SCENE 23: STAY WITH ME

 Richmond Park, a winter’s afternoon. Enter TOM, carrying his rucksack. Enter

STEPHIE, separately. They hug.

STEPHIE I knew exactly where you meant.

TOM She loved this spot.

STEPHIE She loved coming here with you.

TOM Look at that. You can see right across the city.

STEPHIE Yeah.

TOM How are you doing?

STEPHIE I have good days and bad days, you know? But actually I think I’m

doing okay. How about you?

TOM There are times when I can’t even breathe. I don’t know if that will

ever end. But there are times when I feel like she’s with me. Or that

she’s in me, somehow. Does that sound mad?

STEPHIE It doesn’t sound mad at all.

(Beat. )

TOM I see things I never would have seen without her. Like the way the

sun’s glancing off those buildings, off the glass, you see, like fire?

STEPHIE It’s beautiful.

TOM She would have noticed that. She would have pointed it out.

Something so momentary. The sun moves, the day ends, it’s gone.

So easily missed.

(Beat. )

STEPHIE You’re all packed?

TOM This is it. My home on my back.

STEPHIE What time’s your flight?

TOM This evening. I wanted to see this place. The week before she died,

we came here. We ate ice cream in the sun. It was pretty great.

STEPHIE Will you send me a postcard?

TOM You want me to?

STEPHIE Where first?

TOM Rio.

STEPHIE Cool.

STEPHIE gives him a hug.

STEPHIE It’s gonna be okay, isn’t it?

TOM Yeah. It’s gonna be okay. (She leaves. TOM looks out at the view

and takes a deep breath. LOUISA is there, watching him, full of

love.) Hey.

LOUISA Hey. (They look at the view.) I love this time of day. The light

changes in a second. You hardly know what’s real. You hardly care.

TOM I love you.

LOUISA I love you, too.

TOM I wish…

LOUISA Don’t.

TOM I’m going to stand on top of Corcovado Mountain.

LOUISA Yeah?

TOM Look right out across Rio de Janeiro. To the whole continent. To the

world.

LOUISA Then where?

TOM From there I’ll follow my heart. (She smiles, turns and walks away.)

Louisa?

LOUISA Yes?

TOM Stay with me?

(Beat. )

LOUISA Always.