

IN TRANSIT by Steve McMahon

***SHE** and **HE**, at a distance, looking at each other, perfectly still.*

SHE
Is it you?

HE
Where am I?

*A shift. **SHE** is alone.*

SHE
Are you there? Where did you go?

*A shift. **SHE** and **HE**, at a distance, looking at each other, perfectly still.*

SHE
Is it you?

HE
It's me.

***HE** moves closer.*

SHE
No. Not yet.

***HE** stops, waves.*

HE
It's me. See?

SHE
I can't see you.

HE
Can you hear me?

SHE
I hear you.

HE
Can I come closer?

SHE

Hmm. I don't know.

HE
Why not baby?

SHE
No, no. Don't call me that.

HE
Okay, okay.

SHE
Come closer.

HE moves closer.

Not that close.

HE
Okay. Just let me know when you're ready.

SHE
Why did you come back?

A shift.

HE
I don't know.

A shift.

SHE
Why did you come back?

HE
Where am I?

A shift.

SHE
Why did you come back?

HE
I didn't.

A shift.

SHE

Why did you come back?

HE

I... missed you.

SHE

You did?

HE

I think so.

SHE

You did. You did.

HE

Ok.

SHE

You missed me and you had to come back to me even though you didn't know how to get here but you got here and you're here. You're here with me.

*A shift. **HE** is alone.*

HE

I don't know where I am anymore. I don't know where I'm going.

*A shift. **SHE** and **HE**, at a distance, looking at each other, perfectly still.*

SHE

I didn't think I'd see you again.

HE

I'm sorry.

SHE

I didn't think I'd hear your voice.

HE

I'm here now.

SHE

Is that enough?

HE

That's for you to decide.

SHE

I don't know.

HE

You don't know?

SHE

I don't know if that's enough.

HE

There's no rush. Take all the time you need.

SHE

Come a little closer. Just a little.

HE moves a little closer.

HE

Here okay?

SHE

Yeah.

HE

Can you see me yet?

SHE

No.

HE

Oh.

SHE

I can smell you though. You need a shower.

HE laughs.

HE

Okay.

SHE

Come closer.

HE does.

SHE
Closer.

HE does.

SHE
Closer.

HE does. They are very close now, looking at each other, perfectly still.

SHE
Oh. It's you.

HE
It's me.

A shift. **SHE** and **HE**, close to each other.

SHE
Where have you been? What happened to you?

HE
I'm fine, I'm fine!

SHE
I was so worried!

HE
You didn't have to be.

SHE
I was terrified!

HE
Why were you –

SHE
Because I love you alright? I love you and you're here and I feel like I can finally breathe again and this horrible lump at the back of my throat has been swallowed and the tears threatening to leave their ducts can finally flow and flow as happy tears not sad tears and I can look at you at your actual face in person right here not in chunky pixels on a phone or computer screen and I can touch your skin the soft bits and hard bits and the smooth bits and the bits with hair and and and all the other things that you can do when you have the person you love in front of you I won't go into details you must be exhausted do you want to sit or have a bath or sleep or are you hungry do you want something to eat I can I can I can rustle something it'll be ready in no time don't you

worry oh god I'm rambling stop talking stop talking I physically can't make my mouth
stop moving can you help me plea-

HE puts their hand over **SHE's** mouth.

(Muffled under the hand.)

Thank you.

HE waits to see if **SHE** will be quiet. **SHE** nods. **HE** removes the hand.

HE

It's good to see you too.

They smile at each other.

A shift. SHE is alone.

SHE

Will you stay? Will you stay this time? Will you stay with me? I don't think I could bear it
if you went away again. I can only wait so long. I've waited so long.

A shift. HE is alone.

HE

If I came back to you. And was to stay. How would I know? If I was still with you? Or if I
was dreaming it maybe? Dreaming that I was near to you when I was actually far away?
I don't know how to tell the difference. I can't, I can't remember. How to. Where or who
or what. Words, words are strangers to me now. You are a stranger to me now.

A shift. SHE and HE, at a distance, looking at each other, perfectly still.

HE

Tell me how you know me.

SHE

I loved you.

HE

Loved?

SHE

Love. Still love.

HE

Did I love you?

SHE

You did. You do.

HE

Oh.

SHE

Don't you?

HE

I don't know.

*A shift. **SHE** is alone.*

SHE

If you'll give me a chance, just one shot, to make it right again, then I will. I can fix this. I can make it all better.

*A shift. **HE** is alone.*

HE

I don't know how to fix this. Can you fix me? Can you put me back together again?

*A shift. **SHE** and **HE**, at a distance, looking at each other, perfectly still.*

SHE

Come closer.

***HE** does.*

SHE

Closer.

***HE** does.*

SHE

Closer.

***HE** does. They are very close now, looking at each other, perfectly still.*

SHE

Oh. It's you.

HE

It's me.

SHE

You've come home.

HE
I've come home to you.

SHE
You missed me?

HE
I missed you.

SHE
You love me?

HE
I do.

*A shift. **SHE** is alone.*

SHE
I'll find you. I'm going to find you. I'll bring you back.

*A shift. **HE** is alone.*

HE
Come and catch me!

*A shift. **SHE** is alone.*

SHE
Oh. It's...

END