

## Key Scenes in Talbot's Everest

Video and libretto excerpts courtesy of Opera Parallèle.

### KEY SCENE #1: Scene 4. Doug's Ascent

#### Everest - Scene 4. Doug's Ascent Excerpt

Doug, nearing exhaustion, struggles to complete his ascent to the summit with Rob's encouragement. The chorus underscores the dangerous passage of time as Doug rests frequently, each pause marked by labored exclamations. In a climactic moment, Doug reflects on his arduous journey and determination before finally reaching the peak, only to realize the emotional toll of his quest.

#### Libretto Excerpt

*Time stops before Doug takes the final step. With lighting and staging there is a sense, heightened of course by music, that time stands still before Doug takes the final step.*

DOUG

One more step...

CHORUS

Three fifty-six...

DOUG

More than anything, I just want the pain  
of wanting this so much to go away forever.

One more step...

I worked three jobs...saved...

...gave all I have...

One more step...

One more try...

One last try...

One more step...

Thank you, Rob...

After failing last year...

I stopped believing...

You never did...

A dozen phone calls,

Urging me to believe...

Earlier today I clicked out of the line...

I stopped believing...

You whispered to me...

"One more try...

One last try...

One more step..."

Look...one... more... step...  
I did... not let you... down...

CHORUS  
Three fifty-six...  
Four o'clock...

*Doug is getting weaker and his cognition is really beginning to fail him.*

DOUG  
Why do I climb?  
Why am I... here?  
I... don't... remember...  
More than anything...  
I just wanted... the pain of wanting...  
This... so much to... go... away... forever...

*When the chorus says "Four o'clock" time resumes, and the spell of Doug's reflective moment is suddenly broken.*

CHORUS  
Four o'clock.

ROB  
You are on top of the world!

DOUG  
Take a picture...I'm not coming back here.

## **KEY SCENE #2: Scene 9. The Storm Hits**

### [Everest - Scene 9 The Storm Hits Excerpt](#)

As a storm approaches, Jan anxiously receives troubling news about her husband, Rob, who is stranded on the mountain with Doug. Rob, desperate for help, radios for oxygen and assistance but is advised by Guy to abandon Doug and save himself. Despite the dire situation and Doug hearing the conversation, Rob resolves to stay and help his friend.

#### Libretto Excerpt

*We watch Beck being prepared to be short roped by Mike as lights come up both on Rob and Doug, who has collapsed on the ground, and on Jan who, stunned, holds the phone as she continues to listen to the disturbing news of her husband's plight. She has just received word that there is a problem. Finally she responds. Lights fade on Beck and Mike.*

JAN (confused)  
Rob told you to call me?  
So he's fine?  
I mean...No one is fine...  
that high... this late...  
He should have been back  
on the South Col in the tents by now.  
I was the expedition doctor...  
I've been there...  
No one is fine...  
that high... this late...

ROB / JAN  
Please... Please...

JAN  
...Call me...

*Jan hangs up the phone.*

ROB (On the radio)  
...I need oxygen.  
Send someone up.  
I'm on the top of the Hillary step.  
I can get myself down.  
But I don't know how the fuck  
I'm going to get this man down.  
Is that you, Guy?

GUY (on the radio)  
Rob, Rob, the storm is big,  
coming from below.  
Trust me, mate. There's no time...  
No other way.  
Save yourself. Leave Doug behind.  
It's the only choice...I'm sorry...  
But you must move now... Save yourself...

*(Pause) Doug has heard the radio transmission.*

ROB  
Doug can hear you.... I have to go. (To Doug) Come on...

### KEY SCENE #3: Scene 12. The Phone Call

#### Everest - Scene 12 The Phone Call Excerpt

As the chorus counts the agonizing hours, Jan, at home in New Zealand, receives a phone call from her husband, Rob, who is stranded on the mountain. Despite their dire situation, they share a tender conversation about their love and the future, contemplating the name Sarah for their child. Rob reassures Jan, asking her not to worry, while Jan expresses her deep concern and affection, trying to comfort him from afar.

Additional Reference: [Phone Call Scene from 'Everest' \(film 2015\)](#)

#### Libretto Excerpt

CHORUS

Two a.m.

How many breaths will you take in your life?

Will you only count the last ones you take?

Three fourteen a.m.

How can you know when you gently started letting go?

Four nineteen.

Five ten.

Left for dead.

*Lights up on Jan at home in New Zealand.*

ROB

Hello Jan, my sweetheart.

JAN

Rob, my darling...

ROB

I hope you're tucked up in a nice warm bed.

JAN

How are you my love?

I can't tell you how much I'm thinking about you.

You sound so much better than I expected.

Are you warm, darling?

Are you warm, darling?

ROB

Sarah...Sarah...How about Sarah for the name?

JAN / ROB  
Sarah... Sarah... Sarah...  
Ours forever...  
I love you.

ROB  
Sleep well, my sweetheart.  
Please don't worry too much.

JAN  
Rob, my darling,  
Don't feel that you're alone.