PHILIP GLASS BUYS A LOAF OF BREAD

A bakery counter with a bakery case below it. Behind the glass of the bakery case, a single loaf of bread on a shelf.
A large clock on the wall, stopped at 12:01.
A sign that says "NO CHANGE."
A door to the outside, with a bell over it.

At lights-up, the scene is frozen: a Baker in an apron and tall white baker's cap is behind the counter, smiling. Philip Glass is before the counter. Very serious. Too women are at the door of the bakery, about to go out. The 1st Woman is looking back at Philip Glass. The 2nd Woman is looking away. They all remain like that, very still for a moment.

1ST WOMAN: Isn't that Philip Glass?
The 2nd Woman turns and looks.
2ND WOMAN: I think it is.
BAKER: Can I help you, sir!
GLASS: Yes. I need a loaf of bread, please.
BAKER: Just a moment.
1ST WOMAN: It's time now.
2ND WOMAN: Yes. Let's go.
But she doesn't move. Glass turns and looks at her. They look at each other in silence, frozen.
BAKER: Do you know that woman, sir?
A bell rings. Lights change.
1ST WOMAN: Isn't that? Isn't that? Isn't that? Isn't that?
2ND WOMAN (Similar rhythm): Think it is. Think it is. Think it is. Think it is.
BAKER (Similar rhythm): Help you sir? Help you sir? Help you sir? Help you sir?
GLASS (Similar rhythm): Yes I need. Yes I need. Yes I need. Yes I need.
1ST WOMAN: Philip Glass?
2ND WOMAN: Think it is.
1ST WOMAN: Philip Glass?
2ND WOMAN: Think it is.
BAKER: Help you sir?
GLASS: Loaf of bread.
BAKER: Help you sir?
GLASS: Loaf of bread.
1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: Philip Glass!
GLASS AND BAKER: Help you sir?
1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: Think it is.
GLASS AND BAKER: Loaf of bread.
1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: Think it is.
GLASS AND BAKER: Help you sir?
1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: Philip Glass.
GLASS AND BAKER: Loaf of bread.
GLASS: Yes I...
GLASS: Bread.
ALL: PHILIP CAN THINK BREAD! BREAD HELP PHILIP THINK! PHILIP NEED BREAD LOAF!
GLASS: Do I need a...
BAKER, 1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: Loaf of bread?
GLASS: Can I know a...
BAKER, 1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: Loaf of bread?
GLASS: Need....
BAKER: Do you know...
1ST WOMAN: Do you know...
2ND WOMAN: Lip?
BAKER: Do you know...
2ND WOMAN: Glass!
BAKER AND 1ST WOMAN: Do you know...
2ND WOMAN: Phil?
BAKER AND 1ST WOMAN: Do you know...
2ND WOMAN: Philip?
BAKER AND 1ST WOMAN: Do you know...
2ND WOMAN: Glass?
BAKER AND 1ST WOMAN: Do you know...
GLASS AND 2ND WOMAN: Glass lips.
The two women and the Baker slowly chant the words "Glass, please, yes, loaf," one word on each of Glass's following phrases.
GLASS: It was that memorable evening in March. Out at the end of the jetty. She was lying there in a white cotton dress. And I mistook her for...a rowboat.
BAKER: Justamoment.
1ST WOMAN: It's time.
GLASS: Please.
2ND WOMAN: Let's go.
BAKER: Justamoment.
1ST WOMAN: It's time.
GLASS: Please.
2nd WOMAN: Let's go!
BAKER: Justamoment.
1ST WOMAN: It's time.
GLASS: Please.
2ND WOMAN: let's go!
BAKER: Justamoment.
1ST WOMAN: It's time now.
2ND WOMAN: Let's go!
BAKER: Justamoment.
1ST WOMAN: It's time now.
2ND WOMAN: Let's go!
BAKER: Justamoment.
1ST WOMAN: It's time now.
GLASS, 1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: Let's go!
BAKER: Justamoment.

1ST WOMAN: It's time now.

GLASS, 1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: Let's go!

BAKER: Justamoment.

1ST WOMAN: It's time now.

ALL: LET'S GO! (Cheerleaders) Go! Go! Go! Time! Time! Time! Time! (Train) Go go go go, time time time time, go go go go, time time time time.

Baker continues the train four times and the women say the phrase "Glass Time " three times, going far up with the first word, far down with the second, during the following.

GLASS: It was that memorable evening in March. Out at the end of the jetty.

As fast as possible.

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

BAKER: A moment, sir.

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

BAKER: A moment, sir.

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

BAKER: A moment, sir.

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

BAKER: A moment, sir.

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now!

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now!

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now?

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now!

1ST WOMAN: Philip.

2ND WOMAN: The.

BAKER: Moment, sir.

1ST WOMAN: Philip.

2ND WOMAN: The.

BAKER: Moment, sir.

1ST WOMAN: Philip.

2ND WOMAN: The.

BAKER: Moment, sir.

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now!

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now!

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now!

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now!

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now!

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now!

1ST WOMAN: Time.

2ND WOMAN: Is.

GLASS: Now!


Sudden ease and peace.

1ST WOMAN: Philip...

2ND WOMAN: Is...

GLASS: A...

BAKER: Moment's...

2ND WOMAN: Time.

ALL (Soft and high, like chimes): Go, go, go, go, time, time, time, time.

Very spacious throughout the next section.

1ST AND 2ND WOMAN (Telephone operators): Time is a moment, sir.

BAKER: Do you know that woman?

Pause.

1ST AND 2ND WOMAN (Telephone operators): Time is a moment, sir.

BAKER: Do you know that woman?

Pause.

2ND WOMAN: Think.

1ST WOMAN: Philip.

Small pause.

GLASS: I loved her once.

2ND WOMAN: Think.

1ST WOMAN: Philip.

Small Pause.

GLASS: I loved her once.

BAKER: Do you know that woman?

2ND WOMAN: Think.

1ST WOMAN: Philip.

GLASS: I loved her once.

1ST WOMAN: What's the matter?

2ND WOMAN: Philip.

GLASS: I loved her once.

1ST WOMAN: What's the matter?

2ND WOMAN: Philip.

GLASS: I loved her once.
BAKER: Just a moment.
GLASS: Once.
BAKER: Just a moment.
GLASS: Once.
BAKER: Just a moment.
GLASS: Once.
1ST WOMAN: Now.
GLASS: Once.
1ST WOMAN: Now.
GLASS: Once.
1ST WOMAN: Now.
GLASS: Once.
1ST WOMAN: Now.
2ND WOMAN: Nothing.
1ST WOMAN: Matters.
GLASS: I...
1ST WOMAN: Now.
2ND WOMAN: Nothing.
1ST WOMAN: Matters.
GLASS: Loved...
1ST WOMAN: Now.
2ND WOMAN: Nothing.
1ST WOMAN: Matters.
GLASS: Her...
1ST WOMAN: Now.
2ND WOMAN: Nothing.
1ST WOMAN: Matters.
GLASS: Once.
Pause.
BAKER: Juuuuuust a moment, sir.
Suddenly fast.
BAKER, 1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: Philip need a Philip need a.
GLASS: Loaf of bread.
BAKER, 1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: Philip need a Philip need a.
ALL: Loaf of love.
1ST WOMAN: What’s the.
BAKER: Woman.
1ST WOMAN: Matter.
2ND WOMAN: Go.
GLASS: Change.
BAKER AND 1ST WOMAN: What’s the woman matter?
2ND WOMAN: Philip.
ALL: Go change.
BAKER AND 1ST WOMAN: What’s the woman matter?
BAKER, 1ST AND 2ND WOMAN: NOW CHANGE!

GLASS: Need.
BAKER: Woman.
GLASS: Need.
2ND WOMAN: Nothing.
GLASS: Need.
1ST WOMAN: Matter.
ALL: NEED HELP!
GLASS AND BAKER: Need woman.
GLASS AND 2ND WOMAN: Need nothing.
GLASS AND 1ST WOMAN: Need matter.
ALL: SO WHAT?
As the women chant "lovelovelovelove":
ALL: NEED CHANGE!
As the women chant "lovelovelovelove"
GLASS AND 2ND WOMAN: IT’S TIME!
The women chant "lovelovelovelove."
GLASS AND 2ND WOMAN: Need woman. Know nothing. Need matter. NO LOVE!
The bell rings again. Lights change back to the way they had been at the beginning. All four are back in place to where they were before the first bell.
BAKER: Do you know that woman, sir?
GLASS: Yes. I loved her once.
The Baker takes the loaf from the case.
1ST WOMAN: What’s the matter?
The women turn to go out, and freeze. Glass accepts the bread.
GLASS: I also need some change.
The Baker points up to the “NO CHANGE” sign.
Blackout