

EMILY (For CALLBACKS)

EMILY. (to the STAGE MANAGER) I can't. I can't go on. It goes so fast. We don't have time to look at one another. (She looks at the STAGE MANAGER.)

(The lights dim on the left half of the stage. MRS.

WEBB disappears.)

I didn't realize. So all that was going on and we never noticed. Take me back – up the hill – to my grave. But first: Wait! One more look. Good-by, Good-by, world. Good-by, Grover's Corners... Mama and Papa. Good-by to clocks ticking...and Mama's sunflowers. And food and coffee. And new-ironed dresses and hot baths...and sleeping and waking up. Oh, earth, you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you. (She looks toward the STAGE MANAGER and asks abruptly, MRS. WEBB) Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it? – every, every minute?

STAGE MANAGER. No. (pause) The saints and poets, maybe – they do some.

EMILY. (as she absorbs the thought) I'm ready to go back.