BEAUTIFUL DAYS

A musical

Music, Book & Lyrics by Josh Wellman

Excerpt: Finale (scene and full song)

Near the end of the show, the situation has devolved badly.

GERTRUDE

You, my friend. You sweet boy. I've made arrangements for you to go safely to Le Havre. There is a ticket under your name aboard the *Île de France*. Your parents have tickets, too, if they can get through. The car will be here soon… there's not much time. The ship leaves in three days. In ten days, you will be with your aunt in New York.

(LUDOVIC tries to protest)

No, there are no questions, and there are no choices, not now. Now, there's simply… riding out the storm.

(turns to HANS)

And you. We will find a way for you. Something. Don't be afraid. We will survive whatever this nonsense is with no shame. And someday, there will be another election. And Hitler and his kind will go away. Because people simply *will not stand for this*. This isn't our country. I should know.

(silence for a moment, as the realization settles in)

Anyway. There's so much to do. Come along.

She exits, holding back tears, though the audience may see her dab one away as she holds her poise on the way out the door

LUDOVIC

She's quite a woman.

HANS

Yes.

(pause)

Are you frightened?

LUDOVIC

Of course not.

(pause)

You?

HANS

Never.

(pause)

I… I… I will miss you. So much. That doesn't even begin…

LUDOVIC

I know. Let's not… let's just remember the good. Right?

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HANS

You'll write?

LUDOVIC

If you think it's safe.

HANS

(pause)
Yes, there's that. Isn't there?

LUDOVIC pours two glasses of brandy.

LUDOVIC

So, to the beautiful days.

They toast, and they drink. Music.

HANS

BEAUTIFUL DAYS.
THAT'S WHAT WE SHARED.
MAKING LOVE BY THE SIDE
OF THE RIVER, WITH PRIDE
IN THE PASSION WE DARED.
ALL THE BEAUTIFUL DAYS THAT PASSED
WERE TOO BEAUTIFUL, THOUGH, TO LAST…
LIKE ALL THINGS SO PURE,
SO LOVELY, SO SWEET,
THEY WILT IN THE SUN
AND DRY UP IN THE HEAT.

LUDOVIC

OH, BUT THOSE
BEAUTIFUL DAYS,
THEY WERE SO FINE.
THEY WERE FLEETING, OF COURSE,
BUT I'VE GOT NO REMORSE;
FOR A TIME, YOU WERE MINE.
I WILL CHERISH THE LOVE WE MADE
IN THE SUNLIGHT AND IN THE SHADE.
AND THOSE BEAUTIFUL DAYS,
THEY'LL NEVER FADE.

HANS

AND I'M HAPPIER, EVEN WATCHING YOU LEAVE,
THAN I EVER COULD HAVE BEEN IN A LIFE WITHOUT YOU.
BUT MY HEART WILL BREAK, AND MY SOUL WILL GRIEVE,
AND MY NIGHTS WILL BE SPENT HAVING DREAMS ABOUT YOU.
AND MY DAYS…
OH, MY DAYS…

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OH, THE LONGING I KNOW I'LL KNOW,
WHEN YOU GO…
WHEN YOU'VE GONE…

BOTH

BEAUTIFUL DAYS.
BEAUTIFUL MAN!

LUDOVIC

I'LL REMEMBER YOUR FACE,
AND THIS WONDERFUL PLACE
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN.
AS THE RUMBLE BECOMES A ROAR…

HANS

AS YOU FLEE TO A DISTANT SHORE…

BOTH

LET'S REMEMBER THE BEAUTIFUL DAYS.
OH!
SUCH BEAUTIFUL DAYS…
ALL THOSE BEAUTIFUL DAYS,
THAT CAME BEFORE.
AND LET'S PRAY THE BEAUTIFUL DAYS
RETURN ONCE MORE…

At the end, they kiss, try to tear themselves away from one another, and can't. They hold each other for a long time, and then slowly – painfully – begin to pull away. Finally only their fingertips are touching. The lights fade and a spotlight narrows to focus just on those hands. Eventually they break away, and the light illuminates an empty patch of stage, then ever so slowly fades away in silence.

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