

THE *Half the Sky* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“Outside” from *Half the Sky*

Music by Tidtaya Sinutoke, Lyrics by Isabella Dawis

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Half the Sky tells the journey of an Asian American woman climbing Mount Everest -- a contemporary American musical on a global scale, infused with the sounds of traditional Thai and Himalayan folk music.

A year after her sister’s death, Aurelie sets out to fulfill her childhood dream of climbing Mount Everest. She joins an international group of mountaineers, led by a teenage Sherpa. As Aurelie embarks on her path to the top of the world, memories of her Thai American past and the unresolved rift between her and her sister begin to surface. Borders between countries and cultures, past and present, and waking and dreaming blur in this epic journey of ambition, survival and reconciliation.

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

Act 2, Everest base camp, the night before the expedition makes the final push to the summit. Alone in her tent, Aurelie is trying to get some sleep. She flashes back to her most recent conversation with her mother -- an argument about the death of her sister, who died attempting Everest the previous year. But Aurelie pushes away the memory, determined to concentrate on the small preparations for the climb. She readies herself to conquer the mountain, and by the end of the song, she has stepped outside her tent to stand under the night sky.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Aurelie, female, Thai American, late 20s. Disciplined, grounded, and strong-willed. Trustworthy and a keen observer. Privately struggling with loss and guilt. She is the audience’s window into the world of Everest. Soprano with strong mix. Vocal Range: Bb3-Eb5. This song is transposable.

NOTES ON PERFORMANCE

This edition includes some lyrics in Thai, with alternate English lyrics.