

PICTURE A DAY LIKE THIS

Text by
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Music by
GEORGE BENJAMIN

Scene I – The Page

A WOMAN steps out of the darkness, holding a piece of paper.

Unhurried, but without dragging

The musical score is written for a woman's voice and piano. The piano part includes staves for Harp (Hp.), Horn (Hn.), and Double Bass (Db.). The vocal line is for a woman (Wom.). The score is divided into measures 1 through 5. Measure 1 is marked with a piano (p) dynamic and a tempo of 'Unhurried, but without dragging'. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'No soon-er had my child_ start-ed to speak whole sen - ten - ces than he had died.' Measure 2 continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'I wound him in the cu-stom-a - ry silk for burn-ing - was an-gry - but I washed him - washed him - wound him - closed his eyes.' Measure 3 is marked with a piano (pp) dynamic and a tempo of 'Very still (♩ = c.48)'. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'But when the wo-men came to take him - take him for burn-ing - I said to them: no. In the first'. Measure 4 continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'gar-den ran four streams of life. Quince, al-mond, li-lac, vi-o-let flo-wered. In the deep shade of the'. Measure 5 continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'gar-den ran four streams of life. Quince, al-mond, li-lac, vi-o-let flo-wered. In the deep shade of the'. The piano part includes a section marked 'p dolce' for the Double Bass (Db.).

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8

Cl.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Wom.

Cy-press tree no one felt pain: there was no death. The wo-men smiled.

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Db.

ppp

poco

pp

11

2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Wom.

Vc. 1

pp lusingando

pp lusingando

sempre pp

And e-ven now - I said - cold earth - dead stems of flo-wers come to life a - gain -

pp

16

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Wom.

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vc. 1

poco a poco perdendosi...

poco a poco perdendosi...

why not - why not my son?

pp

pp

pp

to Bassett Horn

20 **Tempo 1**

1 Hn. *muted*

2 Hn. *muted*

Tbn. *straight mute*

3 **Much faster** ($\text{♩} = \text{c.96}$)

Wom. The wo-men smiled. One led me quiet-ly to the win-dow – said –

Vln. 1&2 *ppp* *a2*

Vla. 1&2 *ppp* *a2*

pp

23

1 Hn. *pp* *p*

2 Hn. *pp* *p*

Tbn. *pp* *p*

Wom. *p ma marc.*
Find one hap-py per-son in this world and

Vln. 1 *mf* *pp* *pp* *p*

Vln. 2 *mf* *pp* *pp* *p*

Vla. 1 *mf* *pp* *pp* *p*

Vla. 2 *mf* *pp* *pp* *p*

Db. *f* *mf* *p*