

BEFORE DUSK

Written by Marissa Carlin and Carter Quinn Tanis

Piano accompaniment by Emi Nishida

Mixed and Mastered by Oliver Tonken

CAST *(in order of appearance)*

Liam Hartnett as Charles

Gabriela Manuell as Mary Lincoln

Miriam Kyzer as Ensemble

Liam Hartnett as Ensemble

Connor Reick as Ensemble

Kaitlin Jencks as Ensemble

Mary Lincoln is at the Depot Field Hospital in Virginia, comforting soldiers. A Military band is present on this day with the knowledge that Mary Lincoln is attending, all of them in hopes to lift the morale and spirit of the wounded soldiers. While the music is playing however, she is drawn to a young man laying down, further away from the music. She walks away from the band to speak to the young man. This soldier is ill from the disease typhoid- the same disease her son Willie died of months prior .

A few days before Willie's death, Mary and Abraham hosted a "lavish reception," in which their guests could converse and dance. During this party, Willie was falling more ill and moaning in pain. Abraham forbade the guests from dancing for the rest of the night, worried for Willie and Mary, who was running back and forth to check on him.

Charles

(playfully) Mrs. Lincoln, are you not enjoying the band?

Mary

(smiles solemnly) I don't dance anymore. I haven't danced since... Well, I haven't danced in a while.

Charles

Well, That's quite a shame ma'm.

Mary

What is your name sir?

Charles

Charles

Mary

Charles. How are you feeling? Is there anything I can get for you?

Charles

Do you think you could help me write to my wife?

Mary

Of course. (*Mary finds a paper and pen*) Whenever you are ready.

Charles

"To my beloved Catherine- (*music begins*)

I am writing to you from a hospital in Virginia. I fear this disease is beginning to spread throughout my body. The memories of our blissful moments have kept me fighting throughout this cruel war. Catherine, my love for you is deathless, and i am afraid to say I will not be making it home to you-"

Mary

(*puts down pen slowly*) Oh Joseph, you mustn't say that.

Charles

Mrs.Lincoln-

Mary

No.

You will stay right here

You will live for years

You will be well again

Charles

Mrs.Lincoln-

Mary

I'm staying by your side

There's still life in your eyes

You're not going to-

Charles

I am going to die.

God's calling me home

Mary

Well, tell him to wait.

Your wife is your home

Charles

She'll be okay

Enough is enough

Just watch the sky with me before dusk

Mary

She won't be okay

Her heart will decay

She'll throw every single belonging away

Push everyone out until nobody stays

And the doors will be shut

As her dreams turn to dust
Enough wasn't enough
He was gone before dusk

Mary

I was Running up steps
In a white satin dress
Flowers and gowns
And the music's too loud

The noise of the ball
Drowns out his calls
Till it comes to a halt
They're preparing his vault
(yelling) It's my fault !

Now no one will dance
And the music is gone

I hold his hand
And the guests understand
He just needs his mom
Needed his mom

Now no one will dance
(Mary sobs)

(Ensemble joins in hums)

Charles

Dance with me

Mary

Charles, I don't-

Charles

Even if for just one song

Mary

You need to rest

Charles

Help me up

Mary

I- can't

Charles

Take my hand

Mary

I-

Charles and Ensemble

Just one dance before dusk

Mary

If I must

(Charles and Mary begin to dance- a dream sequence.

The ensemble sings)

Mary

Say hello to him for me.

END

Sources:

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