



Image 1: Bess McNeill (soprano Kiera Duffy) asks permission from the Church Elders, portrayed by members of the Opera Philadelphia Chorus, to marry. Photo by Nicholas Korkos for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 2: Jan Nyman (baritone John Moore) and Bess McNeill (soprano Kiera Duffy) prepare for their wedding day. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 3: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) and Jan (baritone John Moore) approach wedded bliss at the altar. Photo by Nicholas Korkos for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 4: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) and Jan (baritone John Moore) spend their first night together as husband and wife. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.



Image 5: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) contemplates her new life with Jan. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 6: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) contemplates her new life with Jan. Photo by Nicholas Korkos for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 7: The Minister (baritone Marcus DeLoach) and the Church Elders explain Bess's wifely duties. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 8: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) has conversations with God, seeking answers and solace after Jan returns to the rig. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 9: The oil workers, portrayed by members of the Opera Philadelphia Chorus, toil on the rig. Photo by Nicholas Korkos for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 10: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) phones Jan out on the rig, while her sister-in-law, Dodo McNeill (mezzo-soprano Eve Gigliotti), looks on. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.



Image 11: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) prays to God to bring Jan home from the rig. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 12: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) prays to God to bring Jan home from the rig. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 13: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) is devastated to find Jan (baritone John Moore) paralyzed after an accident out on the rig. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 14: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) sets out to act on Jan's wishes - for her to sleep with other men - as she believes it will keep him alive. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 15: Jan's friend Terry (bass Zachary James) laments that Jan was injured while saving his life. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 16: Bess's (soprano Kiera Duffy) efforts to keep Jan healthy begin to take an emotional toll. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.



Image 17: Bess's mother (soprano Patricia Schuman) admonishes her actions following Jan's accident. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 18: Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) realizes she must "complete the task" in order to save Jan. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 19: Dodo (mezzo-soprano Eve Gigliotti) looks on as Bess (soprano Kiera Duffy) sacrifices herself for Jan's health. Photo by Dominic M. Mercier for Opera Philadelphia.

Image 20: Jan (baritone John Moore) is heartbroken to find Bess's devotion to him has led her to ruin. Photo by Nicholas Korkos for Opera Philadelphia.