

Reverie extract

James You're back?
Anna Yes. Though there's plenty of reasons I shouldn't be.
James (*Looking at his hands*) Hang on -
Anna No James! No more of that. Seriously - or I walk out of here. Okay?
James I'm so glad you're back.
Anna I'll be honest, you don't look it.
James I'm surprised. What made you...?

She takes off her jacket and hat and tosses them behind the bed.

Anna Your mother called me. She's worried about you. I'm worried about you.
James Anna?
Anna You're not well James. You said some really hurtful things to me you know. But I realise now you probably didn't mean them.
James Didn't I?
Anna I can leave again if you want?
James No, please don't. Stay with me. You are the *best thing* -
But I'm not ill. I have to be honest.
Anna You haven't seen or spoken to Holly in three years!
James Well, yes.
Anna And you're happy with me. That's true isn't it?
James Yes.
Anna Yes. You need me. And I need you.
James ...
Anna And this, is in your mind. It's not you.

James joins Anna on the bed.

Anna It's all nonsense.
You're comparing what we have with something impossible. You're in love with ideas.
James ...
Anna That's what I believe. I believe - I want to believe that.
James Yes.
But it's not that simple.
In my dreams, Anna - how to say this... the places I've gone, the way it feels... I can't describe how much it means...
Anna It's not real.

- James** But I'm more happy there than anywhere I've ever been. I can't ignore that! And maybe you're right - it's not all about Holly, I don't know what it's about.
- Anna** It's not real James...
- James** And maybe together we could get there, me and you - maybe it might be like that if I just try -
- Anna** *It's not real!!*

And as the silence falls from her scream, snow starts to fall from above.

- Anna** It isn't real. Any of it. What you're feeling, what you've been talking about. None of it. Do you not see that?

We hear the string music from the frozen lake scene before.

- James** Come here.

Anna moves to him, pirouettes once and then faces him.

- Anna** Do you see that James?

The two hold hands and spin in a circle.

- James** Dance with me.
- Anna** (*Breaking*) No! I won't let you do this!
- James** Careful Anna, you'll get cold.
- Anna** I won't let you throw this away. I won't let you!
- James** It's cold out here. You want to put a coat on.
- Anna** Where are you James?
- James** I'm here.
- Anna** I love *this*. I love us, here, now: what we have and what we will have - not what we might or could - what we *will*. You, as you, I love.

Anna reaches behind the bed to collect her jacket from before. But it has become a huge furry winter coat. She puts it on.

- James** I love you too Anna. Join me. Please.

She reaches for her cap from before but this equally has become a brightly coloured woolly hat. As she puts it on, it tips flakes of snow onto her shoulders. They move together.

- Anna** I've tried, I'm trying to understand - but you've given me nothing. Give me a reason not to leave.
- James** You're so beautiful.

He looks at her and she moves towards him. They kiss and remain close through the following.

James We're there. This is what I meant. Out here, with the snow.

Anna *(Pause)* Goodbye James.

James Skate with me.

Anna I just can't.

They push off from each other, as if on skates, and Anna 'glides' across the stage. James' eyes remain fixed on her. James continues talking.

James - And from the hills to the mountains and the frozen lake. You push off and the two of you glide across the perfect glass surface as night falls slowly and the quartet play on.

The music grows. During the following, the three other actors enter and Anna eventually disappears (unacknowledged by James). Other voices perhaps join James.

James But you move again, through the air, through the still night air, back across the rivers and the field, fence, field, to the street, to the window, to the room where you started. As you remember it. As you want to remember it. As you want it. But you are no longer alone. You turn back to the sill, to the window and look out again. You see it all. And you know this time. You know you are safe and you are free and that all is possible. You turn now, finally, to face the room, to face the door, which has always been there. The wood presses back against your feet.

The music and the other voices stop.

James And you walk.

Blackout.