

Excerpts from *The Black Swan*
Libretto by Nathalie Anderson

Excerpt 1: Act II, scene ii: Trio:

(Setting: Düsseldorf, German, in the 1920's. Rosalie von Tümmler, her daughter Anna, and Ken Keaton, a young American, admire the swans in the moat at Holterhof castle.)

Anna (at her easel, painting):

Black, white---
an arc, an oval---
touch of scarlet, indigo---

Rosalie:

Black swan, bright water---
the sun---
my eyes---
The eloquent promise of midnight
gliding through the blinding day.

Ken:

I have an eye for antique grace,
for crumbling ramparts and broken towers,
for treasures reached by a secret stair.
I have a fancy for old world charm,
for melancholy lips and shadowed eyes,
for secrets whispered in the gloom.
There is nothing like this where I come from.

Excerpt 2: Act II, scene ii: The Kiss

(Having left Anna to her painting, Rosalie and Ken explore the ruins. Ken pushes on the tower gate and it opens. He looks at Rosalie.)

Ken:

There is nothing like this where I come from.

(They step inside. Barely visible in the darkness, they kiss.)

Ken:

Rosalie---