

The Hours (2002)

by David Hare

Virginia: Why Mr. Woolf, what an unexpected pleasure. You were working in the garden, I didn't wish to disturb you. I went for a walk.

I've endured this custody. I've endured this imprisonment. I am attended by doctors. Everywhere. I am attended by doctors who inform me of my own interests. They do not speak for my interests. My life has been stolen from me. I'm living in a town I have no wish to live in. I'm living a life I have no wish to live. How did this happen? It is time for us to move back to London. I miss London. I miss London life. I'm dying in this town.

I wrestle alone in the dark, in the deep dark, and only I can know. Only I can understand my own condition. You live with the threat you tell me, you live with the threat of my extinction? Leonard, I live with it too. This is my right. Tis the right of every human being. I choose not the suffocating anesthetic of the suburbs, but the violent jolt of the capital. That is my choice. The meanest patient, yes even the very lowest is allowed some say in the matter of her own prescription. Thereby she defines her humanity.

I wish for your sake Leonard I could be happy in this quietness. But if it is a choice between Richmond and death, I choose death.

You cannot find peace by avoiding life, Leonard.