

Key Scene/Quartet in Talbot's Everest
Video and libretto excerpt courtesy of Opera Parallèle.

KEY SCENE/QUARTET: Scene 10. The Huddle

[Everest - Scene 10: The Huddle Excerpt](#)

Rob and Doug inch towards the South Summit, battling the brutal elements, while Jan anxiously awaits further news. In a poignant quartet, Rob, Doug, Jan, and Beck reflect on the excruciating cold and the thin line between life and death, as Beck collapses unconscious on the South Col.

Libretto Excerpt

Lights up on Rob and Doug who are now past the Hillary Step on the roof like incline of the traverse, making their way inch by inch to the South Summit. Lights up on Jan who is still waiting for the next phone call.

ROB / DOUG / JAN / BECK

Too easy to die,
Easy as falling asleep.
To float, to let go, to be carried away...
Tell me you feel the unbearable cold.
The burn, the shiver...
the crush of the wind,
Feel it...Feel it...
The surge of blood,
like a million knives
cutting the tips of your fingers.
Tell me you feel all of this...
For now--only life's pain
says it is not over yet.

Beck takes his position on the South Col among those in the huddle. He lies down and closes his eyes. He is unconscious. Lights fade on Beck and the huddle.