

**“Thomas Visted”:** libretto text (lyrics) by Norman Yeung  
operatic scene: for contralto & tenor

synopsis: The ghost of a deceased, domestically-abused woman visits Thomas, her neighbour, to request Thomas' assistance for justice against her husband/abuser, and to enquire why Thomas never came to her aid after witnessing her abuse from his window.

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Thomas: How is she?  
Who can I tell?  
Do I tell?  
What have I seen?  
Why must I see!!!!!!  
I see you!!!  
Tell me you're well.  
Are you well?

Abused wife: This window from where I see my kitchen.  
From where you saw...  
My husband's fists to my face - His claws on my throat – My head hit the floor.

Thomas  
together: Your husband's fists to your face – His claws on your throat – Your head hit the floor.

Thomas: Are you okay?

Abused wife: I've just died.

Thomas: Leave me!!!!

Together:

Abused wife: Testify, Testify, Testify!

Thomas: Not my problem!!!!

Abused wife: Your problem,  
Standing and watching.  
Well I have also seen,  
your wife and daughter,  
walking out on you.  
And you didn't stop them.  
You let them go.  
You did nothing!  
Year after year,  
this window.  
Fists to my face,  
claws on my throat...  
head hit the floor...  
Blood flows from my ears to the stove.  
Fingers shake...  
limbs quake...  
Will you let my husband go?

Thomas: GO!!!!!!

Abused wife: Only you have seen.  
Thank God, not my son.  
My son, who caught ladybugs with your daughter...  
walked to school with her...  
misses her...  
My son, whom I'll never teach to be a good father, good husband, good man.

Thomas: Forgive me!!!!!!

Abused wife: Will you be my voice?

Words by Norman Yeung