

SIDE C

Lili + Nick

LEA: Then they're not. (*Slowly he rises, faces her.*) Whatever you can do, my dear. That may not be much. After all, we can't expect miracles. (*They look at each other.*)

(*Fade out.*)

SCENE 5

LILI alone. **Nick** enters.

Lili: The hospital was her idea.

Nick: What?

Lili: I wasn't really sick. I was fine. She didn't think so. On my twenty-first birthday I got the money my father left me. Then I'll be well.

Nick: All right. (*Beat.*)

Lili: So she did tell you?

Nick: Yes.

Lili: Of course. So you'll leave me.

Nick: She doesn't want me to leave; she asked me not to.

Lili: That way when you do she'll seem blameless . . . It's one of her oldest tricks.

Nick: Lili—

Lili: Why did you tell her all those things you never told me?

Nick: She draws it out . . .

Lili: She has you now.

Nick: It's not that complicated.

Lili: This happens all the time. We come here every year: "Please, Lili, play," she says. "Be happy, be free. Please, Lili, find someone and don't frighten him away—" I frighten everyone—

Nick: You don't frighten me—

Lili: She'll do that for me—

Nick: No—

Lili: Oh, trust me—

Nick: Don't—

Lili: Why don't you just go away now? Why don't you just leave me alone?

Nick: Why are you going on like this?

Lili: Because I love you. (*Beat.*) I know that sounds crazy, but I'm not crazy—I know my own name—I don't see things—and I love you . . . I know I can't ever have you, I know I lie . . . I do awful things . . . I don't know why . . . I can't explain it . . . I feel as if everything I've ever done was something that happened to me . . . That sounds crazy, too . . . Oh God, this isn't making you think any better of me . . . I'm sorry . . . I haven't meant anything . . . Just go. (*Beat.*)

Nick: Nothing you said sounds crazy—No, *listen* . . . Nothing you said sounds crazy. And I don't believe you've ever done anything so terrible. You have this way of seeing yourself—I think it just comes from living in dark rooms with bad air—Listen—all this stuff about what you've done—even if you *have* done it—pasts are . . . they're nothing . . . Things can be so much simpler . . .

Lili: Look—she'll probably be here soon—It would be better if you just—

Nick: Forget her! The hell with her. There are some people we have to pretend don't exist. We just have to forget about—no

matter how it hurts . . . Some people we just have to get away from—

Liu: I can't do that.

Nick: I know you can.

Liu: You don't understand.

Nick: I do.

Liu: She's what I have . . .

(Pause)

Nick: When we met . . . it wasn't the first time I'd seen you . . . I'd been watching you . . . I came here for you . . . I came here to meet you—

Liu: You said—

Nick: I lied.

Liu: But—

Nick: Don't talk! And ever since then, I've been . . . Look, it wasn't because of Mindy that I stopped seeing you. I was scared . . . because I'd never wanted anything so much. *(Beat)*

Liu: That can't be possible.

Nick: Why not? Because you want it to be?

Liu: Yes.

Nick: Then maybe your luck has changed. *(Beat)*

Liu: But will you be on my side? Whatever happens . . . will you be on my side? *(He kisses her.)* Nick—?

Nick: What?

Liu: Let's swim. *(They kiss again and lie down. "Beyond the Sea" plays.)*

(Fade out.)

SCENE 4

~~**Nick and Eva alone. Eva is using a can.**
EVA: It has warmed my heart to see the change in Lili over these last weeks.~~

~~**Nick:** We've been very happy. She's swimming now.~~

~~**EVA:** Swimming, my God, what a wonder you are!~~

~~**Nick:** I don't take credit . . . The cane . . .~~

~~**EVA:** Yes.~~

~~**Nick:** I've never seen it before.~~

~~**EVA:** Ah, well—the body is weak, the body is strong, everything is reversible. Where shall we have the wedding, here do you think, or in town?~~

~~**Nick:** I think that should be up to Lili. I think that would be best.~~

~~**EVA:** What a kind young man you are, how considerate. *(Beat)* Now, let me tell you what I have discovered about you.~~

~~**Nick:** Excuse me?~~

~~**EVA:** First, you do not work for *Time*.~~

~~**Nick:** What are you talking about?~~

~~**EVA:** One does not find you on their employee roster. Or on any magazine publication—or any publication at all, for that matter.~~