It's not the exact same red!

Tommy sits so Nina can paint his nails.

JAMIE  
This one, apparently, is blue.

ALEXANDER (O.C.)  
Wait, so, are we just giving up on anagrams guys?

Tommy watches Nina paint.

TOMMY  
Oh, you're going to make it into a design? You're an artist.

NINA (CONT'D)  
(painting his nails)  
Here, I'm going to try... I'm going to do stripes.

JAMIE  
(to Alex)  
Uh, we're having a slight nail session over here.

LB (PRELAP)  
So I just thought it was a good idea to come for the weekend...

55 **EXT. POOL PATIO, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY**

55

WIDE ON Felicia in her gardening attire, a full brimmed sun hat, on the chaise lounge smoking. LB sits next to her.

LB (CONT'D)  
I, I know how much Jamie loves being with him and... FELICIA  
Jamie?

LB  
Well, I thought, and you like him too, don't you?

She ashes.

FELICIA  
Yes. I do.

LB  
Well, darling, if I've done something wrong, tell me.

FELICIA  
No, no, no. I don't know why Jamie is particularly...

LB  
Well, I just think that --

FELICIA  
I don't know why you would say that she was particularly interested in...

LB  
Well, Tommy's a very sort of warm,  
and he's highly intelligent, as is  
our daughter.

FELICIA  
(she laughs)  
Okay.

LB  
And, and I --

FELICIA  
No, I'm not saying that, I'm  
not saying--

LB  
It's got nothing to do with, no, I  
have an interest, I have an interest  
in spending time with him too, I'm  
not saying, I'm not trying to shove  
it off that I brought him here for  
her, I mean clearly not.

FELICIA  
Well, no, obviously not.

LB  
I'm just, all I'm saying is that's  
just another reason, why, but I  
think easily I can tell him not to  
come.

FELICIA  
No, not at all --

LB  
I misread, I misread, I  
misread the room. Clearly I  
misread the room.

FELICIA  
Well, it's not really about that,  
it's about...

LB  
What is it about?

FELICIA  
No, nothing.

LB  
Okay, alright. So then it's  
fine. Yes?

FELICIA  
Yes.

LB  
Alright, darling.

He gets up to leave. She's surprised he's leaving.

FELICIA  
Oh, do... okay.

LB  
Well, what?

FELICIA  
No, I just... nothing. I thought we  
were having a conversation.

He sits back down.

LB  
But we were having a  
conversation. FELICIA  
No, no, no, no, it's fine.

LB  
No, I'm sorry. I thought we were  
finished.

FELICIA  
No, I know you're busy.

LB  
I'm not busy, I just have-- I'm  
desperate to finish this...

FELICIA  
Well, then do it, darling. I'm not  
stopping you. Do it.

56 **INT. LENNY'S STUDY, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - LATER** 56

Quiet. LB at the piano. Alone. Thinking. A beat, then plays a few keys from what will become Mass XVII. Pax: Communion - a. Pretissimo a piacere. A long rest... then LB has a thought. He hums the familiar B-D-C notes...

He scribbles down what we just heard and adds two more bars, playing the piano. He pauses. Looks at what he's done. And as LB writes it on the score...

...we HEAR A BOY SING. "Lauda, lau-au-da, lau-au-au-da-de." LB finishes writing and the music stops. He eyes the score...

...then he has another thought. Strings. He adds a long viola note under the harp's arpeggio. As he does, we hear it. So does he. He looks at it. Good.

He looks over what he's written again and we hear the whole thing together, the boy and the harp and the viola, a soprano and a baritone riffing on the first phrase...

LB reaches for the score and stands. The music takes us into --

57 EXT. BACKYARD, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - MOMENTS LATER 57

HIGH AND WIDE on LB as he walks into the yard, past the pool and toward the main house. The MUSIC CONTINUES, regaling him with the finale to Mass, the crescendo pushing him into --

58 INT. DRAWING ROOM, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - CONTINUOUS 58

The MUSIC CONTINUES. LB heads down the hall, passing the kitchen, the music serenading LB with his psalm. Jamie and Alexander are playing 'WAR' -- they call out, but LB barely notices, the music in his head overpowering their voices...

Felicia sits on the couch. She looks up at LB as he enters. Proud and spent, he raises the score in triumph.

LB

Hello, everyone, I have an announcement to make. I have finished Mass.

She looks at him. Really? LB nods, smiles. The kids clap. And now, Felicia jumps up, bolts out the open window.

NINA

Yay, daddy!

LB

(looking after Felicia)  
Where's Mummy going?

59 EXT. YARD/POOL, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - SAME TIME 59

The MUSIC CONTINUES as Felicia, fully clothed, jumps in the pool. We hold high and wide over the pool, then...

60 INT. DRAWING ROOM, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - SAME TIME 60

The MUSIC CONTINUES as LB watches her in the pool from the window. And as the kids all rush out, his demeanor shifts. He takes a drag and simply picks up his finished score.

61 INT. POOL, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - SAME TIME 61

The MUSIC CONTINUES. We are underwater, Felicia at the bottom of the pool, motionless, a sense of peace perhaps in the escape of it all. Maybe not wanting to come back up, maybe preferring to stay, as if she could stay here frozen in amber.

62 INT. CONCERT HALL, KENNEDY CENTER, WASHINGTON, DC - NIGHT 62

The MUSIC CONTINUES. We're LOW TO HIGH from the stage, looking up at the balcony as the audience takes in the end of Mass. There's some rustling of programs, some coughing.

We get the sense that the piece isn't landing as we slowly CRANE UP to the balcony, PUSHING IN on...

...LB, sitting with Tommy, in tuxedos now, with Felicia and Harry. As we PUSH IN, closer, LB leans over, whispering something to Tommy...

Tommy takes LB's hand, squeezes it. As LB takes solace there, we PUSH CLOSE IN on Felicia seeing it all. We PUSH IN on Felicia as we reach finale to Mass, Mass XVII. Pax: Communion - c. Almighty Father. The music takes us to...

63 INT. LOBBY, KENNEDY CENTER, WASHINGTON, DC - NIGHT

63

The MUSIC CONTINUES. We're in a packed Hall with patrons now engulfing the Bernsteins; photographers, camera crews, etc.

LB shakes hands, accept congratulations, then sees Felicia coming towards him. He leans in. She gives says something. It's not friendly. He looks frustrated, but she leaves...

...walking away from him, out of the melee.

64 INT. BATHROOM/BEDROOM, WATERGATE HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC - LATER 64

We see Felicia in the mirror through the open bathroom door, gown on. She picks up a toothbrush and toothpaste, walks from camera left out of the bathroom into the hotel bedroom. She glances at her watch and grabs a pillow, LB's pajamas and slippers and walks toward us...

...placing everything in the suite outside the bedroom doors. She shuts the double doors on us and the MUSIC ENDS.

65 INT. FOYER/LIVING ROOM, DAKOTA APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - DAY 65

In the vestibule, doors open revealing LB, sunglasses on as he reaches down for something. MIKE, the doorman, follows with a luggage cart. LB comes back into frame with a STUFFED SNOOPY, sunglasses on. Julia Vega opens the foyer doors for him.

LB

Who left snoopy in the  
vestibule? Julia, who left  
the Snoopy in the vestibule?

JULIA VEGA

Ah, los niños.

LB walks into the living room filled with kids and adults leaning out the window, cheering and looking onto the parade.

LB

Hello, Brian.

LB nods to one of the kids, holds up Snoopy and calls out --

LB  
 Alex, who left, who abandoned  
 Snoopy in the vestibule? Who  
 abandoned Snoopy? I mean it's  
his day.

ALEX  
 Oh God that was me, I'm sorry  
 daddy. I brought him in for  
 Wallace. Wallace loves Snoopy  
 and then Sweet Gene started  
 eating it.

Young Nina, 9, rushes up.

NINA  
 Daddy! Daddy, but there's a  
 more important, Daddy, you  
 have to listen to me...

ALEX  
 Stop! Why are you going on  
 and on about this?

NINA  
 Shush! Because, Daddy, Daddy?  
 Daddy, daddy, there was a  
 woman...

LB  
 What? What happened? I'm  
 sorry. I'm so sorry...

They walk to the window, LB giving Nina his attention at last.

66 INT. LIVING ROOM/HALLWAY, DAKOTA APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

66

LB moves towards the bedroom, Jamie meets him in stride.

JAMIE  
 You're a day late to Thanksgiving.

LB still has his sunglasses on, inferring perhaps it was more  
 than he's letting on.

LB  
 I know, Harry had me going all over,  
 I had to do something for Deutsche  
 Grammophon...

JAMIE  
 Nina was very upset.

LB  
 Well, I don't think-- Nina doesn't  
 seem so upset to me.

JAMIE  
 Did you just see her  
 screaming about some random  
 woman on the street thinking  
 she hurt herself?

LB  
 (notices a neighbor)  
 How are you?

LB leans in, the neighbor hugs him.

NEIGHBOR  
How are you? Happy  
Thanksgiving!

LB  
(off neighbor's son)  
Oh, you finally got him a  
camera?

NEIGHBOR  
It was a surprise for his 11th  
birthday. Thank you for having us...

JAMIE  
She's not upset about a  
woman, she's-- Daddy!

LB  
(to the neighbor)  
Oh, you're welcome, of  
course!

Julia walks up with a carton of milk and hands it to LB.

LB  
Thank you, Julia.

He begins to walk, always moving, back toward the entrance  
hallway. Jamie moves in, trying to drive her point home.

LB  
Tell me.

JAMIE  
Daddy, Nina's not upset about the  
woman in the street, she's upset  
about you almost missing  
Thanksgiving. We didn't know if you  
were coming or not.

LB  
Happy Thanksgiving, darling.

Conversation over. LB turns to Mike the doorman, heading out.

LB  
Mike, please stay.

JAMIE  
Daddy...

MIKE  
Thanks, I gotta go back down.

LB  
Jamie, can you please take  
care of Mike...

JAMIE  
Of course, yeah, yeah.

Jamie pulls Mike back into the party.

JAMIE  
Come on, Mike. Do you want any snacks  
or anything first? You're alright?  
The view is good from over here.

MIKE  
No I'm good, I'm good. Happy Thanksgiving.

LB continues on down the hall, slow, head hung. He chugs the milk from the open carton.

67 **INT. BEDROOM, DAKOTA APARTMENT, NEW YORK, NY - SAME TIME** 67

We SEE AND HEAR the Parade outside. Felicia sits on the window sill, smoking and waiting. A timid knock on the door.

LB (O.C.)  
Darling?

FELICIA  
Hmm.

We hear LB amble in and close the door behind him.

LB (O.C.)  
For a second I thought, well... It was quite a stunt that you pulled.

FELICIA  
What? LB (O.C.)  
That was quite a stunt that you pulled.

FELICIA  
What do you mean?

LB comes in, glasses still on. They hold both sides of the frame on opposite ends.

LB  
Well, darling, you put the pillow outside and then my slippers and the toothpaste and a toothbrush and I haven't seen you since. I understand you're angry with me...

LB moves toward the bar, but knocks into the coffee table.

LB (CONT'D)  
Jesus christ... But let's be reasonable.

He puts the milk carton on the bar cart, takes off his jacket and makes himself a drink.

FELICIA  
There is a saying in Chile about never standing under a bird that's full of shit.  
(MORE)

FELICIA (CONT'D)

And I have just been living under  
that fucking bird for so long, it's  
actually become comedic.

LB sits on the couch.

LB

Well, I think that you are  
letting your own sadness get  
the better of you --

FELICIA

Oh, just stop it! This has  
nothing to do with me. No!

LB

Let me at least finish, let  
me finish what I am going to  
say! I think you are letting  
your sadness get the better  
of you.

FELICIA

No! No! This has nothing to  
do with me. It's about you.  
So you should love it!

LB

Okay...

LB goes for the milk again.

FELICIA

You want to be sleepless, and  
depressed and sick -- you want be  
all those things so you can avoid  
fulfilling your obligations.

LB

What obligations?

FELICIA

To what you've been given, to the  
gift you've been given. My God!

LB

Oh, please, please. The gift  
comes with burdens if you  
have any idea. I'm sorry to  
just admit it, but that's the  
truth.

FELICIA

Oh, the burden of feigning  
honesty and love? That above  
all, you love people?

LB

I do love people.

FELICIA

And it's from that wellspring  
of love that complications  
arise in your life?

LB  
That's exactly right.

FELICIA  
Wake up! Wake up! Take off  
your glasses!

LB does, taking off his glasses.

FELICIA  
Hate in your heart! Hate in your  
heart, and anger-- for so many  
things, it's hard to count-- that's  
what drives you. Deep, deep anger  
drives you. You aren't up on that  
podium allowing us all to experience  
the music the way it was intended.  
You are throwing it in our faces...

LB  
How dare you? How dare you.  
Oh, please, please...

FELICIA  
...how much we will never be  
able to ever understand and  
by us witnessing you do it so  
effortlessly, you hope that  
we will know, really know,  
deep in our core, how less  
than we all are to you.

LB  
No, that's your issue, if you  
feel less than. Join the  
crowd, join the line of  
people that feel 'less than'  
with me.

FELICIA  
And it's your hubris that  
kills me. You prance around  
with all your dewy-eyed  
waiters that Harry corrals  
for you, under the guise they  
have something intellectual  
to offer you, while you are,  
dare I say, 'teaching' them.

LB  
Well at least my heart is open.

FELICIA  
Oh my God, the audacity to say that.  
Have you forgotten about the four  
years where you couldn't decide if  
you wanted to marry me?

LB  
I think you only wanted the  
idea of me, that's what I  
think, the idea.

FELICIA  
The idea of you? The idea?

LB  
 It's like that Richard Chamberlain movie that we saw last week and he said '*How could I ever compete with the man that you think I am?*'

LB gets up toward the bar.

FELICIA  
 Thank God I met Dick so that I could fucking survive your indecision.

LB  
 Dick Hart. Richard Hart. Who fucking died, who died! FELICIA  
 Yes, who loved me. Who loved me!

LB  
 Oh yeah, and he's a corpse now, and I was the one who was a fool, waiting outside the fucking hospital for you like an idiot in my truth.

Felicia finally stands, digs in.

FELICIA  
 Your truth is a fucking lie that sucks up all the energy in every room and gives the rest of us zero opportunity to live or even breathe as our true selves. Your truth makes you brave and strong and saps the rest of us of any kind of bravery or strength. Because it's so draining, Lenny, it's so fucking draining to love and accept someone who doesn't love and accept themselves. And that's the only truth I know about you.

They are now face to face.

FELICIA (CONT'D)  
 If you're not careful, you're going to die a lonely old queen.

A beat. Then they hear Alex and Nina call out from the hall.

ALEX (O.C.) NINA  
 Mummy! Daddy! (O.C.)  
 Mom, Dad! Daddy! Look!

Knocking starts on the door...

ALEXANDER (O.S.)  
Snoopy's here, hurry up!

NINA (O.C.)  
Mummy! C'mon, you're going to  
miss Snoopy!

We SEE a GIANT SNOOPY FLOAT pass the windows as it moves down Park Avenue and in between LB and Felicia.

NINA AND ALEXANDER (O.C.)  
What are you guys doing in there?  
You've been in there for ages. Dad!

LB  
(calls back to them)  
Yes...

FELICIA  
I'll go.

And she leaves him alone as the family cheers the parade and celebration below. We stay with him alone for a beat.

68 **INT. AVERY FISHER HALL, LINCOLN CENTER, NY - DAY (FALL 1976)** 68

An open Thursday afternoon rehearsal, audience applause as LB walks in from the wings. He waves, greets orchestra members.

LB  
Hello! Hello, how are you? Hello.  
Hello, how are you, oh wonderful.

LB walks up to the podium is in a sweater and jeans; heavier, bearded now. LB hesitates, a bit anxious. Then --

LB (CONT'D)  
What I love about these Thursday rehearsals is that we get a chance to talk to you about what we think of the music. So, thank you for coming and good afternoon. Um... today we're studying Shostakovich's 14th, opus 135. What I realize, about this piece, and it could be morbid but I tend to think that it's not, is that as death approaches, I believe that an artist must cast off anything that's restraining him. And an artist must be resolute in creating, with whatever time he has left, in absolute freedom.

LB pauses. He looks over and we see Tommy, eyes fixated upon LB from the wings. And then LB continues.

LB

And that's why I have to do this for myself. I have to live the rest of my life, however long or short that may be, exactly the way that I want, as more and more of us are in this day and age.

LB turns to conduct and we...

69

**INT. SOUNDSTAGE, TELEVISION STUDIO, NEW YORK, NY - DAY**

69

We are HIGH LOOKING DOWN onto a colorful set, a CHAMBER ORCHESTRA forming a wave on the back wall around two circular stages. Felicia and Mendy are in the center of one, reading **Facade** (poems by Sitwell, accompaniment by Walton).

MENDY

*Beelzebub called for his syllabub  
In the hotel, in hell  
Where Persephone first fell,  
Where blue as the gendarmerie  
Were the waves of the sea.*

We're in the POV of a TV camera as it swoops down past the orchestra CONDUCTOR... coming to rest close to our readers.

FELICIA

*Rocking and shocking the barmaid  
Like balaclava the lava  
Came down from the roof,  
And the sea's  
Blue wooden gendarmerie...*

MENDY

*Took them in charge while  
Beelzebub roared for his rum.*

FELICIA AND MENDY

*None of them come!*

COLIN

And cut. Thank you, that's 15.

A bell rings, everyone breaks. Felicia turns to Mendy. The STAGE MANAGER approaches with two aspirin and some water.

FELICIA

Oh my goodness, I don't think my mouth has ever moved so fast.

STAGE MANAGER  
Here you are, Felicia.

FELICIA

(taking them)  
Thank you, sweet Colin.

The DIRECTOR walks up. Felicia catches his eye as she takes the aspirin.

FELICIA  
I'd like to do once more if  
you don't mind. DIRECTOR  
Yes, of course.

As they talk, we see Cynthia O'Neal walk up from the back.

DIRECTOR  
So, this thing, where...  
(tapping under his chin)  
Remember, if you hold the score low,  
you get a better bounce up here.

FELICIA  
Lower, I was doing it higher. If we  
do it again, I'd love to start at  
bar forty-four, and I do believe  
percussion could be a little bit  
quieter.

DIRECTOR  
Absolutely.

He walks off as...

MENDY  
Still have a headache? FELICIA  
It's fine. Cynthia!

CYNTHIA  
Do they realize it's only a matter  
of time before you direct the  
entire production?

MENDY  
It's already happening, the carpet  
was a different color yesterday.

FELICIA  
You said I was right about MENDY  
the carpet! I agree!

FELICIA  
Well, I just forgot how much I love  
being at work!  
(to Cynthia)  
We're almost finished.

CYNTHIA  
Oh, the reservation can wait, this  
is such a hoot, really.

MENDY

Wait, I thought tonight was my night  
to take you out.

FELICIA

...You both have to stop worrying  
about me, I'm fine, I mean I'm  
busier than ever.

CYNTHIA

Better, not "busier, although boy  
that's true, isn't it? Doesn't *Poor  
Murderer* go into previews next week?

The bell rings again.

FELICIA

God, don't remind me.

MENDY

Who said anything about worrying?  
I'm just greedy to get as much of  
you as I can get.

FELICIA

I'm all yours.

70 **INT. LIVING ROOM, BUNGALOW, LOS ANGELES, CA - DAY**

70

A party. Find LB, still bearded, in an all-white, cashmere  
track suit. He sits surrounded by men, Harry and Tommy hunched  
over him while he holds a serving tray of cocaine.

LB

So... you were talking about  
something, what were you talking  
about?

TOMMY

I was talking bout how...  
what was I talking about?

LB

I can't remember.

TOMMY

I was talking about how handsome  
everybody looks tonight.

HARRY

Well, there are a lot of... lotta  
hombres, lots tonight.

LB snorts the cocaine off the serving tray.

TOMMY  
Some chickens?

HARRY  
Some chickens.

TOMMY  
That's what we call them.

HARRY  
Always good with the chickens.

TOMMY  
You really like the chickens.

HARRY  
I love the chickens.

TOMMY  
I know you do.

LB  
Harry, do you wanna get, Harry?

LB lifts the tray of cocaine up, over his head. Harry goes to take the tray...

LB  
No, just do it off of there.

HARRY  
Yeah.

Harry snorts cocaine from the tray LB holds above his head.

LB  
Did you get it?

TOMMY  
Like a pro.

LB  
It's raining down on me from  
your fucking nose. It's fine,  
it's just rained down my... TOMMY  
May I?

LB  
Yeah, here you go, I'll just serve  
everybody, I'll just serve....

He holds out the tray of cocaine to Tommy who promptly snorts what's left.

The room dark. LB is hunched over, a phone up to his ear. Someone opens the door, daylight pours in as do the sounds of the living room filled with people.

LB  
I'm fine, thank you.

MAN (O.C.)  
Oh... sorry.

LB  
It's okay. Don't worry about  
it, it's okay.

MAN (O.C.)  
I'm sorry, we can use the  
other one.

They exit, leaving the door slightly open, leaving some light on LB. He holds a phone to his ear. We hear Jamie's voice.

JAMIE (OVER PHONE)  
Daddy...

LB (INTO PHONE)  
Jesus, Jerry Robbins was right, you  
can't maintain a relationship when  
you're living in various hotel  
rooms.

JAMIE (OVER PHONE)  
You are going to start to upset me  
now.

LB (INTO PHONE)  
Listen, no, no, no... darling, no.  
I just wanted to-- I was calling  
because I wanted to ask you what  
your plans are for the weekend.  
Because I was thinking we're going  
to be home in a couple of days and I  
thought that perhaps we could all  
spend it in Fairfield, you just have  
to nudge Mummy, that's all.

JAMIE (OVER PHONE)  
Who's we, Daddy?

LB (INTO PHONE)  
No, no, no, no, I... well he's not a  
monster. He's an utterly brilliant,  
delightful fellow, he's my genius  
little leprechaun. He not even my  
type.

JAMIE (OVER PHONE)  
Daddy, please don't. Daddy, please  
don't talk to me about this.

LB (INTO PHONE)  
Darling, I'm in awe of you.

Just silence on the other line.

LB (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)  
I love you so, Jamie. I love you.

JAMIE (OVER PHONE)  
I know. I know.

LB (INTO PHONE)  
I'll talk to Mummy again.

JAMIE (OVER PHONE)  
Okay, daddy...

72 INT. PALM COURT, THE PLAZA HOTEL, NEW YORK, NY - DAY

72

Shirley and Jamie sit opposite Felicia, cocktails half gone.

JAMIE  
I don't know if you saw it, but you  
did get the most wonderful mention  
in the New York Times Review.

FELICIA  
Oh, really?

JAMIE  
Cause I kept it for you, I thought I  
could run it by the...

FELICIA  
Oh no, I don't want to see JAMIE  
it. Oh...

FELICIA  
No, I don't want, it just makes me  
feel uncomfortable. But that's so  
sweet. Thank you.

JAMIE  
Alright.

WIDE as we take in the opulent restaurant setting, Felicia  
small in the distance at a table with Shirley and Jamie.

SHIRLEY  
How was Monday night?

FELICIA  
Monday, no, I don't think... JAMIE  
I want to talk about it. Wait, what happened on Monday  
night?

FELICIA  
Nothing.

SHIRLEY  
Oh, your mother has a suitor.

FELICIA

No, no, no...

JAMIE

Oh really! No, please let's talk about it!

FELICIA

(demurs)

I think it's enough that you are subjected to your father's affair.

JAMIE

Oh, come on, Mummy.

FELICIA

No, I don't think we need to, but, speaking of your father, I do have two performances on Thanksgiving, so I will stay at the theater and you will eat with him at the apartment with Nina and Alex. I think it's-- for Nina's sake, let's maintain some semblance of normalcy.

JAMIE

Doesn't feel normal to me.

FELICIA

Well, I don't know what to say.

Jamie nods, capitulating. She notices the time.

JAMIE

I'm, um... I'm running late to meet Alexander.

FELICIA

Oh, come on.

JAMIE

No, I really am. And you two clearly have something to speak about together, so...

FELICIA

No, Jaime that's not, no, no don't, don't do that, don't do that.

JAMIE

No, no, no, I'm giving you guys space to speak about --

FELICIA

No, no, no, darling, that's not, that's not how we do things when, grown ups don't do that.

JAMIE

Clearly you have things you want to discuss without me and I did make plans with Alexander, so I'm going --

FELICIA

No, darling, no darling. We're not leaving like this. Look me in the eye. I can see how cross you are and I don't want you to go like that.

JAMIE

I'm not cross with you.

FELICIA

No, I don't believe you.

JAMIE

Hold on.

(she resets)

I am not angry with you, Mummy.

A tiny smile sneaks by.

FELICIA

You're a terrible liar.

JAMIE

(laughing)

At least you know you can trust me!

FELICIA

Well, that's true.

JAMIE

I'm going to clear out, alright.

I've got to make fun of Alex for not coming to see you yet!

FELICIA

I love you.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

Rave about your performance a bit.

FELICIA

Well, if you must.

Jamie gets up, gives her mother a kiss, blows one to Shirley and then exits.

SHIRLEY

Okay, now, tell me about the suitor.

FELICIA

Oh, so yes, the suitor. So, ah well, I was very excited, as you know. I was very excited, as you know...

SHIRLEY

I do.

FELICIA

So we went out to lunch, not dinner.

SHIRLEY

Where?

FELICIA

Cafe Carlyle, nothing fancy and I was a little nervous, I'll admit, so was he. So half way through the meal he leans over and, and he asks if he can tell me a secret. He has a little crush, you see.

SHIRLEY

Indeed.

FELICIA

So I smiled. I blushed a little. And I push him to tell me. He has a crush on Mendy and he wants me to introduce them.

SHIRLEY

Mendy Wager?

FELICIA

Mendy. Oh, don't be so surprised. Mendy's a very handsome man.

SHIRLEY

Felicia.

Felicia trying hard not to wallow. To make light of it.

FELICIA

There I was. Blushing, butterflies, all atremble... and, well...  
(trying to joke)  
Seems I'm attracted to a certain type.

But Shirley can see how deeply devastated she is.

SHIRLEY

Listen... you know, Lenny loves you. He really does. He's just... a man. A horribly aging man, who cannot just be wholly one thing. He's lost.

FELICIA

I've always known who he is.  
(then)  
He called me, you know.

SHIRLEY

And...?

FELICIA

He wants us all to go to Fairfield together for two weeks. He sounded different.

SHIRLEY

Felicia...

FELICIA

No, let's not make excuses, he didn't fail me.

SHIRLEY

Felicia.

FELICIA

No, it's, it's my own arrogance... to think I could survive on what he could give. It's just so ironic, I would look at everyone, even my own children with such pity because of their longing for his attention. It was sort of a banner I wore so proudly, 'I don't need, I don't need.' And look at me now. Who's the one who hasn't been honest? I miss him, that child of mine.

They both just look at each other.

FELICIA (CONT'D)

Any questions?

Off Felicia, we hear the mezzo-soprano aria from Mahler's Symphony No. 2 in C Minor, "Resurrection": V. Finale. Im Tempo des Scherzos. The music takes us to...

73 EXT. ELY CATHEDRAL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, ENGLAND - NIGHT

73

Establishing. Ely Cathedral, in all its glory, is lit up against the night sky as the MUSIC CONTINUES...

74 INT. ELY CATHEDRAL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, ENGLAND - NIGHT

74

The MUSIC CONTINUES. We are now in the Cathedral at the actual performance of what we have been hearing, HIGH AND WIDE, looking down at 180 chorus members, 76 orchestra players, a packed audience and one small figure at the center of it all.

The musicians, woodwinds, percussions, brass, and strings, all swirling together in a bombardment of sound, a sound commanded by this LONE FIGURE -- yet we can feel his energy as he sways and moves his body and arms and hands, both athlete and dancer delivering us the music.

CHORUS (SINGS, IN GERMAN)  
*I shall die to find life.  
 You shall rise again.  
 Yes, you shall rise again,  
 My heart, in an instant.  
 What you have overcome...  
 Shall bring you to God.*

And as the music crescendos, we MOVE DOWN passing first the chorus then the orchestra then the conductor and the audience. We keep moving into...

75 INT. STAGE, ELY CATHEDRAL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, ENGLAND - CONTINUOUS 75

The face of the conductor, LB, clean shaven again, for the first time emanating sheer, unabashed ecstasy.

A purity of spirit, a clarity of purpose, harnessing the power at being at the center -- the conduit for a symphony bringing forth this composer's work to the hall of the cathedral and the patrons who are bearing witness.

We can't help but think what it is to be him in this moment as he brings Mahler's Symphony No. 2 to its conclusion...

76 INT. WING, ELY CATHEDRAL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE - SAME TIME 76

The music reaching its final note, we LAND OTS of a woman in a blue dress, revealing...

Felicia.

The audience erupts in a frenzy of applause and a smile crosses her face.

LB turns to bow, but just as quickly barrels off stage and collapses onto her -- the two of them almost one single form.

LB  
 Darling, why did you come?

FELICIA  
 There's no hate. There's no hate.  
 There's no hate in your heart.

And after a moment, LB retracts from her, grabs her head, kisses her forehead, kisses her again and again. He pulls away from her and rushes back onto the stage.

LB arm in arm with his orchestra, a family, all smiles and joy, engulfing the lens.

Off Felicia, watching, ever small in the wings, the applause takes us to...

77 INT. WAITING ROOM, DR. KRUGER'S OFFICE, NY, NY - DAY (JULY 1977) 77

LB buys time with a cigarette and a magazine, in a waiting room. A woman enters the room from down a long hallway.

NURSE  
Mr. Bernstein? You can come back now.

LB  
Oh, wonderful.

78 INT. EXAMINATION ROOM, DR. KRUGER'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

78

Felicia's seated on an examination table, wearing only a gown and socks. Her clothes folded meticulously on the side table. LB paces.

FELICIA  
Want to sit down?

LB  
Yes.

He sits on the examination table beside her, holds her hand, their feet dangling off the floor. She teases him.

FELICIA  
You seem like you need your blood pressure taken.

LB  
No, I'm fine, I'm fine.

FELICIA  
You know Betty's coming for dinner tonight?

LB  
I didn't know that, no.

FELICIA  
She is. And Mendy. Which should be so nice. And Julia is going to go and get fennel, which you know Betty loves.

There's a knock at the door. Felicia calls out.

FELICIA  
Come in.

**DR. BERNARD KRUGER** lumbers in, sets down a clipboard.

DR. KRUGER  
Felicia.

FELICIA

Hello.

DR. KRUGER  
How are you?

He sits on a stool, wheels over to Felicia and takes her hand.

DR. KRUGER  
It looks like you have a tumor of the right side of the left breast which may have metastasized to the lung. Given the size of the tumor, I would recommend that we remove the breast, the underlying muscles and the adjacent lymph nodes, as well as do a biopsy of the lung, which will help us confirm whether there is spread or not. We can do all of this early next week, if you like.

FELICIA  
...ah...

LB

Yes.

FELICIA  
But I'm, darling I'm starting  
a play... LB  
It's okay, it's okay.

FELICIA  
No, but I should let them  
know. LB  
I'll let them know, we'll let  
them know.

DR. KRUGER  
I think your recovery will be faster than you think it will be and we can have you ready within about one to two weeks, I would think.

LB  
That's wonderful news.

DR. KRUGER  
You'll be able to do what you need to do.

FELICIA  
Oh, goodness...

LB  
And how can we be sure that the--  
that we get all the cancer?

DR. KRUGER  
Well... LB  
(clears his throat)  
That we get all the cancer?

DR. KRUGER  
We're not going to compromise on  
that for the play and you'll be--  
once we take off the breast, there  
will be no more local cancer. We do  
have to determine about the lung,  
though.

LB  
And how long will the biopsy take?

DR. KRUGER  
The biopsy, just minutes, and  
you'll be sleeping from the other  
procedure and won't --

LB  
Oh, so you do the, you do the...  
(he takes a beat)  
You do them both at the same time.

DR. KRUGER  
Yes, we do the breast and it would  
be easy to do the biopsy of the  
lung.

Felicia nods, looks down, then gently weeps. LB pulls her in.

LB  
(to the doctor)  
Thank you, we'll just need a-- thank  
you.

Dr. Kruger gets up and leaves. LB holds Felicia.

LB  
I know. I know.

FELICIA  
I feel so ridiculous. I'm so LB  
ridiculous. I know, I know... there  
darling, it's okay darling.

He gets up and hugs her tight.

FELICIA  
Oh, I don't really think so...

He rubs her back, the two of them clinging to each other.

79 **INT. BLACK CAR, OUTSIDE DR. KRUGER'S OFFICE, NY, NY - DAY**

79

We're in the back as the driver opens the door. LB and Felicia approach and he helps her in, then pauses. He leans in...

LB  
Darling, let's take the park and walk.

FELICIA  
Alright.

LB  
Yes?

She hesitates.

LB  
Yes, let's get some air.

FELICIA  
Okay.

He takes her hand and leads her back out of the darkness of the car and into the light.

80 **EXT. CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK, NY - MOMENTS LATER**

80

WIDE across a green vista, over a pond we find LB and Felicia. He helps her sit down on the grass.

FELICIA  
Oh my god.

LB  
You alright?

FELICIA  
No, I'm fine, something's wrong with my knee.

LB  
Oh, I have an idea.

He sits behind her, back to back like the two of them were that day in Tanglewood all those years ago. They laugh.

Felicia lights up.

LB  
Oh, is that a lighter, darling?

FELICIA  
You mind your own business.

LB takes it all in. We hear the clarinet open of Bernstein's Symphony No. 2 "The Age of Anxiety", Pt. 1: A. The Prologue.

LB  
I'm thinking of a number...

FELICIA  
(she laughs)  
Oh, I don't know. Nine.

LB  
No.

FELICIA  
Five.

LB  
No, you have to think!

FELICIA  
(laughs)  
I'm trying, I'm trying to.

LB  
It's two, darling.

FELICIA  
Two...

LB  
It's two. Like us.

FELICIA  
Hmm?

LB  
Like us, a pair.

FELICIA  
Hmm.

LB  
Two little ducks in a pond.  
(then)  
Throw your weight on me, darling.

FELICIA  
I am. I am.

LB  
That's it. Put all your weight on  
me, yes, that's it. Lean your head  
back, that's it.

81 INT. SITTING ROOM, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE, LONG ISLAND, NY - DAY 81

Felicia. Sitting in a chair, gaunt, bald underneath a frilly, blue cotton Kenneth mobcap, tea and tissues by her side.

CYNTHIA  
Oh, my dear.

FELICIA  
Hello, dears. Hello.

Cynthia, in a perm, and Mendy walk in. Felicia doesn't get up to greet them, but they kiss her where she sits and settle in across from her on the couch.

MENDY  
Gorgeous. Missed you. FELICIA  
Missed you so much.

JAMIE (O.C.)  
Mummy, are you alright?

FELICIA  
I'm fine.

Cynthia and Mendy sit across from her.

CYNTHIA  
My dear... FELICIA  
Did you have a nightmare  
getting here?

CYNTHIA  
Of course.  
(about Mendy)  
This one was driving.

FELICIA  
(laughing)  
Oh, no...

MENDY  
I don't think we could have gone  
farther east if we tried.

CYNTHIA  
You know I hate driving. Oh, I wish  
I'd come earlier. Is there anything  
you need? Anything I can do?

FELICIA  
(after a beat)  
Never get another perm.

MENDY  
 (laughs)  
 That's what I said!

CYNTHIA  
 Ramon said it was a triumph!

MENDY  
 It's a gigantic triumph!

Felicia laughs, which causes her to cough up phlegm. She takes a tissue to her mouth and discards it. Cynthia pivots.

CYNTHIA  
 Where's, uh, where's Lenny?

FELICIA  
 Oh, I don't know, he's sleeping or something.

CYNTHIA  
 Do you remember that, um,  
 that bar mitzvah that you  
 dragged me to, one of  
 Alexander's friends, the  
 little...

FELICIA  
 I do, the, em... oh, what was  
 his name? Feldman.

CYNTHIA  
 (nods, to Mendy)  
 Yes. So we're there and I'm of  
 course seated next to our dear  
 Felicia here and she looks stunning  
 as usual, woe is me. And Lenny's, oh  
 about 25 pounds lighter, yeah? And  
 tanned, just tanned, all in white  
 from head to toe, including white  
 patent leather shoes with no socks.

FELICIA  
 That was very en-vogue.

MENDY  
 A lie.

CYNTHIA  
 Well, at one point Lenny, he gets  
 up, you know in that all-white  
 attire, and makes his way up to the  
 lectern --

Felicia coughs violently into one of her pocket squares, interrupting Cynthia. After an awful few moments, she finishes and, ever graceful, tucks the square away.

FELICIA

No, it's fine. The... um... Lenny in  
the white suit.

CYNTHIA

Yes, yes, and he's all in white, and  
um, he, he goes up to the lectern  
and um, you know I don't think  
anyone had even asked him to speak.

FELICIA

(smiles with effort)

No.

CYNTHIA

But, it took him oh, about twenty  
minutes just to walk from our table  
up there, you know, stopping at  
every table he passed, chit-chatting  
of course, and finally he arrives up  
there next to that frightened boy  
and Felicia leans over to me without  
missing a beat and says...

(as Felicia)

"And now we have the Bride."

Mendy laughs. And Felicia too, wincing a bit... And then,  
almost if on cue, we HEAR Here Comes the Bride over piano.  
Felicia and the others look over --

MENDY

He is risen!

LB is at the piano, in his pajamas and bathrobe, easily  
playing a beautiful rendition of the wedding classic. Further  
back, the three grown children, Jamie, 25; Alexander, 22, long  
hair; Nina, 16, a brainy teen, scramble into position, walking  
down the aisle with a fern haphazard as a flower bouquet.

MENDY

Oh, a production!

As the others laugh, Felicia looks on, on a different page.

82 INT. SITTING ROOM, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE, LONG ISLAND, NY - LATER 82

LB and Felicia are mid-goodbyes with Cynthia and Mendy.

LB

We'll see you. Okay. Alright, bye.  
I'll see you. Love you.

Felicia can't handle it any longer. She turns away and LB  
immediately comes to her.

FELICIA

I don't want any more visitors. No more, no more, I want to go to bed.

LB

Yes, okay.

LB takes her off to bed.

83 INT. BEDROOM, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE, LONG ISLAND, NY - DAY

83

LB on the phone, sitting on a sofa chair.

LB (INTO PHONE)

Yes, no. You're going to have to cancel it. Yes. Well... no, I'm not leaving. Well, that's out of the question. I've had a relationship with that orchestra for fifteen years, I think they'll understand. No, that's out of the-- I'm not leaving here, Harry, you're gonna have to figure it out. Yes. Yes, we're doing fine.

LB hangs up. Gets up, looks down the hallway and closes the door. We are alone with him now, for the first time. He sits back down and pulls up the cushion and simply screams into it.

One gets the sense this is not an environment he is comfortable with, yet he needs this isolation to process the prospect of what life will be like without Felicia.

84 INT. BATHROOM, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE, LONG ISLAND, NY - DAY

84

Find Felicia, sitting on a closed toilet seat, pulling toilet paper off the roll and carefully folding pieces into little, rectangular pocket squares.

85 INT. BATHROOM, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE, LONG ISLAND, NY - LATER

85

Jamie hands a glass of water to Felicia, who forces it down.

JAMIE

Are you using the bathroom?

FELICIA

No! I can't!

JAMIE

Well, so you have to drink your water.

FELICIA  
 (tries to get up)  
 I'm trying! Oh my God, I'm freezing  
 cold all the time...

Jamie takes Felicia's arm, helps her up best she can.

JAMIE  
 Here, let me help -- FELICIA  
 No, I don't, I don't need  
 help! I don't need it. I  
 don't need it. Let go!

86 INT. FELICIA'S BEDROOM, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 86

Felicia sits in bed with Jamie trying to tuck her in, make her  
 feel more comfortable.

FELICIA  
 Get into bed, come on, I  
 don't need all this fuss... JAMIE  
 Are the pillows alright?

FELICIA  
 Honestly they're fine. Come on.

Jamie climbs into bed next to her mother.

FELICIA  
 Just lie down. Just lie down. JAMIE  
 Okay.

Felicia embraces Jamie, holding her tight.

FELICIA  
 I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. You  
 know, all you need, all anyone needs  
 is to be sensitive to others.  
 Kindness. Kindness. Kindness.

Jamie, on her shoulder, takes this in.

87 EXT. LIVING ROOM, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE, LONG ISLAND. NY - DAY 87

We hear scissors snipping hair and see LB checking his watch.

LB  
 Darling, it's ten minutes past half  
 hour, did you take your medicine?

We TILT up to see Felicia in a sundress and mobcap, cutting  
 LB's hair...

FELICIA  
No, I don't...

LB  
Well, how's your pain threshold?

Felicia's a bit out of it because of all the drugs she's on.

FELICIA  
I think he told me not to take it.

LB  
Who? Who told you?

FELICIA  
Arkell.

LB  
Darling, no, Arkell is not our  
doctor. It's Kruger. Bernard. Arkell  
was our doctor many years ago.

FELICIA  
Of course, no, I don't know  
what I'm...

LB  
Maybe you should go take some  
medicine. How's your pain,  
are you in pain?

FELICIA  
No, it's fine. Fine.

He reaches for Felicia's hand, kisses it.

LB  
No pain? FELICIA  
No.

LB  
Okay, well, after this, take it.

CLOSE on a record player and a few records. One of them stands out. Nina picks it up. *Shirley Ellis, The Clapping Song.*

LB (O.C.)  
Alright? Darling, alright? FELICIA (O.C.)  
No, I know... I'm  
concentrating.

NINA  
Look what I found.

JAMIE (O.C.)  
Oh! LB  
What is it?

And when they see what she is holding, they excite.

LB  
Oh, yes!

NINA  
Speaking of childhood memories...

JAMIE  
That could be a good idea.

ALEX  
Far more interesting.

LB  
Now is it?

JAMIE  
Put it on.

LB  
Do you remember that song,  
dear?

FELICIA  
I do, of course.

LB  
You do?

FELICIA  
Of course!

She puts on the Shirley Ellis single and we hear the symbols  
that mark the beginning of The Clapping Song.

ALEX  
Do you remember the dance?

FELICIA  
No...

LB  
Who remembers it?

JAMIE  
(to Alex)  
Do you remember the dance?

LB  
Who was the...  
(points to Alex)  
You were the worst at it. You were  
the absolute worst at it.

We go WIDE on the living room. As the music kicks in, the  
three grown children start to dance. Jamie, Alexander, with  
Nina jumping in. Jamie and Nina clap hands.

JAMIE  
Get your hands into it.

LB smiles as he gets up, turns to Felicia and takes her hand.  
She resists, but LB pulls her into a gentle dance.

LB  
(to the kids)  
Come here, everybody.

The family comes in for a group hug, enveloping Felicia with love, *The Clapping Song* playing all the while.

88

**EXT. SEA WALL, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE, LONG ISLAND, NY - DAY**

88

Sweet Gene runs down the sea wall at the edge of the yard behind the house. Julia Vega comes running, waving a dish towel frantically.

JULIA VEGA

Sweet Gene! Come here! Vamos a casa!

89

**INT. FELICIA'S ROOM, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE - SAME TIME**

89

Felicia lies in bed, still. A nurse sits along the wall. We hear LB bound up the stairs.

LB (O.C.)

Where's the patient? Where is the patient?

He comes into Felicia's room, giddy, dressed as a doctor.

LB

The doctor is here.

(noticing a nurse)

Hello, nurse, the doctor is.,,

But as he gets to the bed, he stops. Staring. At Felicia, prone. LB steps forward. Felicia reaches for his hand. She wants him to lie down with her. Felicia holds onto his arm. She doesn't want him to go. He lies down beside her...

LB

I love you.

FELICIA

You smell like tuna fish. And cigarettes.

LB

You caught me. It's horrible.

LB kisses her cheek and spoons into her. Fighting back tears. Her breathing heavy. And as they lie there, Felicia looking out, she slips away.

90

**INT. FELICIA'S BATHROOM, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE - DAY**

90

A clean POV from the upstairs bathroom window beside Felicia's bedroom. We're looking out at the yard.

A beat. Through the window, we see Nina run out across the lawn. Moments later, LB runs after her.

He reaches her, pulls her to him. In tears, Nina buries her head in his neck and he picks her up, carrying her back toward the house. Alex joins, walks them back inside.

As at the open, we hear the piano beginnings of the Postlude from A Quiet Place and we dissolve to --

91 **EXT. SEA WALL, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE, LONG ISLAND, NY - DAY** 91

The MUSIC CONTINUES. LB stands at the sea wall, looking out.

92 **EXT. DRIVEWAY, EAST HAMPTON HOUSE, LONG ISLAND, NY - DAY** 92

The MUSIC CONTINUES. We are OVER a station wagon, looking back toward the house. LB and the kids and Julia Vega finish packing up the cars, closing trunks and car doors, everyone getting in to go, everyone save for Felicia.

They drive away from us as the music ends and we dissolve to --

93 **EXT. THE SHED, TANGLEWOOD, LENOX, MA - DAY (LATE SUMMER 1989)** 93

As when we first saw it (P.23), we see a vast lawn leading to a theater-like structure in the distance, centered by a phalanx of tall, evergreen trees.

We are back at Tanglewood, looking at The Shed, but now in color. Without music. And instead of LB and Felicia walking past us, we just hold here for a moment...

...until we hear a car in the distance. R.E.M.'s The End of the World As We Know It on the radio. The car comes toward us. A vintage, gold convertible Mercedes lurches up beside The Shed, the song mentioning LB by name...

We catch the license plate (*MAESTRO1*) as the car comes to a stop. A beat, then...

LB opens the door and hoists himself out of the car.

He's flamboyantly dressed in a thin t-shirt, red hoodie and sunglasses. An assistant gets out of the car.

LB  
Get the bag.

He opens the trunk as LB barrels toward...

94 **INT. STAGE/HOUSE, THE SHED, TANGLEWOOD - MOMENTS LATER** 94

A dozen twenty-somethings in the front rows look with awe and reverence at LB, glasses on, who stands by the stage speaking to a YOUNG BLACK MAN (**WILLIAM**), sweaty in casual clothes.

LB isn't shy about putting his hand on William's shoulder as he speaks to him. The orchestra tunes.

LB

I think the main component of this whole piece is becoming one with not only the timpani in the back, but also the violins in the front. You have to treat them all as one organism. If you do that, if you just work from there, then I've got you, so don't worry. Okay? I'm right here and I'm going to bring you through it, okay? Here we go.

LB sits in the front row, gives William a thumbs up as he moves to the podium. Then LB raises his hand to introduce...

LB

William, everybody!

William stands at the podium, nervous. He eyes the score, takes a deep breath...

WILLIAM

Bar three-eleven, please.

...and after counting under his breath, he drives the orchestra through Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 in F-Major, Op. 93 I. Allegro vivace e con brio. They're together right up until the fermata, and then LB stands, interrupting...

LB

Okay. Sorry...

The orchestra stops.

LB

Sorry, but now that you made it clear...

WILLIAM

Yes.

LB

...that you're retarding into the fermata.

WILLIAM

Yeah, I'm just still unclear afterwards.

LB

No, it's fine, everything's together, but what happens afterwards? What are you going to do? Cause they don't know.

(MORE)

LB (CONT'D)

Are you going to bleed out of it?  
Are you going to drip out of it?  
What are you going to do?

WILLIAM

I'll do this.

William holds up his baton to LB as if to say he's got it.

LB

Leak out of it. That's what it  
sounded like.

We hear chuckles from the orchestra and small audience.  
William addresses the orchestra.

WILLIAM

Fermata.

LB

Bar before.

WILLIAM

Bar before.

William again counts off under his breath then takes the  
orchestra into the fermata, but as he continues...

LB

No, that's not, that's not clear.

William cuts off the orchestra.

WILLIAM

No, I didn't feel that.  
(to the orchestra)  
One more time, please. Sorry.

LB

Shall I...?

But William's already begun again, closing his eyes now and  
trying to lead them. But as he gets past the fermata...

LB

Okay, that's very nice, that's very  
nice, but that's still a bar.

LB begins to approach. William cuts off the orchestra as LB  
steps onto the stage.

LB  
 So, if I could just show you what I  
 think you want and then, if I'm  
 wrong, you'll tell me.

WILLIAM  
 Yes.

LB takes William's baton.

LB  
 So, I think you want to do, where  
 you want to take them is you want to  
 do a cutoff and an upbeat. Quarters,  
 I think that's what you really mean.  
 (to the orchestra)  
 Bar before the fermata.

He dives in, taking the orchestra through the same piece but  
 guiding them with ease. We can hear the difference.

WILLIAM  
 Ah, yes.

LB  
 Right? Did I get it? What did I do?

William smiles, starts to recite the pattern.

LB  
 Ah, that's what I did...

The orchestra begins to stamp its feet, akin the clapping.

LB  
 Oh...  
 (to William)  
 Is that for me or for you?  
 (it's for LB)  
 Oh, more! More, more, more!

LB encourages the adulation. Everyone laughs and claps.

LB  
 (arm around William)  
 That was very good. Very good. Okay,  
 start back here. Okay, thank you...

LB pats William on the shoulder, steps off the stage, heading  
 into the house. He turns back to the orchestra.

LB  
 Be kind to him.

And as William raises his baton to try again, we hear the beat of the electronic bass opening of *Tears for Fears' Shout.*

95 INT. SMALL THEATER, TANGLEWOOD - NIGHT

95

A wild party. Red cups and bottles of liquor, passed joints hot boxing the room of students grooving to the '80s classic. Find LB in the middle of it all, shirt unbuttoned to reveal a hairy gray chest and that belly. His eyes almost closed as he dances with the conducting student, William. Close. Sensual.

Then standing alone, pounding on his chest gorilla style, free, untamed, in his element.

LB (PRELAP)

'If summer doesn't sing in you, then nothing sings in you. And if nothing sings in you, then you can't make music.'

96 INT. LIVING ROOM, FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY (1989)

96

We're back to where we began, LB at the piano in his Fairfield living room, addressing the interviewer.

LB (CONT'D)

Something she told me when I was gloomy about something and recited this Edna St. Vincent Millay poem, which then became Songfest. But summer does still sing in me. Not as strongly as it used to or as often. But it sure does. If not, I would have jumped into the lake long ago.

LB takes a long drag, contemplative. Then --

LB (CONT'D)

Any questions?

97 EXT. FAIRFIELD HOUSE, CONNECTICUT - DAY (1955, MEMORY)

97

**IN BLACK AND WHITE.**

Felicia, young, full of life, looks directly at us.

We hear LB's Chichester Psalms: II. Psalm 23.

She looks at us with a certain enigmatic allure, a timeless, captivating smile crosses her lips before she turns away.

Over her back, a title fills the screen.

**"MAESTRO"**

SMASH TO BLACK.

98      **CREDIT SEQUENCE: ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE**

98

MUSIC CONTINUES as we fade up on archival footage of the real Leonard Bernstein, late 60s, conducting a full orchestra.

His genius on full display, emotional, brilliant.

As the conducting concludes, Bernstein blows a kiss and we...

**FADE OUT.**