

SCENE FOUR – OUTSIDE THE PRAGUE ARENA

Thunder and lightning. CZECH ROADIE DAVE emerges, pushing a flight case.

ROADIE DAVE (*Singing to himself.*)

NO NO NO-ONE UNDERSTOOD WE WURR HOLDING BACKKA FLUD

(ZOE, CLAIRE and RACHEL. HEATHER is last in.)

ZOE RA-ACH! This way, this way, this way . . .

RACHEL I think we might be too . . . it might be all . . .

ZOE There's a guy! Quick ask him if / it's still –

RACHEL (*To ROADIE DAVE.*) Excuse me? Is it . . . ? (*To HEATHER.*) What's the word for 'is it finished'?

(*The lights powering the POSTER go out with a small power-down SFX. CZECH ROADIE DAVE pushes the road box off, eating his pasty, singing.*)

ZOE (*Defaulting to mum-mode.*) Okay! It's okay! If they're turning lights off the gig might be finished, but there's still things we can – we can still find the stage door an' see, if we tell them you won a competition, they might do somethin'! (*Claps instinctively, as to kids.*) Yeah!? Come on, kids, let's have a – 'Girls', sorry. / Heth, let's –?

HEATHER Why are we doing this?

ZOE Let's go! To tell 'em Rach won a competition on the radio but we missed the gig! They might let us meet / the –

HEATHER I mean Prague. At all.

ZOE (*Beat.*) Meet the boys.

HEATHER The four of us?

CLAIRE Look I didn't mean – I shouldn't've said anything. It just hit me, stood in that statue –

- HEATHER Policeman's right. We're not sixteen any more. An' we shouldn't want to be. More than anyone on this planet . . .
- ZOE It's fine / let's find the –
- HEATHER It's not 'fine', Zo. I think Claire's just shown it's –
- CLAUDE That's just me –
- HEATHER – not fine, an' –
- HEATHER – an' it's not 'cause of you, Claire. It's 'cause of the whole . . .
(*Gestures at the four of them.*) I mean come on, am I the only one seeing this?
- ZOE (s.v.) Let's find that guy and ask / where the –
- HEATHER So why are we comin' back?! Sorry Rach I'm not gettin' at y' for suggestin', but Claire, I mean – Zo! GOD! Why the HELL –
- ZOE Heather –
- HEATHER – raking all this up when you don't need this?
- HEATHER I mean LOOK at y'! 'Earth mother whatsit', four lads off at uni. What are you, / of –
- ZOE Heather –
- HEATHER – no, seriously, of ALL people looking back for?
- HEATHER I mean god, you're the one who did the orienteering! Out of ANYONE / you –
- ZOE Heather will you SHUT UP. (*Beat.*) I don't have a map, Heth. I don't have a 'plan'. I have no 'plan'. I've launched everyone in my family and now I'm falling back to earth an' hoping I land somewhere soft an' that is my plan. Sit rustin' in a field. (*Beat.*) And if I was an 'earth mother' that'd be enough for me, but it's not an' to be honest, I came here so I didn't have to sit in an empty house thinking about all this so thanks, but –

CLAIRE Zo –

ZOE Claire, I'm going back. Rach.

(The billboard grows into the garden again.)

Music No. 10a: THE GARDEN (UNDERSCORE)

CLAIRE Zoe!

ZOE Have a great rest of night.

HEATHER *('You're seriously going?')* Really?

CLAIRE Look I'm really sorry, guys –

HEATHER Oh come ON, Zo, for crying out / I –

RACHEL EV'RYONE JUST STOP.

(She echoes DEBBIE's words, said twenty-five years ago, as young DEBBIE is seen.)

DEBBIE Just for a second, / take in where we are!

RACHEL Just for a second, take in where we are.

(Beat.)

ZOE *(Looks round.)* A stadium in Europe.

RACHEL & DEBBIE More specific.

HEATHER A stadium in Europe where we just missed the gig.

RACHEL & DEBBIE All here. All together.

(RACHEL takes over.)

RACHEL At the point we were twenty-five years ago when we all went off diff'rent directions. *(Beat.)* D'y know what two English words Prague's never heard? *(Looks round them.)* 'Debbie Thomas'. Like we still can't actually mention part of our own lives.

(DEBBIE is gradually subsumed back into the POSTER.)