

THE NOTEBOOK

Music and Lyrics by Ingrid Michaelson
Book by Bekah Brunstetter

BROADWAY 2024

CAST OF CHARACTERS

YOUNGER ALLIE (YA) - 17

YOUNGER NOAH (YN) - 19

MIDDLE ALLIE (MA) - 27

MIDDLE NOAH (MN) - 29

OLDER ALLIE (OA) -70

OLDER NOAH (ON) - 72

JOHNNY, A physical therapist at Allie's nursing home
NURSE LORI, The Director of Nursing, also plays MOTHER

GEORGIE, early 20s, YOUNGER NOAH's friend; also plays Georgie in 30s
FIN, early 20s, YOUNGER NOAH's friend, also plays JOHNNY
SARAH, late teens, Allie's friend, also plays GRANDDAUGHTER

LON, 30s, Middle Allie's fiancé

MOTHER, 40s-50s, Allie's Mother

FATHER, 40s-50s, Allie's Father, also plays SON

SON, 40s, Allie and Noah's son

GRANDDAUGHTER (*MICHELLE*)

GRANDSON (*DAVID*)

OTHER NURSES

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

SETTING

A Coastal Town in the Mid-Atlantic.

Note on time:

Our story lives in three time periods:

The Past (1967) YOUNGER ALLIE and YOUNGER NOAH
Ten Years Later (1977) MIDDLE ALLIE and MIDDLE NOAH
And The Present (2021) OLDER ALLIE and OLDER NOAH

Costumes / sets can gently suggest time period, but ideally, things feel timeless. Ideally, we ignore things like technology that shout exact year.

SONG LIST

- #1: TIME Older Noah,
Middle Allie, Middle Noah, Younger Allie, Soundscape of Memories
- #2: DANCE WITH ME Fin, Younger Noah, Georgie
- #3: CARRY YOU HOME Younger Noah, Younger Allie
- #3D: BLUE SHUTTERS.....Younger Noah
- #4: I PAINT Younger Allie
- #5: SADNESS AND JOY Younger Allie, Younger Noah
- #6: LEAVE THE LIGHT ON Middle Noah, Soundscape of Memories
- #7: WHAT HAPPENS Middle Allie
- #8: I WANNA GO BACK Middle Allie, Younger Allie
- #9: IF THIS IS LOVE Younger Allie
- #10: KISS ME Younger Allie, Younger Noah,
Middle Allie, Middle Noah
- #11: HOME Younger Allie, Younger Noah, Middle Allie,
Middle Noah, Soundscape of Memories
- #12: WE HAVE TO TRY Younger Allie, Younger Noah
Middle Allie, Middle Noah
- #13: FOREVER Middle Allie, Middle Noah, Younger Allie,
Younger Noah, Soundscape of memories
- #14: SADNESS AND JOY REPRISE Middle Allie
- #15: IRON IN THE FRIDGE Older Noah, Middle Noah, Younger Noah
- #16: DON'T YOU WORRY..... Mother
- #17: IT'S NOT EASY.....Middle Noah, Middle Allie
- #18: MY DAYS Middle Allie
- #19: I LOVE YOU MORE.....Middle Noah, Middle Allie, Younger Noah,
Younger Allie, Soundscape of Memories
- #20: I KNOW Older Allie, Older Noah, Soundscape of Memories
- #21: CODA Soundscape of Memories

ACT I.

#1: TIME

We begin in a drab Rec Room in an Extended Care Facility.

Lights focus on OLDER NOAH, asleep in a chair. Through his memory, we're at a Bay.

YOUNGER NOAH is in the water.
YOUNGER ALLIE is out, putting her clothes back on.

YOUNGER NOAH
Just stay for five more minutes!

YOUNGER ALLIE
I have to go home!

YOUNGER NOAH
Or, you could stay here with me forever.

YOUNGER ALLIE
(considering him)
Okay, fine!

She jumps back in the water, IN HER CLOTHES. They laugh, splash each other.

YOUNGER ALLIE
Your lips are turning blue.

YOUNGER NOAH
They're lonely.

She kisses him.

YOUNGER ALLIE
How about now?

YOUNGER NOAH
Better.

Something swims by Allie's leg.

YOUNGER ALLIE
AHH! Something just touched my leg! What was that?!

YOUNGER NOAH
Oh, I think that was my dinner.

YOUNGER ALLIE
I really do have to go. NOW!

YOUNGER NOAH

Same time tomorrow?

YOUNGER ALLIE

I promise!

She splashes him as she gets out.

They run off, laughing, past OLDER NOAH. And he sings:

OLDER NOAH

TIME TO GET UP, TIME TO GET UP NOW
AND LET THE BONES CRACK INTO PLACE
I LOOK IN THE MIRROR, I SEE AN OLD MAN
BUT IN MY EYES, A YOUNG MAN'S FACE

TIME, TIME TIME TIME
IT NEVER WAS MINE,
MINE MINE MINE
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT IS?
LOVE, HOPE, BREATH AND DREAMS
AS CLICHÉ AS THAT SEEMS

MIDDLE ALLIE stands, revealing a beautiful dress.

MIDDLE ALLIE

LOOK AT THIS DRESS
IT WAS MY FAVORITE
BECAUSE MY MOTHER HATED IT SO MUCH
SO I'LL GIVE IT TO MY DAUGHTER
AND SHE'LL GIVE IT TO HER DAUGHTER
IT'S A PIECE OF ME THAT THEY CAN TOUCH
WHEN I'M GONE.

YOUNGERS/MIDDLES/OLDER NOAH/SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES

TIME, TIME TIME TIME
IT NEVER WAS MINE,
MINE MINE MINE
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT IS?
SKY (SKY), NIGHT (NIGHT), RED (RED)
MORNING LIGHT
AND THAT IS WHY WE FIGHT
TO KEEP GOING
KEEP RUNNING
KEEP STANDING
KEEP LEANING
KEEP LEARNING
KEEP HOPING

The NOAHS move towards each other, as well.

OLDER NOAH

I WANNA RUN LIKE MY LEGS USED TO RUN

MIDDLE NOAH / YOUNGER NOAH / OLDER NOAH
 BREATHING IN BREATHING LOUD
 MY ARMS STRETCHED OUT
 AND I WANNA KNOW
 THAT MY OLD HEART CAN GROW
 LIKE SPRING AGAIN

ALL EXCEPT OLDER ALLIE
 A NEW BEGINNING

OLDER NOAH
 BUT HERE I AM, THE SAME INSIDE
 THE PAINT IS CHIPPING
 BUT THE FOUNDATION'S ALRIGHT

	YN / MN
	I WANNA RUN
	LIKE MY LEGS
OLDER NOAH	USED TO RUN
I WANNA RUN	I WANNA RUN
TO YOU	TO YOU

	MOTHER/NURSE J/ YA/MA/SARAH	FIN/LON
YN / MN / ON		
I WANNA RUN	TIME, TIME,	TIME, TIME,
LIKE MY LEGS	TIME, TIME	TIME, TIME
USED TO RUN		
I WANNA RUN	TIME, TIME,	TIME, TIME,
TO YOU	TIME, TIME	TIME, TIME

	MOTHER/NURSE J/ FIN/LON	YA/MA/SARAH/ GEORGIE	
YN/MN/ON/FATHER			
KEEP GOING	TIME, TIME,	KEEP GOING	
KEEP RUNNING	TIME, TIME	KEEP RUNNING	
			YA / MA
KEEP STANDING	TIME, TIME,	KEEP STANDING	IT NEVER WAS
KEEP MOVING	TIME, TIME	KEEP MOVING	MINE

		SARAH/GEORGIE	
KEEP LEANING	TIME, TIME,	KEEP LEANING	
KEEP LEARNING	TIME, TIME	KEEP LEARNING	IT NEVER WAS
KEEP HOPE	TIME, TIME,	KEEP HOPE	MINE
	TIME,		

	MOTHER / NURSE J	YOUNG ALLIE	MA / FIN / LON
TIME TO GET UP	KEEP	KEEP	TIME, TIME,
TIME TO WAKE UP	HOPING	HOPING	TIME, TIME
NOW			

A couple of nursing home attendants escort OLDER ALLIE off to her room.

OLDER NOAH watches his wife being led away from him. He holds the notebook, reverently. Runs a hand over its cover.

It's a regular looking notebook,
something you might buy at CVS.

He approaches Older Allie's door.

She sits with an easel and paints
in front of her. She's frustrated.
She can't remember something, or
even what that something is.

NURSE LORI is with her, trying to
keep her calm. Lori is at the end
of a long shift. She's exhausted,
but she's trying her best to stay
patient, kind, and awake.

OLDER ALLIE

No - this isn't right - I don't have the right paints --

OLDER ALLIE tries to smudge off
something she's painted with her
hand, but she just ends up
knocking over a nearby glass of
water, set out for her to clean
her brushes in. Water goes
everywhere.

OLDER ALLIE

I'm sorry - I've made mess -

NURSE LORI

(soothing)

It's fine. We'll clean it up.

But OLDER ALLIE starts to cry,
like a little girl who dropped her
dinner plate.

NURSE LORI drops to her knees,
mopping up the mess.

OLDER NOAH appears in the doorway,
watching this horrible scene.

OLDER NOAH

What happened?

NURSE LORI

She's fine. We're fine. It's just a spill. This happens
every time she gets her paints out.

OLDER ALLIE

I want to go home!

OLDER NOAH

Where's Eddie?

NURSE LORI

He called out. Ten minutes before his shift started.

OLDER NOAH

Oh, well, that was nice of him!

NURSE LORI

Yep. Real Employee of the month. I'm supposed to be hiring MORE nurses this week, but nope! Instead I'm covering for the ones I already have.

OLDER ALLIE

(to NURSE LORI)

Can you please take me to my house?

NURSE LORI

Not today. Here, let's get you a --.

NURSE LORI gently tries to take off OLDER ALLIE's sweater.

OLDER ALLIE

No, no!

NURSE LORI

(snapping)

Okay!

NURSE LORI then stands there, embarrassed by her tone.

NURSE LORI

(to OLDER ALLIE then OLDER NOAH)

I'm sorry.

OLDER NOAH

I'll stay with her, now.

She starts to go. Then remembers:

NURSE LORI

Oh, there's a new PT starting today. He's going to take a look at your knee.

OLDER NOAH

I don't need physical therapy.

NURSE LORI

Really! So what's with the limp?

OLDER NOAH

I'm sorry, am I making you look bad?

NURSE LORI

You are so lucky I like you.

Be nice to the new PT.

(MORE)

NURSE LORI (CONT'D)
(to OLDER ALLIE)

I'll be back for your nap.

OLDER ALLIE looks at her, piecing something together.

OLDER ALLIE

Mother?
Did the -- is there any mail for me?

NURSE LORI

I'll check!

NURSE LORI and OLDER NOAH exchange a weighted look.

NURSE LORI heads up the hallway.

Now alone with him, OLDER ALLIE studies OLDER NOAH with scared but curious eyes.

OLDER NOAH

Morning.

OLDER ALLIE

I - I don't think I know you -

OLDER NOAH

I've just come to read to you, for a bit.
I know what you're thinking. These are some very sexy glasses. So please. Control yourself.

She studies him more. Decides to trust him. Just a bit.

OLDER ALLIE

...Can you take me to my house? They won't take me. I just need to get a few things, there. That my Mother - yes. I keep asking, but they won't let me go. They're treating me terribly, they've got me in a goddamn cage!

OLDER NOAH

I would love to, Madam, but I too am in a cage.
Bum knee. They won't let me drive.

OLDER ALLIE

I don't drive anymore either.

OLDER NOAH

Should I read? It's a good book. I think you'll like it.

OLDER ALLIE

What kind of book is it? It looks dirty. And old.

OLDER NOAH

Parts are dirty, yes. Other parts are old. It's a love story.

OLDER ALLIE

I like love stories.

OLDER NOAH

Me too.

Shall we?

OLDER ALLIE

...Yes.

OLDER NOAH opens the notebook.

The YOUNGERS appear.

OLDER NOAH

Our story starts with two young people. Two very attractive young people with glowing skin they did not appreciate, and bodies they'd spend the rest of their lives trying to get back. But they didn't know these things, yet. We never do.

We're at a dock overlooking the river. YOUNGER NOAH sings with his friends GEORGIE and FIN. YOUNGER ALLIE passes by, walking with her friend SARAH. She stops, intrigued by him.

#2: DANCE WITH ME

YOUNGER NOAH / FIN / GEORGIE

DANCE WITH ME

YOUNGER NOAH

IN THE RAIN OR IN THE SUNSHINE

YOUNGER NOAH / FIN / GEORGIE

DANCE WITH ME

YOUNGER NOAH

I'LL BE YOURS IF YOU'LL BE ALL MINE

YOUNGER NOAH / FIN / GEORGIE

YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE IT
BUT I KNOW IT TO BE TRUE

YOUNGER NOAH

THAT I'M HAPPY EVER AFTER

WHEN I GET TO DANCE
WITH YOU.

FIN/GEORGIE

HAPPY EVER AFTER

WITH YOU.

YOUNGER NOAH

Hey Fin. Who is that girl in the blue dress?

FIN

(looking, then)

Allison Nelson. Good luck! Girls like that dry their hands with dollar bills.

GEORGIE

DANCE WITH ME

PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND ME HONEY

YOUNGER NOAH / FIN / GEORGIE

DANCE WITH ME

FIN

I DON'T CARE IF WE LOOK FUNNY

YOUNGER NOAH / FIN / GEORGIE

PERFECT IMPERFECTION

THAT'S THE WAY WE MAKE IT THROUGH

YOUNGER NOAH

STOP!

YOUNGER NOAH

I'M HAPPY EVER AFTER

WHEN I GET TO DANCE
WITH/YOU.

FIN/GEORGIE

HAPPY EVER AFTER

WITH/YOU.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Who's that boy with the tiny guitar?

SARAH

Noah Calhoun. He works at the lumber yard. No.

YOUNGER NOAH / FIN / GEORGIE

WHEN THE WORLDS NOT LOOKING

CAN I STEAL A KISS OR TWO

YOUNGER NOAH

MAKE ME HAPPY EVER AFTER

JUST ASK ME TO DANCE WITH YOU

The song ends.

YOUNGER ALLIE claps, a lot.

YOUNGER ALLIE

That was great!

SARAH tries to pull her away,
embarrassed.

YOUNGER NOAH does a little bow,
blushing.

SARAH

Okay, Juliet. We gotta go. We promised we'd be home by ten.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I don't wanna go.

SARAH

Juliet DIES, Allie! She drinks POISON!

SARAH reaches for YOUNGER ALLIE's hand, pulling YOUNGER ALLIE away. YOUNGER NOAH sees her start to leave. He gets up, moves towards her.

YOUNGER NOAH

Hey, I'm Noah.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I'm Allie.

YOUNGER NOAH

I'm Noah. Where're you going?

YOUNGER ALLIE

Home.

YOUNGER NOAH

Can I come?

YOUNGER ALLIE

Can you come home with me? No.

YOUNGER NOAH

Why not?

YOUNGER ALLIE

I don't know you.

YOUNGER NOAH

Okay, how about I take you out sometime?

YOUNGER ALLIE

Oh - I can't. I'm only here for the Summer, and I have a very tight schedule.

YOUNGER NOAH

Tight schedule? In the Summer?

YOUNGER ALLIE

I have Tennis lessons, French lessons, Latin... I'm going to be a Senior, at Randall Prep. It's just for girls. Which means there's no boys there. Which is why I'm saying so many words to you right now.

YOUNGER NOAH

When do you do what you wanna do?

YOUNGER ALLIE

I want to do all of those things. That I just said.

SARAH

Hi! I'm Sarah. I'm here, too.

(to YOUNGER ALLIE)

We have to go.

YOUNGER ALLIE

You can go! I'll be fine. I'm not going to drink poison!

SARAH studies YOUNGER NOAH. Then,
to YOUNGER ALLIE:

SARAH

Call me tomorrow.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I will. I promise.

SARAH goes. YOUNGER ALLIE and
YOUNGER NOAH look at each other.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Somebody shrunk your guitar.

YOUNGER NOAH

Aw, man. Happens every time I wash it.

You really just say whatever you're thinking, don't you?

YOUNGER ALLIE laughs. YOUNGER NOAH
studies her, charmed by her.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Sometimes, yes.

GEORGIE and FIN get up to leave.

GEORGIE

We're gonna take off.

But YOUNGER NOAH just has his eyes
on YOUNGER ALLIE.

GEORGIE

NOAH. HELLO?!?

YOUNGER NOAH

Oh, ah. Bye.

GEORGIE and FIN take off. As they
go:

GEORGIE

Why don't you ever look at me like that?

FIN

I'm looking at you like that right now!

They go.

YOUNGER NOAH

So what's on your schedule now?

YOUNGER ALLIE

I really should get going.

YOUNGER NOAH

Me too. Would you do me a favor, and walk with me? I'm kinda scared of the dark.

YOUNGER ALLIE

...Really.

YOUNGER NOAH

Yeah, so it would mean a lot. If you would escort me.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I don't know. My parents...

YOUNGER NOAH

What about 'em?

YOUNGER ALLIE ponders this question. Really ponders it.

YOUNGER ALLIE

...You can walk with me. If you want. I'll go first. Since you're the scared one, and all.

They start their walk home, full of energy, youth.

They cross through the Nursing Home, where OLDER NOAH reads to OLDER ALLIE as they walk to the Rec Room.

OLDER ALLIE

I remember boys like that.

OLDER NOAH

(amused)

Boys like what?

OLDER ALLIE

Charming - filthy - delicious -- always with the perfect thing to say in his - tucked in his -

She can't find the word. She gestures to her pockets.

OLDER NOAH

Pocket.

OLDER ALLIE

Pocket. Boys like that, they say they'll write and they never do. Oh, this isn't going to end well, at all. Let me guess. They fall in love, right then and there! This is ridiculous!

(delighted)

Well, go on! Keep going!

Back with the YOUNGERS.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I'm not sheltered, if that's what you're thinking. My parents, they just - they're just looking out for my future. We have big plans, for college. What about you? Do you have plans for after school?

YOUNGER NOAH

I dropped out. Had to help my Dad.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Oh. So is singing your job?

YOUNGER NOAH

It's just something I do. I used to sing with my Mom. After she passed, I just kept on singing.

YOUNGER ALLIE

How old were you? When she --

YOUNGER NOAH

I was eight.

(then)

Great! Now you're feeling sorry for me! Hey, I get on alright. A lotta species get on without their Mothers all together. The Sea turtle - she lays her eggs, then that's that. She's off, back into the ocean. The babies are left to fend for themselves.

YOUNGER ALLIE

She just leaves her babies?!

YOUNGER NOAH

Yeah, but at the end of their lives -- no matter how far they travel - when it's time for them to lay their own eggs -- they return to the same nesting spot where they were born.

YOUNGER ALLIE

...So they never forget her.

YOUNGER NOAH
Exactly. How could they?

This concept is beautiful, and it
lands on both of them.

YOUNGER ALLIE
...Why do you know so much about sea turtles?

YOUNGER NOAH
Oh, I used to be one.

YOUNGER ALLIE
Really? Me too. What're the chances.

He's just looking at her, so in
love.

YOUNGER ALLIE
...What?

#3: CARRY YOU HOME

YOUNGER NOAH
I'VE GOT A SECRET TO TELL
I'M FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU!

YOUNGER ALLIE
Shhhhhhh!
You don't even know me!

YOUNGER NOAH
I THINK THAT I KNOW YOU WELL

YOUNGER ALLIE
(laughing)
I bet you do!

YOUNGER NOAH
AND YOU'RE FALLING FOR ME TOO

YOUNGER ALLIE
Oh, okay.

YOUNGER NOAH
AND I KNOW NOTHING ELSE MATTERS
'CAUSE ONE DAY I'LL CARRY YOU HOME

YOUNGER ALLIE
I can walk, but thanks -

YOUNGER NOAH
THE WHOLE WORLD MIGHT THINK WE'RE CRAZY
BUT ONE DAY I'LL CARRY YOU TO OUR HOME
YEAH, ONE DAY YOU'LL BE MY HOME

YOUNGER ALLIE

So you know the future?

YOUNGER NOAH

I know ours.

YOUNGER ALLIE sings.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I'M NOT THIS KIND OF A GIRL

YOUNGER NOAH

And what kind of girl is that?

YOUNGER ALLIE

THE KIND OF GIRL WHO DANCES
WITH STRANGE BOYS

YOUNGER NOAH

I'm not strange, I'm Noah.

YOUNGER ALLIE

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR HANDS
AND THE MUSIC IN YOUR VOICE

I KNOW NOTHING ELSE MATTERS
'CAUSE ONE DAY YOU'LL CARRY ME HOME

YOUNGER NOAH

ONE DAY I'LL CARRY YOU HOME

YOUNGER ALLIE

THE WHOLE WORLD MIGHT THINK I'M CRAZY
BUT ONE DAY YOU'LL CARRY ME TO OUR HOME
AND ONE DAY I KNOW YOU'LL BE MY HOME

YOUNGER NOAH

I'LL CARRY YOU / TO OUR HOME

YOUNGER ALLIE

YEAH, ONE DAY WE'LL BUILD UP

YOUNGER NOAH / YOUNGER ALLIE

A GREAT BIG HOME
YEAH ONE DAY, YOU'LL BE MY -

She kisses him. It's a perfect
kiss that unlocks both of them.
They both fall into it, until:
They are interrupted by Allie's
PARENTS.

FATHER

EXCUSE ME, YOUNG MAN.

Allie's PARENTS appear: Her FATHER, a by-the-books businessman with a soft spot for his daughter, and her MOTHER, poised and traditional with a fragile but classic beauty. YOUNGER ALLIE's light dims in their presence.

FATHER

Can you tell me what business your face has -- with my daughter's face?

YOUNGER NOAH

Oh, uh. Apologies, sir -

MOTHER

Allison, it's late.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I know. I was just - out for a walk. This is Noah --

YOUNGER NOAH

I just wanted to make sure she got home safe.

FATHER

I appreciate that. We'll be saying goodnight, now.

YOUNGER ALLIE smiles at YOUNGER NOAH apologetically.

YOUNGER ALLIE

G'night.

YOUNGER NOAH

G'night.

(to MOTHER and FATHER)

Evening.

YOUNGER ALLIE is left with her parents. She cowers a bit in their presence, some life sucked out of her.

FATHER

And who, precisely, was that?

MOTHER

(to FATHER)

I've got this one, dear.

FATHER

You sure?

MOTHER

Oh, Yes.

FATHER

Well, good luck to us all.

Her FATHER heads inside.

YOUNGER ALLIE

He was just walking me home. It's nothing -

MOTHER

This isn't like you, Allison.
Do I need to have a talk with you?

YOUNGER ALLIE

Oh, no, / I don't --

MOTHER

Well, I think I will, just the same.
Listen to me. I know boys like that.
He'll take what he wants, and then he'll be done with you.

YOUNGER ALLIE

(boldly)

Mom!

MOTHER

Allison, I'm trying to protect you. One mistake could
affect the rest of your life. You don't get a second
chance.

(then)

Time for bed. You've got your piano lesson, first thing.

MOTHER

EVERYTHING

MOTHER AND YOUNGER ALLIE

WILL BE ALRIGHT

(BOTH HUM)

YOUNGER ALLIE follows her MOTHER
inside. MOTHER hums *DON'T YOU
WORRY* as they go (a theme that
we'll come to recognize.)

OLDER NOAH and OLDER ALLIE are now
in the Rec Room. OLDER ALLIE is at
the piano.

OLDER ALLIE

I played the piano, once. Oh, I loved it. But I HATED the
lessons, I didn't have the patience.
For the - ah -

OLDER NOAH

Scales.

OLDER ALLIE

Scales. I didn't want to be taught, I just - I wanted to play and play.

She plays a few notes of *DON'T YOU WORRY*

OLDER ALLIE

I can remember these notes. So clearly. But I can't - anything else. I could SCREAM.

OLDER NOAH

Well, that's because the brain keeps music in a special place, apart from the rest of the memories. So it's the last thing we forget.

OLDER ALLIE

Are you a doctor?

OLDER NOAH

Oh, no, ma'am. I just read about it in one of those '*welcome to being Old and Almost Dead*' magazines.

OLDER ALLIE laughs, then studies him.

OLDER ALLIE

...Who are you? I know you, but - I don't know who you are.

OLDER NOAH takes off his glasses. The question hurts, every time, but he takes this in stride.

OLDER NOAH

I'm an old friend.

OLDER ALLIE considers this. Decides it is enough. Or that is has to be, for now, as this is, to her knowledge, her only friend.

OLDER ALLIE

Yes, you seem - familiar to me --

JOHNNY approaches, ruining the moment of connection.

JOHNNY

Mr. Calhoun! I'm Johnny! Your new physical therapist!

OLDER NOAH

I don't need physical therapy. I keep telling them. Now, if you'll excuse us --

JOHNNY

But if you just give me twenty minutes a day, you're gonna feel twenty years younger.

OLDER NOAH

I was already young. I already did that. I've moved on.

JOHNNY

That's true! But my focus is mobility. I had a client run his first marathon, at 65 years old. Age, it isn't a number, right? It's a mentality.

OLDER NOAH

No, it's a definitely a number.

JOHNNY

Okay! But I do need to assess your knee, sir. It might just be a muscle issue we can stretch our way through --

OLDER NOAH

It's not a muscle issue. It's shrapnel. It's been there since Vietnam.

This is sobering to JOHNNY.

JOHNNY

Oh! I didn't see that in your file.

OLDER NOAH

It hasn't been a problem until I fell.

JOHNNY

Well. Thank you for your service.
I don't know if I'm supposed to say -- that.

OLDER NOAH

...You're welcome.
(then)

Excuse us.

JOHNNY

...Cool cool cool! Well, I've got some start paperwork to get to, so I'll just get settled, and ah - circle back.

JOHNNY goes, taking one last look at this couple. Drawn to them. But he pulls himself away. Heads up the hall.

OLDER NOAH

Now, where were we --

OLDER ALLIE

Did she see him again? The young man, with the - tiny guitar?

OLDER NOAH

Well, her parents forbade it, so yes, as soon as she could.

River music starts.

YOUNGER NOAH is on a dock by the river writing in a notebook.

YOUNGER ALLIE shows up, very obviously looking for him.

YOUNGER NOAH spots her.

YOUNGER NOAH

Hi! Were you looking for me?

YOUNGER ALLIE

No!

GEORGIE enters.

GEORGIE

Oh Good, you found him!

YOUNGER ALLIE

(caught)

Oh, I wasn't -

FIN enters, eating a pie out of a picnic basket. GEORGIE spots him.

GEORGIE

Fin! Get outta there!

FIN

(mouth full)

What? If I have to carry the basket, I have a right to its contents!

YOUNGER NOAH

(to YOUNGER ALLIE)

So I guess you've met Georgie and Fin.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I did!

GEORGIE

I made that pie for ALL of us.

YOUNGER ALLIE

You made a whole pie?

GEORGIE

It's how I show my love.

FIN

And it's how she shows she's mad, too. She just stops feeding you. It is cold.

GEORGIE

It's the only way to get your attention.

FIN

Oh, you got my attention.

(they kiss)

Damn, Georgie. I'm gonna miss you when I go.

They kiss again, so in love.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Where're you going?

FIN

As soon as I turn 18, I'm joinin' the Army.

(to YOUNGER ALLIE)

My father served. It's my legacy. All I gotta do is not get killed, then when I get back, they pay for college! Noah's gonna join up with me, too. He just doesn't know it yet.

YOUNGER NOAH

I already got a job!

I help my Dad out at the lumber yard.

FIN

Yeah, but last I checked, you're barely getting by.

GEORGIE

(to FIN)

C'mon. Let's go swim.

FIN

I didn't bring my suit.

GEORGIE

Neither did I.

FIN leaps to his feet.

FIN

Swimming sounds great!

FIN and GEORGIE run off towards the water.

YOUNGER ALLIE and YOUNGER NOAH are now alone.

YOUNGER NOAH

Do your parents know you're here?

YOUNGER ALLIE

Where? Here? No. Definitely not.

YOUNGER NOAH

So where are you?

YOUNGER ALLIE

I'm at the movies. With Sarah.

YOUNGER NOAH

How's the movie?

YOUNGER ALLIE

It's really good.
I should get going -

YOUNGER NOAH

I heard your Dad makes airplanes.

YOUNGER ALLIE

He designs them.

YOUNGER NOAH

What kinda planes?

YOUNGER ALLIE

The kind that fly.

YOUNGER NOAH

I don't trust it. Being up in the air.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Oh, but it's wonderful. When you take off, it's exhilarating -- you leave your whole life. And then you're in the sky. And then they serve you steak, on real china!

YOUNGER NOAH

You can eat steak on the ground.

YOUNGER ALLIE spots his book.

YOUNGER ALLIE

What're you working on?

YOUNGER NOAH

It's nothing.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Can I see?

YOUNGER NOAH

Can you see my soul? Sure!

Reluctantly, he hands it to her.
She reads it. It washes over her.

YOUNGER ALLIE

...Is this about me?

YOUNGER NOAH

...Maybe.

They're drawn to each other.

YOUNGER ALLIE

We're gonna kiss again, aren't we?

They do.

Lights up on OLDER NOAH in the Rec Room, reading.

OLDER ALLIE

Oh, what idiots! They're much too young to be in love like that! They have their whole lives ahead of them! This isn't real, is it?

OLDER NOAH

You tell me.

(reading)

That Summer, they spent every moment that they could together. It only took three weeks for them to feel like they'd known each other their entire lives. And it wasn't a fling, no. It was much more serious than that. They had invented something called 'French Kissing' and it was up to them to research its practical applications, and show it to all of the World.

YOUNGER ALLIE and YOUNGER NOAH appear. They cannot stop kissing. If they stop kissing, they stop breathing.

YOUNGER NOAH

(between kisses)

I can't take it when you wear blue. You should only ever wear blue.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Okay. I'll burn the rest of my clothes.

YOUNGER NOAH

You're so pretty.

YOUNGER ALLIE

YOU'RE so pretty.

They go back to kissing and exit.

OLDER ALLIE

Oh, we're so stupid when we're young. We think it all lasts forever. Oh God, it was wonderful! Those - kisses. How it felt. In my stomach.

OLDER NOAH
(gently)

...What else do you remember?

YOUNGER NOAH and YOUNGER ALLIE are
now by the river. YOUNGER ALLIE is
teaching YOUNGER NOAH to foxtrot.
Or, she's trying.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Slow - slow -

YOUNGER ALLIE AND OLDER ALLIE

quick quick -

Slow - Slow - quick quick -

YOUNGER NOAH struggles to keep up.
Looks down at his feet.

YOUNGER ALLIE
(laughing)

Don't look at your feet, look at me!

Slow - Slow - quick quick -

YOUNGER NOAH tries to keep up,
messes up, spins her in a circle
instead. YOUNGER ALLIE laughs.

YOUNGER ALLIE

You need to learn the steps!

YOUNGER NOAH

For what?

YOUNGER ALLIE

For parties!

YOUNGER NOAH

I don't go to those kinda parties.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Okay, so you're just going to stay here and live with your
Dad your whole life?

YOUNGER NOAH

No. I'm gonna live there.

He points across the water.

YOUNGER ALLIE

In that creepy old abandoned house?

YOUNGER NOAH

It won't be creepy once I buy it, fix it up.
You wanna live there with me?

YOUNGER ALLIE

Do I want to live with you in a scary haunted house?

#3D: BLUE SHUTTERS

I'LL PAINT THE SHUTTERS BLUE
I'LL WRAP A PORCH
AROUND THE WHOLE ENTIRE HOUSE
SO WE CAN WATCH THE SUNSET
AND THE SUNRISE TOO
WHO NEEDS SLEEP
WHEN IT'S ME, THAT HOUSE, AND YOU.

BREAKFAST IN BED AT NOON
WE'LL PLANT A GARDEN
IN THE BACKYARD BY THE RIVER
LIVING OFF THE THINGS WE GROW
AND GROWING AS WE LIVE
CAN'T YOU SEE IT?
IT'S JUST ME, THAT HOUSE, AND YOU.

YOUNGER ALLIE

So it's *our* house.

YOUNGER NOAH

That's our house.

She reaches over, checks his
watch.

He knows why. He's used to it. And
he's getting sick of being used to
it.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I have to go. The matinee gets out at 4.

YOUNGER NOAH

You sure are seeing a lotta movies this Summer.

YOUNGER ALLIE

You're the best one.

YOUNGER NOAH

What do they have against me?

YOUNGER ALLIE

My parents? They don't - not - they just don't approve of
my - being serious with you.

YOUNGER NOAH

Sounds like the same thing.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Well, it's not.
They just - they don't know you. Not like I do.

YOUNGER NOAH

So tell 'em about me.

YOUNGER ALLIE

There's no point.
(soft)
I wish it was different.

YOUNGER NOAH

I don't. Screw 'em.
She starts to go.

YOUNGER NOAH
(feeling bad)

Hey - where you goin?

YOUNGER ALLIE

Home.
To my awful, awful parents.
Who have cared for me my whole life.
Who don't want me to starve and die.

YOUNGER NOAH
(a bit amused)

Hey, nobody's starving or dying!

She hoists a canvas bag over her
shoulder. YOUNGER NOAH sees
something poking out of it.

YOUNGER NOAH

What is that?

YOUNGER ALLIE

It's nothing.

YOUNGER NOAH

Looks like somethin'.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Actually, it's something I was going to give to you, But
now I'm not.

He reaches out his hand.

YOUNGER NOAH

...Please.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Fine, just take it!

She takes a small canvas painting
out of the bag.

YOUNGER NOAH

...Did you paint this?

She sings.

#4: I PAINT

YOUNGER ALLIE

YES
I LIKE TO PRETEND THAT THE WORLD
ISN'T WHAT IT IS 'CAUSE WHAT IT IS
IS MEAN AND CRUEL AND BIGGER
THAN ANYTHING I COULD EVER IMAGINE.

SO YES
I MAKE UP THESE WORLDS IN MY HEAD
PUT THEM DOWN ON PAPER
WITH THESE HANDS OF MINE
I FIND THAT TIME, IT SLOWS DOWN WHEN I DO

AND WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES
I SEE THE TRUTH COMES SPILLING OVER ME
AND WHEN I HOLD MY HANDS OVER MY EARS
I HEAR SWEET MELODIES
I FEEL LIKE I'M SAFE
WHEN I RUN AWAY
FROM THE REAL WORLD

SO YES
I PAINT

Aren't you gonna say anything?

He sings.

#5: SADNESS AND JOY

YOUNGER NOAH

I'VE NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING SO BEAUTIFUL AND SO SERENE
YET FILLED WITH SO MUCH DARKNESS

BUT I UNDERSTAND
THEY'RE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN
IT'S SADNESS AND IT'S JOY, RIGHT?

YOUNGER ALLIE

I NEVER KNEW
THAT I WOULD FIND SOMEONE WHO SEES
THE THINGS I DO
AS REALLY BEAUTIFUL AND MEANINGFUL
AND BRAND NEW
BUT YOU UNDERSTAND IT'S NOT A CHOICE

IT'S SADNESS AND IT'S JOY
IT'S SADNESS AND IT'S JOY
IT'S SADNESS AND IT'S JOY

YOUNGER NOAH

HOW DO YOU DO ALL OF THIS
WITH THESE HANDS, WITH THESE HANDS?
I'LL NEVER TRULY BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND
BUT I DO KNOW THAT

IT'S SADNESS AND IT'S JOY
IT'S LIGHT AND THEN IT'S DARK
IT'S CHRISTMAS MORNING DOWN THE STAIRS
IT'S WAITING FOR A SPARK
IT'S LOW AND THEN IT'S HIGH
IT'S GOOD INSIDE THE BAD

YOUNGER ALLIE/ YOUNGER NOAH

IT'S LOVING WHEN IT'S HARD TO LOVE
AND LAUGHING WHEN IT'S SAD
IT'S FIGHTING THEN MAKING UP
THEN FIGHTING ALL AGAIN

YOUNGER NOAH

THEN MAKING LOVE AND BABIES

YOUNGER ALLIE/ YOUNGER NOAH

RAISING HELL AND THEN HEAVEN
IT'S SADNESS AND IT'S JOY
SADNESS AND IT'S JOY

YOUNGER NOAH

SADNESS

YOUNGER ALLIE / YOUNGER NOAH

SADNESS AND IT'S JOY

YOUNGER ALLIE

You see all of that in my painting?

YOUNGER NOAH

I do.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Interesting. Because it's pretty small.

YOUNGER NOAH

But it contains multitudes.
I didn't say that. Walt Whitman said that.

YOUNGER ALLIE

You wanna come home with me?

YOUNGER NOAH

What about your parents?

YOUNGER ALLIE

They'll see.

She takes his hand. Leads him to
her house.

Back with the OLDERS.

OLDER ALLIE

Wait a minute -- you've read this story to me before!

OLDER NOAH

Once or twice.

OLDER ALLIE

Yes, that's right, I remember.

NURSE LORI enters.

NURSE LORI

(to OLDER ALLIE)

Okay my dear, Nap time!

OLDER NOAH

No --

OLDER ALLIE

(to NURSE LORI)

But Mother --

NURSE LORI

Yep, that's me! Nap time! / Here we go!

OLDER NOAH

Not yet. I need more time -

OLDER ALLIE

I'm not tired.

NURSE LORI

I have two dozen residents to get down, I have a county
inspection in ten minutes, I need her back in her room.

OLDER ALLIE

(suddenly)

Don't talk about me!

OLDER NOAH

I've got this.

NURSE LORI

(resolved, to OLDER NOAH)

...Don't let her wander off.

She goes.

OLDER NOAH

It's alright. It's alright.

OLDER ALLIE

...Do they end up together? The boy and the girl?

OLDER NOAH

You want me to tell you the ending?

OLDER ALLIE

I want to know -

(searching, then)

I want to know something.

OLDER NOAH

We can't just skip to the very end. You'd miss all the best parts.

OLDER ALLIE

The middle, then.

He flips forward in the notebook.

OLDER NOAH

Let's see - heartbreak, graduation, many many Tuesdays, Thanksgivings, a war --

OLDER ALLIE

Well, I don't have all day!

OLDER NOAH

Here we are. The middle of the story.

(reading)

It had been ten entire years since they had seen or spoken to each other, but for Noah and Allie, it felt like it could have been about ten minutes, and also forever. Both were true. Noah had finally finished fixing up the old house, just like he said he would.

MIDDLE NOAH appears on the front porch of the house.

GEORGIE enters carrying a six pack and a cloth bag, and a copy of the NEWSPAPER.

GEORGIE

Is that *MISTER* Noah Calhoun? From the *LOCAL NEWS* section of the *OBSERVER*?

MIDDLE NOAH

Yep, that's me. Right there next to the ad for Hamburger Helper.

GEORGIE

Wow. You're way less handsome in person. But the house is even better than the picture. Ooh! Will you sign my newspaper?

MIDDLE NOAH

Oh, absolutely not.

GEORGIE

C'mon! You're the closest to a famous person I'll ever get!

Begrudgingly, but also blushing,
he signs her paper.

MIDDLE NOAH

What's your name again?

GEORGIE

Georgie. We grew up together.

MIDDLE NOAH

Ah, right. How could I forget the girl who brings me pie?

GEORGIE

And beer.

She gets out two bottles hands him
one. They drink.

MIDDLE NOAH

Where's Frannie?

GEORGIE

Helping her Dad fix the car. So, how many offers?

MIDDLE NOAH

Phone won't stop ringing.

GEORGIE

See?! I told you! Okay! So. I'm here to help you choose. Decisions like this are highly personal and complicated. Here's what you do. 1. Determine who is offering you the most money. 2. Sell your house to that person.

MIDDLE NOAH

It's not ready to sell.

GEORGIE

Okay. I know what you're doing.

MIDDLE NOAH

I'm not done yet.

GEORGIE

(more gently)

Noah? I say this with the same love I try and show myself.
Fin's not coming back.
And neither is Allie.

I gotta get back.

MIDDLE NOAH

(hopeful)

Is it a peach pie?

GEORGIE

(how dare you)

It's apple. You're welcome.

She starts to go.

GEORGIE

Big house for a ghost. All I'm sayin'.

#6: LEAVE THE LIGHT ON

MIDDLE NOAH

I'LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON, TURN DOWN THE BED
HEAT UP THE KETTLE, BUTTER SOME BREAD
STAY UP TIL MIDNIGHT HAUNTING THESE HALLS
LET'S HANG OUR MEM'RIES
ALL OVER THESE WALLS

WHERE HAVE YOU GONE? JUST OUT FOR A WALK?
AND WHEN YOU GET BACK, WE'LL HAVE US A TALK
ABOUT LIFE, ABOUT WAR, ABOUT DINNER
AND MORE
'BOUT THE SUN AND THE MOON
AND WHERE HAVE YOU GONE?

ANOTHER SUNSET IT HAPPENS TO FALL
RIGHT INTO A NEW DAY, CRUSHING US ALL
AND NIGHT AFTER NEW NIGHT
LIKE THE NIGHTS COME AND GONE
LIVING IS WAITING, LIVING AND WANTING,
LIVING ALONE

MIDDLE NOAH (CONT'D)

WHERE HAVE YOU GONE? JUST OUT FOR A WALK?
 AND WHEN YOU GET BACK, WE'LL HAVE US A TALK
 ABOUT LIFE, ABOUT WAR, ABOUT DINNER
 AND MORE
 'BOUT THE SUN AND THE MOON

AND WE'LL GO UP TO BED
 WASH THE WORLD FROM OUR HEADS
 ARE YOU COMING BACK?
 ARE YOU COMING BACK SOON?

MIDDLE NOAH
 WE BUILD THESE WALLS

TO LIVE INSIDE

AND MAKE A HOME

AND SHUT OUR EYES
 AND DREAM

AND WHEN I SEE YOU,
 YOU'RE EVERYWHERE

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES (ECHO)

WE BUILD THESE WALLS
 (WE BUILD THESE WALLS)

TO LIVE INSIDE

(TO LIVE INSIDE)

AND MAKE A HOME

(AND MAKE A HOME)

AND SHUT OUR EYES

AND DREAM...

MIDDLE NOAH

PLANTING A GARDEN
 BITING YOUR LIP
 WATCHING A SNOWSTORM
 KEEPING ME WARM
 I ALMOST FEEL YOU
 YOU'RE KISSING MY NECK
 BLINKING AND BREATHING
 LAUGHING AND LIVING
 AND THE HOLE IN MY CHEST
 ISN'T THERE ANYMORE.
 WHERE HAVE YOU GONE?

OH, WHERE HAVE YOU GONE
 I BUILT THESE WALLS
 TO BRING YOU HOME
 BUT ALL THEY BRING ME IS MORE ALONE
 MAYBE I'LL MOVE ON, MAYBE I WON'T
 BUT I'LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON ANYWAY

I'LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON

Lights find MIDDLE ALLIE and her
 PARENTS and LON seated at a
 Country Club breakfast table.
 Allie's FATHER reads a newspaper,
 while mostly ignoring them. Her
 MOTHER is ticking off a checklist.

MIDDLE ALLIE

So somewhere over the Rockies, we hit a few bumps -

LON

Okay, it was more than a few BUMPS. We were shaking around like spare change in a can!

FATHER

Turbulence cannot bring down a plane. Especially not a 747.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Exactly. But Lon, he is terrified, his eyes go --

She makes her eyes big.

LON

I don't know what she's talking about, I was very brave and strong.

MIDDLE ALLIE

And he takes my hand, and says in his very serious public defender voice -- *if this plane goes down, I'll die a happy man, because I'm with you.*

LON

What else am I supposed to say to my future wife?

MIDDLE ALLIE

Aw! I love the sound of that! Say it again!

LON

Future wife.

They kiss, completely in love.

MOTHER

Okay, So! The flowers, the linens -- oh, I just have this terrible feeling I've forgotten something!

MIDDLE ALLIE

I'm sure you haven't. You have been planning this wedding since I was born.

MOTHER

I can't help it! Every mother dreams of this day for her daughter!

LON

You've thought of everything. I don't know where we'd be without you.

MOTHER

(swoon)

Oh, Lon. You always know just what to say. We are so lucky, to be welcoming you into our family. And what a Father you're going to make -

MIDDLE ALLIE

Mother. Calm down. Your own husband is sitting right here.

MOTHER

Yes, and all he does is read the paper and ignore me, right, darling?

FATHER

(from paper)

Hmm?

MOTHER

Just agree with me.

FATHER

I always do.

Allie's FATHER turns the page of his paper and MIDDLE ALLIE spots something on the back page.

She takes the paper from her FATHER.

Suddenly, MIDDLE ALLIE's breath stops.

MOTHER

Allison? What's wrong?

MIDDLE ALLIE

...Nothing! What were you saying, about the linens --?

MOTHER

(back at list)

Oh! I want to make sure they're delivered by Friday / so that --

MIDDLE ALLIE

I need to go to the lady's room. For a long time.

She goes.

LON

Is she alright?

FATHER

Son - never ask a woman why she's going to the lady's room. Just let her go.

We move to the bathroom.

MIDDLE ALLIE

...It's our house.

(reading)

Over the last five years, Mr. Calhoun breathed new life into the historic house...hand carved wood cabinetry...blue shutters...

(this part really gets her)

Added on a wraparound porch...which Mr. Calhoun says is perfect for sunsets...

(Then)

He's alive...

MOTHER

Allison, what's going on?

MIDDLE ALLIE

It's Noah.

Allie shows her paper. MOTHER sees Noah's face.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Guess he didn't die in the war, after all!
It's really him.

MOTHER

(carefully)

Allie...

MIDDLE ALLIE

I know! I know! That was the worst time of my life.
Waiting for those letters. I cried myself to sleep for months. He crushed me.

MOTHER

He didn't. Because now, you're engaged to a wonderful man.
Lon is loyal, he's steady. He's going to give you a beautiful life.

MIDDLE ALLIE

...I know.

MOTHER

DON'T YOU WORRY

MIDDLE ALLIE

Mom! Stop!

MOTHER

EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT!

MOTHER

C'mon, do your part!

MIDDLE ALLIE

I'm not five anymore!

MOTHER
You always will be, to me.

MOTHER
I HAVE GOT/YOU

MIDDLE ALLIE
Mom.

MOTHER
Okay, okay! Stopping!

MOTHER inspects Allie's lips.

MOTHER
You could use a touch up.
Don't be long.

She goes.

MIDDLE ALLIE sings.

#7: WHAT HAPPENS

MIDDLE ALLIE
WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON
WHO FORGETS HOW TO BREATHE?
WHO FORGETS WHO SHE IS
WHO FORGETS WHERE SHE IS
WHERE AM I?

A bathroom? Oh my God.

WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON
WHO CANNOT BELIEVE WHAT SHE SEES?
I CANNOT BELIEVE WHAT I SEE
WHAT I SEE CAN'T BE

BUT THERE IT IS IN BLACK AND WHITE
YOU'VE MADE THAT HOUSE A HOME
AND I KNOW THAT I SHOULD LET IT GO
AND WALK AWAY BUT I NEED TO KNOW

IS SOMEONE LIVING WITH YOU?
IS SOMEONE WASHING THE DISHES AND LAUGHING
AND IS SOMEONE HOLDING YOU
IN THE NIGHT, IN THEIR ARMS,
IN A ROOM, IN THAT HOUSE?

WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON
WHO'S GONNA BE MARRIED IN A WEEK
TO A MAN THAT SHE LOVES
- MARRIED IN A WEEK?
WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON LIKE THAT?
TO A PERSON LIKE THAT?
TO A PERSON LIKE ME?
BUT THERE IT IS IN BLACK AND WHITE
YOU'VE MADE THAT PLACE YOUR OWN

MIDDLE ALLIE (CONT'D)

IS SOMEONE LIVING WITH YOU?
IS SOMEONE HEARING YOU HUM
WHILE YOU'RE COOKING?
AND IS SOMEONE HOLDING YOU,
IN THE NIGHT, IN THEIR ARMS,
IN A ROOM, IN THAT HOUSE
THAT I SEE IN MY HEAD
WHEN I'M WIDE AWAKE IN MY BED
THIS IS INSANE! THIS ISN'T WHO I SHOULD BE
WHO SHOULD I BE

IS SOMEONE LIVING WITH YOU
IS SOMEONE SLEEPING AND WAKING BESIDE YOU
AND IS SOMEONE LOVING YOU
AND ARE YOU LOVING THEM TOO
AND ARE YOU LOVING THEM, LOVING THEM,
LOVING THEM TOO
IN THE NIGHT
IN A ROOM
IN THE HOUSE
IN OUR HOME

Back in the Rec Room with the
OLDERS.

OLDER ALLIE

She's marrying someone else?! I thought this was a love
story!

OLDER NOAH

It is!

OLDER ALLIE

And what sort of name is 'Lon'?

OLDER NOAH

It's the exact right name for the Other Man, that's what.

OLDER ALLIE laughs.

OLDER ALLIE

It IS!

OLDER NOAH looks at her, in love.

OLDER ALLIE

What?

OLDER NOAH

You're so beautiful. I hope that's -- alright to say.

OLDER ALLIE blushes.

OLDER ALLIE

...Where's your wife?

OLDER NOAH

I musta left her somewhere.

OLDER ALLIE

You remind me of a boy, I used to --

SON

Hey, Dad.

OLDER NOAH sees that his SON
(played by Allie's Father),
GRANDDAUGHTER (played by SARAH),
and GRANDSON (played by YOUNGER
NOAH) have arrived.

OLDER NOAH

(rescuing)

This is my family! My granddaughter Michelle, my grandson
David --

SON

Say hi, guys.

GRANDDAUGHTER/ GRANDSON

Hi. / 'Sup

OLDER NOAH

And this is my son Fin -

OLDER ALLIE looks at them with a
mix of politeness, confusion and
fear.

OLDER ALLIE

Fin! Like from the book!

OLDER NOAH

Yes. Like the book.

SON

(politely)

Nice to meet you!

OLDER ALLIE

(trying)

Did you have to drive far?

SON

No. Not too far!

OLDER ALLIE

Oh, Good! Good.

The SON hands her a bouquet of
Lilacs.

SON

These are for you. I heard Lilacs are your favorite.

OLDER ALLIE

Well, thank you, yes! I used to love these, when I was a girl! My Mother would - put them on the table, for dinner! I - we'll put them in my room.

GRANDDAUGHTER

I'm wearing the necklace you gave me, see? Your Mom gave it to you, and you gave it to me, for my birthday!

OLDER ALLIE

Oh - I don't - I'm sure I - what necklace?
I'm sorry -- I'm not sure I -

GRANDDAUGHTER

No, I'm sorry - I'm so sorry Grandpa --

OLDER ALLIE looks to OLDER NOAH,
helplessly.

OLDER ALLIE

Who is this? I don't know / what she's talking about!

OLDER NOAH

(to OLDER ALLIE)

It's alright -

OLDER ALLIE

I don't know who this is! What does she want from me?

OLDER NOAH

(to OLDER ALLIE)

Will you give me just a moment? I'll be right back.

OLDER NOAH steps towards his
family.

OLDER NOAH

She just needs a minute. She gets overwhelmed.

SON

Are you limping?

OLDER NOAH

I fell.

SON

When?

OLDER NOAH

It's nothing! I can walk.

SON

Has anybody looked at it?

OLDER NOAH

Yes. It's still my knee. Will you stop?

SON

...Mom seems worse. And now I'm worried about you.

OLDER NOAH

That's a twist. Your Mother and I have spent the last 40 years worrying about you.

SON

They're taking really good care of her, Dad. You don't need to be here, too.

OLDER NOAH

What is this about?

SON

This isn't financially sustainable -- for the both of you to be here --

OLDER NOAH

I know that. I'm going to sell the house.

SON

What? Dad. No.

OLDER NOAH

Your Mom needs me here.

SON

What about what you need?

OLDER NOAH

I need her.

Overcome with emotion, his GRANDDAUGHTER goes to him. Wraps her arms around him. He's grateful for it.

OLDER NOAH

C'mon. Let's step outside for a minute. Get some air.

He leads his family off.

OLDER ALLIE sits alone, watches after them.

Another nurse, NURSE JOANNA, crosses through, on her rounds.

NURSE JOANNA

Is no one with you?

OLDER ALLIE

I don't know you.

NURSE JOANNA

I work here. Do you need help getting back to your room?

OLDER ALLIE

No, I - there were some people..., but. Now I'm fine.

NURSE JOANNA

I'll be back for you. Sit tight.

NURSE JOANNA goes. OLDER ALLIE
sits alone.

OLDER ALLIE

I just don't know what they want from me!

OLDER ALLIE searches for words,
tries to find the words, but
they're trapped beneath layers of
plaque.

OLDER ALLIE

What do you WANT from me?!

Music begins.

OLDER ALLIE

I've been trying to tell you -- there's something I was --
going to say -- but I --

MIDDLE ALLIE and YOUNGER ALLIE
appear behind OLDER ALLIE.

Softly, we go inside of OLDER
ALLIE's mind.

#8: I WANNA GO BACK

MIDDLE ALLIE

I WANNA GO BACK
I WANNA GO BACK
TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS
COUNTING UP KIDS, COUNTING THE LINES
WRITTEN ON OUR FACES

MIDDLE ALLIE / YOUNGER ALLIE

I WANT TO TELL YOU YOUR EYES ARE AS CLEAR
AS THE DAY WE MET

MIDDLE ALLIE

THESE THINGS WE FORGET
THAT I

MIDDLE ALLIE / YOUNGER ALLIE
I AM STILL IN HERE

MIDDLE ALLIE
I'M WAITING FOR YOU

MIDDLE ALLIE / YOUNGER ALLIE
TO COME LET ME OUT DEAR

MIDDLE ALLIE
IS IT TIME FOR DINNER?
IS IT TIME FOR FOREVER?
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE LAST TIME
I'D LEAVE THE HOUSE
WAS THE LAST TIME I'D LEAVE THE HOUSE

YOUNGER ALLIE
I WANNA TURN LEFT AND GET OFF THIS ROAD
HEADING NOWHERE FAST
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?
AM I BEING PUNISHED
FOR SOMETHING INSIDE OF MY PAST?

YOUNGER ALLIE / MIDDLE ALLIE
LIFE HAS A FUNNY WAY OF SPEEDING UP
THE OLDER THAT YOU GET
I'M IN LOVE WITH ALL THE THINGS
THAT I FORGET

YOUNGER ALLIE
I AM STILL IN HERE
I'M WAITING FOR

MIDDLE ALLIE
I AM STILL IN HERE

YOUNGER ALLIE / MIDDLE ALLIE
YOU, TO COME LET ME OUT DEAR
IS IT TIME FOR DINNER?
IS IT TIME FOR FOREVER?

YOUNGER ALLIE
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE LAST TIME
I'D LEAVE THE HOUSE
WAS THE LAST TIME I'D LEAVE THE HOUSE

MIDDLE ALLIE
TAKE ME BACK
ONE DAY, TAKE ME BACK
TAKE ME BACK
ONE DAY

YOUNGER ALLIE
I PROMISE I'LL BE
GOOD...
ONE DAY
AND

MIDDLE ALLIE / YOUNGER ALLIE

I, I AM STILL IN HERE
I'M WAITING FOR YOU
TO COME LET ME OUT DEAR
AND IT'S TIME FOR DINNER
IT'S TIME FOR FOREVER

YOUNGER ALLIE

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE LAST TIME
I'D LEAVE MY HOUSE

MIDDLE ALLIE

I DIDN'T KNOW

YOUNGER ALLIE

WAS THE LAST TIME I'D SEE MY HOUSE

NURSE JOANNA approaches OLDER
ALLIE. Guides her off to her room,
for her nap. The song ends.

OLDER ALLIE

It was just - a little fish -

YOUNGER NOAH

And it was just a little fish, but still, she LEAPS out of
the water -

YOUNGER ALLIE

I did not leap! I gracefully exited.

MOTHER

You were in the water? In your - clothes?

YOUNGER ALLIE

It was hot out!

YOUNGER NOAH

Yeah, it was.

MOTHER

When was this?

YOUNGER ALLIE

...I - I don't remember.

YOUNGER NOAH

It was last week.

MOTHER

Noah, I hope you've had enough to eat. We weren't expecting
company for dinner.

YOUNGER NOAH

Oh, I don't need much. I once lived in the forest for a
week off just berries and non-poisonous mushrooms I found.

MOTHER

(to FATHER, incredulous)

...He lived in the Forest!

FATHER

And what do you do for work, Noah?

YOUNG ALLIE

He's in the lumber business!

YOUNGER NOAH

I work at the lumber yard, yeah. With my Dad.

FATHER

Ah, lumber! Solid industry!

MOTHER

Are you in school?

YOUNGER NOAH

No!

MOTHER

So then, what are your plans for the future?

YOUNGER ALLIE

Mom.

YOUNGER NOAH

Well, I try not to get too ahead of myself. But tonight, when I get home, I plan to sleep.

FATHER

Careful, son.

YOUNGER NOAH

Well, she asked what my plans were.

MOTHER

That's it. I will not just sit here while our daughter, our college bound daughter, pretends she's going to run away with a boy who drags trees around for a living.

YOUNGER NOAH

We cut them into pieces first, ma'am, we don't drag around full trees -

YOUNGER ALLIE

Noah.

MOTHER

(to YOUNGER NOAH)

You can't have her!

FATHER

(to MOTHER)

Honey. Trust me. He's not taking her anywhere.

YOUNGER NOAH

Well, actually, sir - I'm very serious about your daughter.

FATHER

...Really.

YOUNGER ALLIE

(to her FATHER, with guts)

I'm serious about him too.

MOTHER

Allison.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I am.

MOTHER

(then, to FATHER)

Can I speak to you in the kitchen, please? It's important.

FATHER

Yes, I see that.

Allie's MOTHER leaves.

FATHER

(to YOUNGER NOAH)

Best of luck with the lumber.

He goes after Allie's Mother.

YOUNGER NOAH

I gotta get goin'.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Wait.

YOUNGER NOAH

...Is that how you see me? Like they see me?

YOUNGER ALLIE

No. Meet me tonight. At our House. Please.

YOUNGER NOAH

I don't know.

YOUNGER NOAH goes.

Allie's PARENTS return. YOUNGER ALLIE faces them, furious.

YOUNGER ALLIE

You have no right to talk to him like that.

FATHER

Allison!

YOUNGER ALLIE

I wanna be with him. You can't stop me.

FATHER

Yes. We can.

MOTHER

We're going home.

YOUNGER ALLIE

What?!

MOTHER

We leave first thing tomorrow. I suggest you start packing.

Lights find MIDDLE ALLIE and LON in her room. She's packing for a trip. She's anxious, avoiding his eyes.

LON

Allie, where're you going?

MIDDLE ALLIE

I just need to get away. Nothing to worry about. Just need a few days to myself. You understand, don't you?

LON

Of course. I'm in court all week. But if you were back by Saturday, that'd be nice.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Oh, is something happening Saturday?

LON

Just the biggest day of our parents' lives! We should probably show up.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Ugh. Fine. If you insist.

LON

Enjoy your time.

MIDDLE ALLIE

I will. Maybe I'll do some painting, again!

LON

...Again? I didn't know you painted.

MIDDLE ALLIE
I told you! Didn't I?

LON
No, I don't think you did.

MIDDLE ALLIE
Well, that's funny.

He studies MIDDLE ALLIE. Really
takes her in.

LON
Is everything alright?

MIDDLE ALLIE
Yes. Yes! Absolutely.

He kisses her. The guilt stabs at
her heart.

LON
Have a great trip.

LON kisses her and exits.

MIDDLE ALLIE
What am I doing?!

#9: IF THIS IS LOVE

MIDDLE ALLIE
WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON
WHO FORGETS HOW TO BREATHE?
WHO FORGETS SHE'S PRETENDING?
WHO IS ALWAYS SURRENDERING?

YOUNGER ALLIE appears, on her way
to meet Noah at the old house.

MIDDLE ALLIE / YOUNGER ALLIE
WHAT HAPPENS TO SOMEONE
WHO MIGHT WANT MORE?

YOUNGER ALLIE
I'VE WAITED EVERY DAY TO FEEL
THE WAY I FEEL
KNOTS IN MY STOMACH
THE KIND THAT NEVER HEAL
BUTTERFLIES THAT FLY IN ME
THAT NEVER SEEM TO GO AWAY

YOUNGER ALLIE (CONT'D)

SICK TO MY STOMACH
WHEN I THINK ABOUT HIS FACE
BUT IN A GOOD WAY, IN A WAY I CAN'T REPLACE
NO ONE CAN STOP THIS
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A HURRICANE

IF THIS IS LOVE I'M NOT READY
IF THIS IS LOVE WHY AM I SO UNSTEADY
IF THIS IS LOVE WHY DID NO ONE TELL ME
THE PAIN THAT I WOULD FEEL

IF THIS IS LOVE MAYBE I'M READY
HOW DO I KNOW I'M IN MY HEAD AGAIN
IF THIS IS LOVE I THINK I'M IN IT
IF THIS IS, IF THIS IS
IF THIS IS LOVE

THE WORLD AROUND ME SAYS NO BUT I SAY YES
I WANT TO SCREAM IT OUT
INSTEAD IT'S STUCK INSIDE MY CHEST
IT'S LIKE A BIRD IN A RAGE IN A CAGE
AND NOBODY WANTS TO FREE ME

IF THIS IS LOVE I'M NOT READY
IF THIS IS LOVE WHY I AM I SO UNSTEADY
IF THIS IS LOVE WHY DID NO ONE TELL ME
THE PAIN THAT I WOULD FEEL

CONCIERGE

Would you like a map of the town, Miss Nelson?

MIDDLE ALLIE

Oh, no thank you. I know this town like the back of my hand.

And I won't be staying long. I just have some personal business to attend to. Then I have to get back home. I'm getting married!

(faux-screaming)

AHH! Weddings! Feelings!

She expects the CONCIERGE to have a moment with her about it, but she just smiles politely.

MIDDLE ALLIE

I'm sorry, what was the question?

CONCIERGE

...A map?

MIDDLE ALLIE

Oh! No, thank you.

The CONCIERGE smiles politely,
hands her a room key and goes.

She takes another look at her
engagement ring. She takes it off.
She puts it back on. She changes
her mind again. Takes it off.

YOUNGER ALLIE

IF THIS LOVE MAYBE I'M READY
HOW DO I KNOW I'M IN MY HEAD AGAIN
IF THIS IS LOVE I THINK I'M IN IT
IF THIS IS, IF THIS IS

YOUNGER ALLIE / MIDDLE ALLIE

IF THIS IS LOVE
I THINK I'M IN IT
AND IN BETWEEN IT
AND UPSIDE DOWN

YOUNGER ALLIE

IF THIS IS LOVE
IF THIS IS LOVE

THIS IS WHAT ALL THE SONGS ARE ABOUT
THIS IS WHY I HAVE TO BREAK OUT
THIS IS WHAT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT
I AM READY NOW
I AM READY
FOR LOVE

OLDER NOAH returns to the Rec
Room. JOHNNY is waiting for him
there.

JOHNNY

What's up Mr. Calhoun! Areeee you ready for some PEE
TEEEEEE? Pew Pew Pewwwww!

OLDER NOAH

Where is she?

JOHNNY

Who? Your friend? I haven't seen her. Is now a good time
for a work sesh?

OLDER NOAH

It is not, and will never be, a good time for a sesh.

JOHNNY

I gotcha. You wanna hang with your lady. Hey, good for you,
man. I get it. My Grandma gets more action at her senior
center than I have seen in my life.

OLDER NOAH

She's not just my 'lady'. She's my wife. She just doesn't know it anymore.

JOHNNY

...Oh. I didn't know --

OLDER NOAH

This book I read to her. It's our story. It helps her remember.

JOHNNY

...Who does she think you are?

OLDER NOAH

On good days, a friend. On bad days, a stranger. I live for the good days.

Today's a good day. Or it would be, if people would just leave us alone.

JOHNNY

That's me, right? I'm people.

OLDER NOAH

You're just doing your job.

JOHNNY

So is it any good? Your book.

OLDER NOAH

It has its moments.

(then)

You should've seen her, before. She was a brilliant artist. She had quite the career. Her brain was so quick. We never once ran out of milk. She was a good Mother. Is.

(then)

She promised me she'd come back, if I read it to her. Or maybe she won't, and I'm just a crazy old man.

JOHNNY

...I don't think you're crazy.

OLDER NOAH

But I am old, right?

JOHNNY

I mean...

They both smile.

OLDER NOAH

Guess I'll keep at it, then.

OLDER NOAH goes.

Back with YOUNGER ALLIE, waiting in the abandoned house. YOUNGER NOAH arrives. YOUNGER ALLIE faces him.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Hi. I didn't know if you were going to come.

YOUNGER NOAH

Yeah, me neither.

They look at each other. Neither know what to say.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I'm so sorry about my parents.

YOUNGER NOAH

Wasn't all bad. Free dinner.

YOUNGER ALLIE

Noah -

YOUNGER NOAH

I get it. They just want what's best for you. And I guess that's not me.

YOUNGER ALLIE starts to undress.

YOUNGER NOAH

What're you doing?

YOUNGER ALLIE

What's best for me.

YOUNGER NOAH

...We don't have to.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I know. But I want to. Do you?

YOUNGER NOAH

(suddenly nervous, excited)

Oh, yes. I definitely do.

YOUNGER NOAH takes off his shirt. His pants. Stands there in his boxers. YOUNGER ALLIE sings.

#10: KISS ME

YOUNGER ALLIE

OH MY GOD
HE'S JUST STANDING THERE
AND OH MY GOD
HE'S GOT CHEST HAIR
AND HE'S STANDING HALF NAKED
IN FRONT OF ME

LOOK AT ME
I'M MORTIFIED, WHAT WOULD MY MOTHER THINK
IF SHE COULD SEE ME NOW
BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO MOVE AWAY

THEN I SEE HIS EYES
LOOKING AT ME
NOT MY BREASTS OR MY THIGHS
NO, I SEE HIS EYES LOOKING AT ME
IT'S MY EYES, HE'S LOOKING AT MY EYES

AND I WANT HIM TO KISS ME ON THE NECK
KISS ME ON MY FOREHEAD
KISS ME ON THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH

YOUNGER NOAH

HOLY SHIT
I'M SORRY BUT HOLY. SHIT.
I'M SO SORRY, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING SO BEAUTIFUL

OH MY GOD
I'M PETRIFIED, WHAT IF SHE THINKS
THAT I'M TOO SKINNY
OR MY CHEST HAIR ISN'T HAIRY ENOUGH

THEN I SEE HER EYES
LOOKING AT ME
NOT MY LEGS, NOT MY STOMACH
NO I SEE HER EYES LOOKING AT ME
IT'S MY EYES, SHE'S LOOKING AT MY EYES

AND I WANT HER TO KISS ME ON THE NECK
KISS ME ON THE FOREHEAD
KISS ME ON THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH

YOUNGER ALLIE / YOUNGER NOAH

HERE I AM

YOUNGER NOAH

LOVING HER

YOUNGER NOAH / YOUNGER ALLIE

AND I DON'T CARE ABOUT
THE REST OF THE WORLD
HERE I AM

YOUNGER ALLIE
LOVING HIM

YOUNGER NOAH / YOUNGER ALLIE
AND I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE

MIDDLE ALLIE's in her hotel room,
MIDDLE NOAH is close by on his
front porch. THEY sing.

YOUNGER NOAH / YOUNGER ALLIE / MIDDLE
NOAH / MIDDLE ALLIE
KISS ME ON THE NECK
KISS ME ON THE FOREHEAD
KISS ME ON THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH
THE MOUTH

KISS ME ON THE NECK
KISS ME ON THE FOREHEAD
KISS ME ON THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH

MIDDLE NOAH / MIDDLE ALLIE
THE MOUTH

THE YOUNGERS sink to the floor to
make love.

MIDDLES / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH,
THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH

MIDDLE NOAH / MIDDLE ALLIE
THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH,
THE MOUTH, THE MOUTH

MIDDLES / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
KISS ME ALL OVER NOW

Back in the Nursing Home, OLDER
ALLIE and OLDER NOAH are back in
Older Allie's room after her nap.

OLDER ALLIE
...Are you allowed to read this to me?!

OLDER NOAH
Should I stop?

OLDER ALLIE
No!

She stands.

It's hot in here! I have to walk around!

She paces a bit. Then:

I want - I want to dance!

She starts to dance.

OLDER ALLIE

Remember when people used to -
They would be sitting at dinner and then -
They would get up from the table, and dance?
Right there, by their salads?
People don't dance anymore!

OLDER NOAH

Not like they used to, no!

OLDER ALLIE

You're going to let a lady dance alone? Come on!

She takes his hands. They dance.

OLDER ALLIE

Slow - slow - quick - quick
Slow - slow - quick - quick

OLDER NOAH

You're making me look bad.

OLDER ALLIE

My mother made sure I had lessons. Slow - slow - quick -
quick. Don't look at your feet!

Slow - slow - quick - quick

Back with THE YOUNGERS. YOUNGER
ALLIE is slipping back into her
dress.

YOUNGER NOAH

What're you doing?
What's wrong?

YOUNGER ALLIE

I have to go.

YOUNGER NOAH

Right now?

YOUNGER ALLIE

We're leaving tomorrow.

YOUNGER NOAH

What?

YOUNGER ALLIE

My parents decided.

YOUNGER NOAH

But the Summer's not over yet.

YOUNGER ALLIE

It is for me.

YOUNGER NOAH

You can't leave.

YOUNGER ALLIE

I don't have a choice.

YOUNGER NOAH

Am I ever gonna see you again?

YOUNGER ALLIE

I - I don't know.

FIN

Noah! You in there?

FIN enters with a flashlight.

FIN

Allie's parents called the police. They got every car on the street out lookin' for you! They're calling you a kidnapper!

YOUNGER ALLIE

What?!

FIN

(to YOUNGER NOAH)

You gotta get outta here, man!

YOUNGER NOAH

Just - gimme a minute!

FIN

Noah! C'mon!

YOUNGER NOAH

I need a minute. Keep a look out for me.

FIN

I can't go to jail, Noah! They don't let you in the army if you go to JAIL!

YOUNGER NOAH

Nobody's going to jail.

FIN

You are, if they find you here with her!

YOUNGER NOAH

GO!

FIN goes. The YOUNGERS face each other, desperately.

#11: HOME

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU

YOUNGER NOAH
(desperate)
Marry me.

YOUNGER ALLIE
What?! Noah. I can't.

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU MORE
THAN I EVER THOUGHT I COULD

YOUNGER NOAH
Why not?

YOUNGER ALLIE
We're too young!

YOUNGER NOAH
I don't feel young, I feel a hundred years old. Marry me.

YOUNGER ALLIE
I can't.

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU MORE
THAN I EVER THOUGHT I SHOULD

The sounds of SIRENS get closer.

YOUNGER ALLIE
Will you write to me?

YOUNGER NOAH
I don't have your address.

YOUNGER ALLIE
Do you have a pen?

YOUNGER NOAH
Why would I have a pen?

YOUNGER ALLIE
5394 Smith Ferry Road.

YOUNGER NOAH repeats it, desperate
to remember it.

YOUNGER NOAH
5394 -

YOUNGER ALLIE
Smith Ferry. Ferry, Like the boat.

YOUNGER NOAH
5394 Smith Ferry. 5394 Smith Ferry --

FIN rushes back in.

FIN
Noah. You gotta get outta here. NOW.

YOUNGER NOAH gives YOUNGER ALLIE
one last kiss.

YOUNGER NOAH
I'm going to write you. Every day. 5394.

YOUNGER ALLIE AND YOUNGER NOAH
Smith Ferry Road.

He goes.

YOUNGER ALLIE
Wait -

FIN
Just let him go.

YOUNGER ALLIE
But I love him.

FIN
Then why'd you hide him from you folks for so long?

YOUNGER ALLIE doesn't have a good
answer.

FIN
He would never say this to you, Allie.
It's been killing him, all this sneaking around.

YOUNGER ALLIE
I - I didn't know -

FIN
This was never gonna last forever.

SIRENS come closer.

FIN goes.

MA / MN / YN / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
WHEN THE DARK HITS THE SKY
WHEN THE SHADOWS DIVIDE
I WON'T STOP TIL I FIND YOU
I'LL FIND YOU TONIGHT

OLDER ALLIE and OLDER NOAH are dancing, connected, in the Nursing Home. Suddenly, Allie pulls away from him.

	<u>SOUNDSCAPE OF</u> <u>MEMORIES</u>	<u>SOUNDSCAPE OF</u> <u>MEMORIES</u>	<u>YN /</u> <u>SOUNDSCAPE OF</u> <u>MEMORIES</u>	<u>MN /</u> <u>SOUNDSCAPE OF</u> <u>MEMORIES</u>
OLDER NOAH				
I LOVE	THIS IS MY LIFE	THIS IS MY LIFE	I LOVE	I LOVE
YOU	MY LEGACY	MY LEGACY	YOU	YOU
ON: Not yet.	WHO WILL	WHO WILL	I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT I COULD	I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT I COULD
OA: Who are you?	REMEMBER ME?	REMEMBER ME?		
ON: Please. Not yet.				
OA: I don't know you.	THIS IS	I KNOW THAT	I	I
ON: It's me. Noah. Your husband.	MY LIFE	THERE'S MORE IT'S ALL THAT	LOVE YOU	LOVE YOU
OA: You're not my husband. Where is my husband?!	MY LEGACY	I SEE	I LOVE YOU MORE	I LOVE YOU MORE
ON: It's me —	WHO WILL	CAN I MAKE THE WORLD WHAT I WANT IT TO BE	THAN I EVER THOUGHT I WOULD	THAN I EVER THOUGHT I WOULD
OA: NO. GET AWAY FROM ME!	REMEMBER			
ON: I'M NOT A STRANGER!	ME?			

	<u>SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES</u>	<u>MA/ SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES</u>	<u>YN / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES</u>	<u>MN / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES</u>
OA: I don't! You're scaring me!	THIS IS MY LIFE	I KNOW THAT THERE'S MORE	I LOVE YOU	WHEN THE DARK HITS THE SKY
ON: There's nothing to be scared of.	MY LEGACY	IT'S ALL THAT		WHEN THE SHADOWS
OA: HELP! HELP!	WHO WILL <u>YA / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES</u>	I SEE CAN I MAKE THE	I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT	DIVIDE I WON'T STOP 'TILL I
ON: Please, sweetheart, it's me -	REMEMBER ME?	REMEMBER ME?	REMEMBER ME?	REMEMBER ME?

	<u>SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES</u>
OA: I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE -	I HURT
ON: I've been trying to tell you, I'm your husband -	I LEAVE I LIVE
OA: NO! GET AWAY / FROM ME!	I BREATHE,
NURSE LORI (to OLDER ALLIE): We're going to calm down, now.	I WANNA
NURSE LON (to OLDER NOAH): You need to leave, Mr. Calhoun.	GO HOME, I WANNA
OA: GET THIS OLD MAN AWAY FROM ME!	GO HOME,

Suddenly, OLDER NOAH collapses
into the arms of two NURSES.

NURSE TYLER	<u>SOUNDSCAPE OF</u>	<u>SOUNDSCAPE OF</u>	<u>YA / YN</u>
Mr. Calhoun?	<u>MEMORIES</u>	<u>MEMORIES</u>	
Mr. Calhoun?!	I HURT	I HURT	I LOVE
(to Nurse Lon)	I LEAVE	I LEAVE	YOU
Call 911.	I LIVE	I LIVE	
	I BREATHE,	I BREATHE,	
			I LOVE YOU
	I WANNA	I WANNA	MORE
	GO HOME,	GO HOME,	THAN I EVER
			THOUGHT
	I WANNA	I WANNA	I COULD
	GO HOME,	GO HOME,	

MIDDLE ALLIE

I HURT
 I LEAVE
 I LIVE
 I BREATHE
 I WANNA GO HOME.....

MIDDLE ALLIE approaches MIDDLE
 NOAH on his front porch.
 Everything else fades away.

MIDDLE NOAH

Allie?

MIDDLE ALLIE

...Hi.

Both are stunned. They've each
 seen ghosts.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

In the dark, we hear the beep of a
heart monitor.

Lights find OLDER NOAH,
unconscious in a bed.

#12: WE HAVE TO TRY

MIDDLE NOAH
ALL THESE THINGS WE TOOK FOR GRANTED

MIDDLE ALLIE / YOUNGERS / SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES
BREATHE IN AND OUT

MIDDLE NOAH
BACK WHEN WE WERE SO ENCHANTED

MIDDLE ALLIE / YOUNGERS / SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES
BREATHE IN AND OUT

YOUNGER ALLIE
I BELIEVE IN MAGIC
BUT IT'S HARD TO FIND THESE DAYS

YOUNGER NOAH
EVERYONE SEES TRAGEDIES
BUT I BELIEVE THAT HAPPY TIMES
ARE ALWAYS WAITING RIGHT ACROSS THE ROAD

YOUNGER NOAH / YOUNGER ALLIE
THAT'S HOW IT GOES

MIDDLE NOAH
WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG

MIDDLE ALLIE
HOW'D I GET FROM YOU TO ME

MIDDLE NOAH / YOUNGERS / SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES
BREATHE IN AND OUT

MIDDLE ALLIE
I GAVE UP MY DESTINY

MIDDLE NOAH / YOUNGERS / SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES
BREATHE IN AND OUT

MIDDLE ALLIE
WHERE DID ALL THE DAYS GO
WHEN I USED TO BURN SO BRIGHT

MIDDLES / YOUNGERS
ISN'T IT A TRAGEDY
THE WAY WE RUN, THE WAY WE FLY
FORGETTING THAT WE HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE
WE HAVE TO TRY
WE HAVE TO TRY

MIDDLE ALLIE
WE HAVE TO TRY

We are left with the MIDDLES, just
as we left them at the end of
Act 1.

MIDDLE NOAH
...Allie?

MIDDLE ALLIE
Hi.

MIDDLE NOAH
Is it really you?

MIDDLE ALLIE
Last time I checked, yep! Unless I got switched for
somebody else while I was sleeping. But that just feels.
Elaborate.

MIDDLE NOAH
What're you doing here?

MIDDLE ALLIE
I saw your picture in the paper. With the house. Did you
see it? Of course you saw it. I guess I wanted to see it
for myself.

It's just like you said.
(then)

Wow. Noah Calhoun.
Look at me. I'm a crazy lady, crying on your porch.
You look good, Noah.

MIDDLE NOAH
You look like a crazy lady crying on my porch, so.

MIDDLE ALLIE
I guess this is a little - abrupt of me, showing up like
this --

I should go.

Beat.

MIDDLE NOAH
You wanna come in?

MIDDLE ALLIE

Yes. I do.

They step inside.

Back at the Nursing Home. NURSE JOANNA struggles with OLDER ALLIE, who's in bad shape. She's in a wheelchair, hair undone.

NURSE JOANNA tries to pin back OLDER ALLIE's hair, but OLDER ALLIE keeps shoving her hands away. She clutches a small painting in her lap.

NURSE LORI approaches, concerned.

NURSE LORI

How's she doing?

NURSE JOANNA

She won't eat. She doesn't want to get dressed.

NURSE JOANNA tries to tuck a blanket around OLDER ALLIE. OLDER ALLIE shoves it off.

NURSE JOANNA

(of painting)

Here, let's put this somewhere else.

NURSE JOANNA tries to take the painting from her.

OLDER ALLIE pushes her away, clutches it desperately.

NURSE LORI

It's okay, let her keep it.

JOHNNY approaches. He sees OLDER ALLIE's state. It troubles him.

JOHNNY

Hi. I'm sorry. I'm looking for Mr. Calhoun?

NURSE LORI

Just a sec.

(to NURSE JOANNA)

Just - keep her calm.

She steps aside to talk to JOHNNY.

NURSE LORI

Did no one tell you? Mr. Calhoun had a stroke.

JOHNNY

What? Is he okay?

NURSE LORI

He was transferred to the hospital. He's in good hands.

JOHNNY

So wait, is no one reading to his wife?

NURSE LORI

She hasn't spoken a word for three days.

JOHNNY

But if there's even a chance of bringing her back, then it's worth it, right?

NURSE LORI studies him.

NURSE LORI

I used to be hopeful.

JOHNNY

What happened?

NURSE LORI

It's impractical. And heartbreaking.

JOHNNY

So is giving up.

NURSE LORI

(then)

...Look, I really appreciate your - positive attitude -

JOHNNY

(so positive)

Thank you.

NURSE LORI

I get it, you're used to helping people get better. This disease moves in one direction. Noah can get better, he's got more time, But Allie --

This lands on Johnny.

I have to focus on what's possible. Somedays that's the best I can do. Just - do your job. And go home.

JOHNNY gives her a quick nod, but it's clear he's not fully convinced. NURSE LORI leaves.

The scene shifts to inside the Renovated House.

MIDDLE NOAH

I got tea. Or water. Sorry. I don't get to town much.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Tea. Thanks.

MIDDLE NOAH pours tea.

MIDDLE ALLIE

...I can't believe how easy it was for me to find my way back, here. I didn't even need a map. Like the sea turtles! Who always come home.

MIDDLE NOAH

Surprised you remember that.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Oh, I've got a brain like fly tape. Blessing and a curse. Mostly curse.

He pours her tea.

MIDDLE NOAH

So! How've you been? You went to college?

MIDDLE ALLIE

I did! I studied Art history.

And you! You live in our house! We used to call it -

MIDDLE NOAH

Yeah. I remember.

MIDDLE ALLIE

When did you end up buying it?

MIDDLE NOAH

When I got home I needed something to do, I needed to stay busy. So my Dad and I started working on it together. He's gone now, passed away a few years back, but -

MIDDLE ALLIE

Oh, I'm so sorry. Were you - overseas?

MIDDLE NOAH

Yep.

They both drink.

MIDDLE ALLIE

So you joined up with Fin, after all!

MIDDLE NOAH

It wasn't exactly my choice.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Right, of course I did wonder sometimes, if you were over there -
if that's why we lost touch -

We don't have to - it was a million years ago.

MIDDLE NOAH

I thought about you when I was flying over there. It was my first time on an airplane. We got up into the sky and I thought, *where the hell is my steak?*

MIDDLE ALLIE smiles. Loosens.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Well it's quite a house, for just one person.

MIDDLE NOAH

It's just me living here, if that's what you're fishing for.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Oh, I wasn't fishing --

MIDDLE NOAH

(can't help himself)

Not that I don't -- I do have the occasional overnight visitor.

MIDDLE ALLIE

It's none of my business, really.

A moment.

MIDDLE NOAH

I have some pie. Want some pie?

MIDDLE ALLIE

...Sure!

Music begins.

She sings.

#13: FOREVER

MIDDLE ALLIE

GOD HE LOOKS GOOD
IN THAT SHIRT, IN THOSE PANTS

MIDDLE NOAH

It's apple.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Works for me.

MIDDLE ALLIE
IN THAT SHIRT, IN THOSE PANTS
I WANNA RIP 'EM OFF WITH MY TEETH
GOD HE SMELLS GOOD
JUST LIKE WOOD IN THE RAIN
AND I'M FEELING THAT PAIN,
I'M FEELING THAT OLD PAIN ONLY
HE CAN GIVE, HE CAN GIVE RIGHT HERE

I'M NEVER GOING BACK,
I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE FOREVER
I'VE FINALLY MADE IT HOME,
I'M LIVING AND DYING RIGHT HERE
MAYBE ON THIS TABLE
WHICH I BET HE BUILT HIMSELF

Hey where'd you get this table?

MIDDLE NOAH
I built it.

MIDDLE ALLIE / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
MMM...
OOH...

MIDDLE NOAH
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S SITTING THERE,
JUST SITTING AT THE TABLE
THAT I BUILT FOR HER
SHE LOOKS SO PRETTY
I LIKE THE LITTLE LINES AROUND HER EYES,
I WISH I KNEW WHAT PUT THEM THERE
SHE LOOKS SO PRETTY

MIDDLE NOAH
I'M NEVER LETTING GO
I'M HOLDING HER
HERE
FOREVER

MIDDLE ALLIE
I'M NEVER GOING
BACK, I'M STAYING
RIGHT HERE

I FINALLY GOT HER HOME
I'M KEEPING HER HERE

MIDDLE NOAH / MIDDLE ALLIE
FOREVER, IF I'M ABLE

MIDDLE ALLIE
(erupting)

I'm engaged.
To be married. I just - feel like I should tell you that.

MIDDLE NOAH
I figured you were.

MIDDLE ALLIE
(then, catching up)

You did?

MIDDLE NOAH
I was in the city, last year. I saw you, with him. You had oysters. You were laughing.

MIDDLE ALLIE
Why didn't you say anything?

MIDDLE NOAH
You looked happy.

MIDDLE ALLIE
I am. He's a good man. You'd like him.

MIDDLE NOAH
When's the big day?

MIDDLE ALLIE
This weekend.

MIDDLE NOAH
You're getting married this weekend, and you came here! Interesting!

MIDDLE ALLIE
(embarrassed)
...Okay. Okay. I should go. It was really good to see you again.

At some earlier point, the YOUNGERS have entered. And they sing:

YOUNGER NOAH
I'LL NEVER LET HER GO
I'M KEEPING HER HERE

YOUNGER NOAH / YOUNGER ALLIE
FOREVER

YOUNGER ALLIE
I'M NEVER GOING BACK
I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE

YN / YA / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
FOREVER, IF I'M ABLE

MIDDLE NOAH can't bear the formality.

Or to see her leave, again.

MIDDLE NOAH
Hey, you still hungry?

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
OOH...

MIDDLE ALLIE
I'm always hungry.

MIDDLE NOAH
How about Dinner.

MIDDLE ALLIE
Sure.

MIDDLE NOAH
C'mon. I know a place.

They head off into the night.

He sings.

MIDDLE NOAH
AND SO IT BEGINS
I REMEMBER HER SKIN
AND THE CURVE OF HER BACK
THE LOOK IN HER EYES THAT
ONLY I CAN BRING
I CAN BRING HER HERE

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
OOH...

OOH...

MIDDLE ALLIE
HIS BODY, HIS HANDS
THEY'RE THE SAME
BUT NOT QUITE THE SAME
AND HIS MOUTH MAKES ME ACHE
I CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT
OH I JUST DON'T CARE

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
OOH...

OOH...

MIDDLE ALLIE
JUST BREATHE THE AIR WITH HIM

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES

AHHH
AHHH

Above them, the clouds are
darkening. Distant thunder
rumbles.

They reach their destination.
MIDDLE ALLIE sees where she is:

MIDDLE ALLIE
Is this our dock?!

MIDDLE NOAH
Yep. Still standing.

She sees that NOAH has a fishing
pole.

MIDDLE ALLIE
Ah. Okay, I see. 'Dinner.'

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
OOH
AHHH

YOUNGER NOAH
DON'T EVER LEAVE AGAIN

YOUNGER ALLIE
WHY DIDN'T YOU WRITE ME?

A rumble of THUNDER. It begins to
RAIN lightly.

MIDDLE NOAH takes his coat off.
Holds it out to her.

MIDDLE NOAH
Here. Take this.

MIDDLE ALLIE
...Thanks.

He wraps his coat around her.

YOUNGER NOAH / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
DON'T EVER LEAVE AGAIN

YOUNGER ALLIE / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
WHY DIDN'T YOU WRITE ME?

YOUNGER NOAH / YOUNGER ALLIE / SOUNDSCAPE
OF MEMORIES
DON'T EVER LEAVE ME AGAIN

THUNDER EXPLODES. The RAIN really
starts to POUR.

MIDDLE NOAH

Maybe we should head back.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Wait. I used to love to play in the rain.

She dances in the rain. MIDDLE
NOAH joins her.

We hear the SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES / YOUNGERS

AH, AH, AH, AH,
AH, AH, AH, AH,
AH-AH-AH-AH, AH-AH-AH-AH, (AH...)
AH-AH-AH-AH, AH-AH-AH-AH,
AH-AH-AH-AH, AH-AH-AH-AH, (AH...)
AH-AH-AH-AH, AH-AH-AH-AH,
AH-AH-AH-AH, AH-AH-AH-AH, (AH...)
AH-AH-AH-AH, AH-

MIDDLE ALLIE

Why didn't you write me?

MIDDLE NOAH

What? What're you talking about?

MIDDLE ALLIE

You said you'd write to me! And you didn't!

MIDDLE NOAH

I wrote you a letter every day for a year.

MIDDLE ALLIE

...You did?

MIDDLE NOAH

Of course I wrote you!

MIDDLE ALLIE

I didn't get any letters.

MIDDLE NOAH

I sent them. I swear to you I did.

MIDDLE ALLIE

I thought you'd forgotten me.

MIDDLE NOAH

Allie. I could never forget you.

They step towards each other.

More THUNDER, an explosion of
RAIN.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Okay. Now we should go.

They head back to the house.

The YOUNGERS sing.

A BIG CLAP OF THUNDER. The RAIN
comes down, harder.

YOUNGER NOAH	YOUNGER NOAH	SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
DON'T EVER LEAVE		AHH...
	I'M NEVER GOING BACK	
DON'T EVER LEAVE		AHH...
	I'M NEVER GOING BACK	

YOUNGERS / SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
DON'T LEAVE ME NOW
DON'T LEAVE ME THEN

YOUNGERS / MIDDLES / SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES
DON'T EVER LEAVE ME AGAIN

Lights find the MIDDLES in the
renovated house, laughing, pulling
off their wet clothes.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Cold - SO cold -

MIDDLE NOAH hands her a dry towel.

MIDDLE NOAH

Here, take this. It's clean, I think.

She suddenly feels self-conscious.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Don't look!

MIDDLE NOAH

YOU don't look!

They turn away from each other. He
starts to pull off his shirt.

MIDDLE ALLIE can't help herself.
She turns back, sneaks a look at
MIDDLE NOAH.

She spots her painting, hanging on
a wall we can't see.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Is that the painting I gave you?

MIDDLE NOAH

(embarrassed)

Yeah, ah. I just needed to put something there.

(then)

I'm just gonna -- grab you a shirt.

He goes. Alone, she looks at the painting. She sings.

#14: SADNESS AND JOY REPRISE

MIDDLE ALLIE

I'VE NEVER SEEN

ANYTHING SO BEAUTIFUL

AND SO SERENE

YET FILLED WITH SO MUCH DARKNESS

I UNDERSTAND -

He returns, pulling on another shirt. She turns to face him.

MIDDLE ALLIE

I haven't painted in years.

I can't even remember why I stopped.

It was just a hobby, I guess -

MIDDLE NOAH

(of painting)

That's not just a hobby, Allie. That's you.

She takes a step towards him, and finally, they kiss.

He picks her up, carries her to a bed.

Lights find JOHNNY sitting next to OLDER NOAH'S bed. He is reading the notebook.

JOHNNY

Oh shittttttt! Wait, what happened to the letters?!

OLDER NOAH

(waking)

Where - ?

JOHNNY

Hi! Sorry. You're awake!

OLDER NOAH

Where am I?

JOHNNY

You're in the hospital. You had a stroke. It was minor /
but --

OLDER NOAH

I gotta go. I gotta get back to my wife -- Do you have a
car? / I have to get back to her --

He tries to get out of the bed.

JOHNNY

Whoa whoa whoa --

OLDER NOAH

I can't stay here! I'm supposed to be with HER! 42 years,
I've been with her! Now she's alone and I can't even get to
her! ...I gotta get to her.

JOHNNY

I'll read to her, if you want.

OLDER NOAH

You would do that for me?

Johnny nods.

JOHNNY

Yeah!

OLDER NOAH hands JOHNNY the
notebook.

OLDER NOAH

She said she'd come back. She'll be back.

JOHNNY takes the notebook and
goes.

As he goes, A YOUNGER, MORE
VIBRANT OLDER ALLIE appears in a
slip and heels, carrying a men's
dress shirt.

OLDER ALLIE

Noah. Noah, we were supposed to leave ten minutes ago! Geez
 louse, look at me - how's this for *Local Artist* of the
 year? It was either me or the guy who makes those bird
 magnets. Are you still on the can? Step it up, mister! You
 need to eat something before we go, the dinner won't be
 until seven, and you haven't had anything since your
 Waffle. I've got your good white shirt here, I just need to
 find the -
 The, ah -
 The, ah.
 What's that called -

She exits in pursuit of that word.
 OLDER NOAH remembers and sings:

#15: IRON IN THE FRIDGE

OLDER NOAH

SHE LEFT THE IRON IN THE FRIDGE
 IT WAS THE SECOND TIME THAT WEEK
 I KNEW THAT SHE WAS GETTING WORSE
 AND THE DOCTORS AGREED

BUT THERE'S SO MUCH THAT WE HAVEN'T DONE
 IT'S LIKE WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN
 TIME MOVES SO FAST WHEN YOU'RE WITH THE ONE
 HUMAN WHO UNDERSTANDS YOU

OLDER NOAH / MIDDLE NOAH

SOMETIMES WE'D LIKE
 TO WALK BY PEOPLE'S HOUSES
 AND LOOK INTO THEIR WINDOWS JUST TO SEE
 THE THINGS WE'D NEVER HAVE

OLDER NOAH / MIDDLE NOAH / YOUNGER NOAH

I STILL REMEMBER
 THE FIRST TIME WE KISSED

OLDER NOAH

I REMEMBER THAT CURFEW
 THAT YOU NEVER MISSED

OLDER NOAH / MIDDLE NOAH

I'VE EVEN FALLEN IN LOVE
 WITH THE WAY THAT YOU WRITE

OLDER NOAH

A GROCERY LIST

OLDER NOAH / MIDDLE NOAH / YOUNGER NOAH

SOMETIMES WE'D LIKE
 TO WALK BY PEOPLE'S HOUSES
 AND LOOK INTO THEIR WINDOWS JUST TO SEE
 THE THINGS WE'D NEVER HAVE

OLDER NOAH / MIDDLE NOAH / YOUNGER NOAH
(CONT'D)

BUT WE DIDN'T WANT THEM ANYWAY
NO WE DIDN'T WANT THEM ANYWAY
NO WE DIDN'T WANT THEM ANYWAY
NO WE DIDN'T WANT THEM ANYWAY

OLDER NOAH
ALLIE, MY ALLIE.

OLDER NOAH
SOMETIME WE SHOULD
WALK BY PEOPLE'S HOUSES
AND LOOK INTO THEIR WINDOWS
GLOWING GOLDEN RECTANGLES JUST
FILLED WITH FAMILIES AND MEMORIES AND US
THE WAY WE USED TO BE
THE THINGS WE'LL NEVER HAVE

OLDER NOAH rolls over, curls into himself.

JOHNNY enters, reading from the notebook.

JOHNNY

That night, Noah and Allie rediscovered each other's bodies like they were returning to their childhood homes. It was as if time had stopped since they last kissed. They found that they knew just how and where to touch each other -andddd I should stop reading this outloud.

He starts to get self-conscious.
He looks around to see if anyone is watching or listening.

JOHNNY

(reads, then)

...Damn, Mr. Calhoun! Good for you, man.

The lights find the MIDDLES naked, under sheets, in a bed. She's studying one of his hands.

MIDDLE NOAH

Can I have my hand back?

MIDDLE ALLIE

No, it's mine now. I'm memorizing it.

MIDDLE NOAH

5394 Smith Ferry Road.

This lands on MIDDLE ALLIE. It's bittersweet.

MIDDLE ALLIE

You remember my address?!

MIDDLE NOAH

Oh, yes.

MIDDLE ALLIE

I convinced myself you didn't write because you'd forgotten it!

MIDDLE NOAH

I thought you'd decided I was trash / and you were off with some guy, traveling the world in a hot air balloon full of diamonds.

MIDDLE ALLIE

C'mon - no --

...Diamonds?

MIDDLE NOAH

I had a lot of time. To wonder.

She spots a scar on his knee.

MIDDLE ALLIE

What's this scar? You didn't have it before.

(realizing)

Were you...?

MIDDLE NOAH

Just my knee. I was lucky. I've got two of 'em!

MIDDLE ALLIE

It must have been terrible.

MIDDLE NOAH

Thinking about you helped, some.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Really. You thought about me?

MIDDLE NOAH

Not every day. Just most of 'em.

MIDDLE ALLIE

...And Fin? Did he -

MIDDLE NOAH

He, ah. He didn't make it back.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Oh, my God --

MIDDLE NOAH

It was rough on his family. On Georgie. We lost a lotta good guys.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Lon lost a lot of friends, too. He didn't go. He would've.
But he needed to finish school.

(then)

That's my fiancé's name. Lon.

MIDDLE NOAH

'Lon.' Does Lon make airplanes, too?

MIDDLE ALLIE

He's a lawyer. He could've joined his father's practice,
but he's a public defender. He's helped a lot of people.

MIDDLE NOAH

Any of these people he 'helped' on draft boards?

MIDDLE ALLIE

You don't get to do that.

You knew my address. You could've called me. You could've
come to find me-

MIDDLE NOAH

You could've come to find me!

MIDDLE ALLIE

I thought you didn't want me. And *then* even after I didn't
get any letters, I kept on thinking about you. It was years
before I was able to stop thinking about you every single
day. I didn't think I'd love anyone ever again.

MIDDLE NOAH

If you love him, then what're you doing here?
There's no way he knows you like I do.

MIDDLE ALLIE

You knew me for a month. Ten years ago.

MIDDLE NOAH

But it's true!

MIDDLE ALLIE

(now in tears)

I'm very happy.

MIDDLE NOAH

Who're you talking to?

MIDDLE ALLIE

You gave up on us!

MIDDLE NOAH

Gave up?! Do you see this house? I did this for US!

MIDDLE ALLIE

Well, I had to move on.

MIDDLE NOAH

So you mended your broken heart by marrying into more money, just like your parents always wanted. That's real brave, Allie.

Low blow.

Furious, she heads towards the door.

MIDDLE ALLIE

...I need a drink.

MIDDLE NOAH

Fine. Get a drink. I need a shower.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Yeah, you do.

MIDDLE NOAH

...So that's it? You're just gonna leave again?

MIDDLE ALLIE

I can't leave. My dress is still wet.

MIDDLE ALLIE heads downstairs.

Lights find OLDER ALLIE. NURSE JOANNA is with her. She looks worse. Less life in her.

JOHNNY approaches, with the notebook.

JOHNNY

Hi. Johnny.

I'll stay with her.

I saw your friend, who's been reading to you. He'll be back ASAP. As soon as possible. He sends his best.

I thought *I'd* read to you this afternoon instead, how's that?

(of book)

Okay, so! Not sure where you guys left off, so.

Personally, I'm at the part where they met up again, after all those years, and they've just, ah - given into their carnal urges, if you will.

OLDER ALLIE laughs.

JOHNNY

RIGHT? So steamy!

JOHNNY sees she's got something on her lap. It's the painting she gave Noah, all those years ago.

JOHNNY

That's a beautiful painting. What is it?

OLDER ALLIE

...it's me.

OLDER ALLIE smiles, remembering herself.

MIDDLE ALLIE is sitting on the front porch in her slip, nursing a whiskey, deep in thought.

She turns and sees her MOTHER standing in the yard.

MIDDLE ALLIE

What're you doing here?

MOTHER

I'd ask you the same thing.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Go ahead. Say it.

MOTHER

I'm not here to scold you. You're a grown woman. But I want you to think about what you're throwing away. Lon loves you.

MIDDLE ALLIE

He loves what I let him see. Did you take my letters?

MOTHER

I did what I felt was best -- I thought I was protecting you --

MIDDLE ALLIE

Protecting me from what?! From love?!

MOTHER

From a life that wasn't - worthy of you.

MIDDLE ALLIE

What does that mean?!

MOTHER

...You'll understand when you have children of your own.

MIDDLE ALLIE

What if I don't even WANT children? What if I don't even want to get married?!

MOTHER

Allison -

MIDDLE ALLIE

You have this notion of how my life is supposed to go, and I just go along with it.

MOTHER

Really! You're standing half-naked on a stranger's porch. *That* certainly wasn't a part of my plan!

MIDDLE ALLIE

He's not a stranger.

MOTHER

You haven't seen or spoken to him in years.

MIDDLE ALLIE

And whose fault is that?!!

MOTHER

Have you asked him how he will provide for you?

MIDDLE ALLIE

I can provide for / myself.

MOTHER

If he's even able to?

MIDDLE ALLIE

There's a river. We could eat the fish.

MOTHER

Love isn't always enough, Allison.

MIDDLE ALLIE

It has to be.

(convincing herself)

IT HAS TO BE!

Allie's MOTHER sings.

#16: DON'T YOU WORRY

MOTHER

DON'T YOU WORRY
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT

MIDDLE ALLIE

Mom, don't.

MOTHER

I HAVE GOT YOU

Music begins.

MOTHER
DON'T YOU WORRY
EVERYTHING WILL BE SO BRIGHT
LET'S WRITE YOUR STORY
BEAUTIFUL THINGS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE
CORNER, FOR YA
SO DON'T YOU WORRY
EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT

MOTHER
JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES
AND BREATHE IN WITH ME
AND WHEN THE

MOTHER AND MIDDLE ALLIE
SUN PULLS BACK UP

MOTHER
IN THE SKY THEN YOU'LL SEE
I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE TO GUIDE YOU HOME

MOTHER
EVEN WHEN YOU THINK THAT
YOU'RE ALL ALONE

MIDDLE ALLIE
EVEN WHEN I THINK THAT
I'M ALL ALONE

MOTHER
SO DON'T YOU WORRY

MOTHER AND MIDDLE ALLIE
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT

MOTHER
I HAVE GOT YOU
DON'T YOU WORRY
YOU WILL BE ALRIGHT

MIDDLE ALLIE
So, I should come back with you?

MOTHER
Allie, this is for you to decide.

She reaches into her purse. Pulls
out a stack of letters. Hands them
to MIDDLE ALLIE.

MOTHER
These belong to you.

MIDDLE NOAH comes onto the porch.
He's surprised to see Allie's
MOTHER.

MIDDLE NOAH
Afternoon, Mrs. Nelson.

MOTHER
Hello, Noah.

MIDDLE NOAH
It wasn't kidnapping, this time. She just showed up, I had nothing to do with it.

MOTHER
One might say I owe you an apology.

MIDDLE NOAH
One might.

MOTHER
Well, then.

She goes. MIDDLE ALLIE looks at the letters, stunned.

MIDDLE NOAH
Mystery solved.

He starts to read the letters over her shoulder.

MIDDLE NOAH
Eghhhhh, That one's a poem. Maybe best you never got those.

MIDDLE NOAH
I told you I wrote you.

She folds a letter back up. Puts it into its envelope.

MIDDLE ALLIE
I have to go.

MIDDLE NOAH
Are you serious?

MIDDLE ALLIE
I'm sorry.

MIDDLE NOAH
I can't believe we're here again.

MIDDLE ALLIE
Noah, this was wonderful. But I have a fiancé. I can't hurt him.

MIDDLE NOAH
People get hurt! That's life.
I love you, Allie. I loved you then, and I love you now.

MIDDLE ALLIE
It's too late for us!

MIDDLE NOAH
It's not too late! You can stay, this time.

MIDDLE ALLIE
I wish it was that simple.

MIDDLE NOAH
It is.

MIDDLE ALLIE
I have a whole other life I'm supposed to live!

MIDDLE NOAH
Why can't THIS be your life?

MIDDLE ALLIE
I can't do this.

MIDDLE NOAH
Why not?!

MIDDLE ALLIE
Because this isn't real.

NOAH grabs the letters.

MIDDLE ALLIE
Give them back!

#17. IT'S NOT EASY

MIDDLE NOAH
IF THIS ISN'T REAL, IF THIS ISN'T REAL,
THEN WHAT IS?

Frustrated, he throws the letters.
She sinks to the ground,
desperately trying to gather them.

MIDDLE ALLIE
I don't know!

MIDDLE NOAH
IF THIS ISN'T LOVE, IF THIS ISN'T LIFE

MIDDLE NOAH
Then what do you want?!

MIDDLE NOAH
NOT WHAT YOUR MOTHER, NOT WHAT YOUR LOVER,
NOT WHAT THE OTHERS WANT?

What do you WANT?

MIDDLE ALLIE
I DON'T KNOW! IT'S NOT EASY FOR ME

MIDDLE NOAH
IT'S NOT EASY FOR ME, NO ONE SAID IT'D BE
EASY

BUT I WANT EVERY SECOND OF THE BAD AND GOOD
I WANT ALL OF OUR DAYS TO BE SIDE BY SIDE
THAT SLIDE INTO YESTERDAYS
RIGHT INTO MEMORIES
MAKING A MESSY BEAUTIFUL LIFE
I JUST WANT ALL OF YOU
ALL OF US
INSIDE THIS HOUSE I BUILT UNTIL WE'RE GONE

MIDDLE NOAH
All you gotta do is just walk back up these stairs.

But she can't bring herself to
move.

MIDDLE NOAH
...Bye, Allie.

MIDDLE NOAH goes back inside.

MIDDLE ALLIE sings.

#18: MY DAYS

MIDDLE ALLIE
WHERE AM I
WHERE AM I GOING
IS IT SOMEWHERE THAT I WANT TO GO

AND WHEN I GET THERE
IS THAT WHERE HAPPY IS
OR IS IT SOMEWHERE I ALREADY KNOW

SOMETIMES I FEEL
LIKE I CRY WITHOUT A NOISE
SOMETIMES I FEEL
LIKE SOMEBODY CHOSE MY CHOICE

MIDDLE ALLIE (CONT'D)

I HAVE TO RUN AWAY
I HAVE TO SIT AND STAY
I WANT TO LIVE A LIFE
WHERE I'M ALLOWED TO SAY
THAT I'M PROUD OF THE WAY
THAT I SPENT MY DAYS

I CAN FEEL SOMETHING GROWING
IT IS SMALL BUT IT'S SHIFTING THE GROUND
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER I COULD HEAR IT
BUT IT'S BACK, IT'S MY SOUND

SOMETIMES I FEEL
LIKE I LOST MY ONLY VOICE
BUT THEN I REALIZE
ONLY I CAN CHOOSE MY CHOICE

I HAVE TO RUN AWAY
I HAVE TO SIT AND STAY
I WANT TO LIVE A LIFE
WHERE I'M ALLOWED TO SAY
THAT I'M PROUD OF THE WAY
THAT I SPENT MY DAYS

THESE DAYS
ALL WE EVER REALLY GET ARE
DAYS TO DREAM
AND DAYS TO LOSE
I JUST NEED TO CHOOSE MY
TIME

I HAVE TO RUN AWAY
I HAVE TO STAY
I'M GONNA LIVE A LIFE
WHERE I AM PROUD TO SAY

THAT I FOLLOWED MY JOY,
I FOLLOWED MY HEART,
I LIVED THIS ONE WILD LIFE,
I RIPPED IT APART,
I PUSHED THROUGH THE CORNERS
WITH NO APOLOGIES

AND FIN'LLY I CAN SAY,
I KNOW THE WAY
I'LL SAY THAT I LOVED THE WAY
THAT I SPENT MY DAYS

Lights find OLDER NOAH, moving up the hall towards Older Allie's room at the Nursing Home. He's in bad shape.

NURSE JOANNA spots him.

NURSE JOANNA
Mr. Calhoun? I thought you were at the hospital -

OLDER NOAH
I need to see my wife.

NURSE JOANNA
It's late. She needs her rest.

OLDER NOAH
Please --

NURSE JOANNA
In the morning. Go back to your room please.

#19: I LOVE YOU MORE

Lights find MIDDLE NOAH.

MIDDLE NOAH
I, I'M NOT THE ONE TO RUN AWAY
IN FACT I'M ALWAYS HERE TO STAY

OLDER NOAH still makes his way up the hallway. NURSE LORI finds him.

NURSE LORI
Noah -- what're you doing?

OLDER NOAH
I need to see my wife.

NURSE LORI
She's worse.

OLDER NOAH
We can't be apart.

NURSE LORI
Noah --

OLDER NOAH
We're running out of time, Lori. Please.

NURSE LORI

...Okay. Here's what I'm going to do. I am going to go downstairs to do my rounds. I'll be gone for a long time. I won't be back up here until tomorrow morning, when I know I'll find you safe and sound, in your room. Okay?

OLDER NOAH

Thank you.

OLDER NOAH smiles at her. NURSE LORI heads up the hall. OLDER NOAH perseveres, keeps heading towards his wife's room.

The YOUNGERS appear, re-enacting the night they were separated.

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES

WHEN THE DARK HITS THE SKY
WHEN THE SHADOWS DIVIDE
I WON'T STOP 'TIL I FIND YOU
I'LL FIND YOU TONIGHT

MIDDLE NOAH

I'M NOT THE ONE TO RUN AWAY

Lights find MIDDLE ALLIE, leaving the hotel.

CONCIERGE

It's been a pleasure having you, Miss Nelson.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Everything was wonderful.

CONCIERGE

And best of luck.

MIDDLE ALLIE

With what?

CONCIERGE

...Your wedding.

MIDDLE ALLIE

Thank you!

CONCIERGE

Safe travels home.

MIDDLE ALLIE

...Yes.

(beat. beat.)

Home.

MIDDLE NOAH
I'M NOT THE ONE TO RUN AWAY...

YOUNGER NOAH
I'M NOT THE ONE TO RUN AWAY

MIDDLE NOAH
AND LOVE,
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LOVE

MIDDLE NOAH / YOUNGER NOAH
IT'S ALL I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN

YOUNGERS / MIDDLES / SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU MORE
THAN I EVER THOUGHT I COULD

MIDDLE ALLIE
I AM MADE FOR SO
MUCH MORE

YOUNGERS / MIDDLE NOAH /
SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU

YOUNGER NOAH
TO LIVE THE KIND OF LIFE
YOU FIGHT FOR

MIDDLES / YOUNGER ALLIE /
SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU MORE
THAN I EVER THOUGHT I WOULD

YOUNGER ALLIE
GONNA MAKE ANGELS IN
THE SNOW

MIDDLES / YOUNGER NOAH /
SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU

MIDDLE NOAH
I'M GONNA PLANT THINGS AND
WATCH THEM GROW

YOUNGERS / MIDDLE ALLIE /
SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I EVER
THOUGHT I COULD

YOUNGER ALLIE / MIDDLE ALLIE
WON'T BE THE THINGS
THEY WANT ME
TO BE
THE WAY THE WORLD KEEPS
SHAPING ME

MIDDLE NOAH / YOUNGER NOAH /
SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES

I'VE GOT MY OWN SHAPES
IN MY MIND

I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I EVER
THOUGHT I WOULD

I LOVE YOU

YOUNGERS / MIDDLES
I CLOSE MY EYES AND SEE THEM EVERY TIME

MIDDLE ALLIE
CAN I CARRY YOU HOME THIS TIME
CAN I CARRY YOU HOME
IT'S MY TURN NOW,

MIDDLE NOAH
I'LL CARRY YOU HOME THIS TIME

MIDDLE ALLIE / MIDDLE NOAH
I WILL CARRY YOU HOME

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I
EVER THOUGHT I COULD

MIDDLE ALLIE
TIME, TIME, TIME
TIME
IT NEVER WAS
MINE,
MINE, MINE,
MINE

YA / YN / MN / SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU

I LOVE YOU MORE
THAN I EVER THOUGHT
I WOULD

YOUNGER NOAH
IT'S SADNESS
AND IT'S
JOY

YOUNGER ALLIE
AND WHEN
I CLOSE
MY EYES
I SEE THE
TRUTH

MIDDLE NOAH
AND THE HOLE

IN MY CHEST
ISN'T
THERE

MA/MN/
SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES
I LOVE YOU OOH...

MA/YN/
SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES OOH...
I LOVE YOU
MORE AHH...
THAN I EVER
THOUGHT I
WOULD

MA/YN/YA
SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES AHH...
I LOVE
YOU

OLDER NOAH finally reaches his
wife's bedside. As he arrives,
she sings:

OLDER ALLIE
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT I COULD

OLDER NOAH
...Allie?

OLDER ALLIE
...I--

#20: I KNOW

OLDER ALLIE

I KNOW
YOUR HANDS
I'VE SEEN THEM
WRAPPED AROUND A BABY GIRL
I HAVE A GIRL
I HAVE A BOY
HE HAS YOUR HANDS

'SCUSE ME IF I PULL AWAY
I JUST DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT TO SAY
IT'S LIKE I'M IN A MEMORY
OF A MEMORY, OF A MEMORY
BUT I KNOW, I KNOW YOUR HANDS

WHERE DO I GO
WHEN I GO
WHEN I DISAPPEAR
WHERE DO I GO
WHERE DO I GO
HELP ME, HELP ME WHILE I'M HERE

OLDER ALLIE

I KNOW

OLDER NOAH

I KNOW

OLDER ALLIE / OLDER NOAH

YOUR EYES

OLDER ALLIE

I'VE SEEN THROUGH THEM A THOUSAND TIMES
IS THAT RIGHT?

OLDER NOAH

YES, THAT'S RIGHT

OLDER ALLIE

IT'S LIKE I'M IN A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM
WITHIN A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM

OLDER ALLIE / OLDER NOAH

WHERE DO WE GO
WHEN WE GO
WHEN WE DISAPPEAR
WHERE DO WE GO
WHERE DO WE GO

OLDER ALLIE

HELP ME NOAH
HELP ME WHILE I'M HERE

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES

AHHHH, AHHHH
AHHHH, AHHHH

 OLDER ALLIE
You're Noah.

 OLDER NOAH
Yes, darling.

 OLDER ALLIE
This story, it's you and me! I wrote it! I wrote it all
out, when I was going -

 OLDER NOAH
Yes, you did.

 OLDER ALLIE
I said -- read this to me, and I'll come back to you.

 OLDER NOAH
And you did!

 OLDER ALLIE
You are very persistent.

 OLDER NOAH
Yes, yes I am.

 OLDER ALLIE
I'm tired.

 OLDER NOAH
Me too.

 OLDER ALLIE
Will you come lie down with me?

 OLDER NOAH
Absolutely.

Lights find The YOUNGERS.

YOUNGER NOAH
Where're you going?

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
OOH-OOH,

YOUNGER ALLIE
Home.

OOH-OOH-OOH

YOUNGER NOAH
Can I come?

YOUNGER ALLIE
...Can You come home with me?

MIDDLE ALLIE appears in front of
MIDDLE NOAH with a suitcase.

MIDDLE NOAH
Do you wanna come in?

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
OOH-OHH,

MIDDLE ALLIE
Yes. I do.

OOH-OOH-OOH

MIDDLE NOAH
How long are you staying?

OOH-OOH,

MIDDLE ALLIE
I was thinking...forever.

OOH-OOH-OOH

The OLDERS are in bed, holding
each other.

OLDER ALLIE
I'm too happy to sleep.

OLDER NOAH
We can just lie here. Just shut your eyes.

OLDER ALLIE
You won't leave?

OLDER NOAH
Never.

SOUNDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
AHHHH, AHHHH
AHHHH, AHHHH
OOH (OOH-OOH-OOH)

Lights find OLDER ALLIE and OLDER NOAH, motionless together in bed, fingers intertwined. They fall asleep together. Their hearts stop in unison.

NURSE LORI enters the room. She sees OLDER NOAH and OLDER ALLIE in bed, motionless. NURSE LORI goes to them. Tries to rouse Noah.

NURSE LORI

Noah. Noah.

But he doesn't stir. She checks each of their pulses. Nothing. NURSE LORI brings a hand to her mouth to cover a sob. She has to stay professional.

JOHNNY appears in the doorway next to her. Sees what she sees.

NURSE LORI turns away so he won't see her cry. He goes to comfort her.

The COMPANY begins to sing as Older Allie's bedroom leaves our view.

#21: CODA

GEORGIE
WHERE DO WE GO, WHEN WE GO

FATHER
WILL YOU REMEMBER ME

NURSE JOANNA
PRETEND I AM OUT AT SEA

LON
OR WILL YOU TRACE THE SKIES

SARAH
WATCHING BIRDS FLY BY

YOUNGERS / MIDDLES / SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES
WILL YOU LEAVE THE LIGHT ON
EVEN THOUGH I'M GONE
WILL YOU REMEMBER
INSIDE THE SADNESS THERE IS JOY
WHEN THE SUN COMES UP
AND THE RAIN FALLS DOWN
AND ANOTHER SEASON FALLS LIKE SNOW
WITHOUT A SOUND AROUND AND AROUND

YOUNGERS / MIDDLES / OLDERS / SOUNDSCAPE
OF MEMORIES
JUST REMEMBER
I WILL ALWAYS BE IN YOUR BONES
TELL OUR STORIES THE SAD PARTS TOO
IT'S BETTER WHEN IT'S TRUE

WHERE DO WE GO, WHEN WE GO
WILL YOU REMEMBER ME
PRETEND I'M OUT AT SEA
OR WILL YOU TRACE THE SKIES
WATCHING BIRDS FLY BY
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY HOME
I WANNA GO HOME

ALL
I WANNA GO HOME (I...)
I WANNA GO HOME (I...)
I WANNA GO HOME (I...)

YOUNGERS / MIDDLES
AND I WILL CARRY YOU
HOME

ALL
CARRY YOU HOME

OLDERS / SOUNDSCAPE OF
MEMORIES
I WANNA GO HOME (I...)
I WILL

END