

That's probably enough wouldn't you say?

(to Helen)

Thank you... Helen.

(to the ladies)

Now, go change!

HELEN and MARM leave.

NELLIE

Ask him.

HILDA

Now?

NELLIE

You promised.

HILDA

I know, but-

NELLIE leaves. FACH cleans up after the shoot.

START

HILDA

Coach?... That was a really nice shot-

MR. FACH

Go get changed, Ranscombe.

HILDA

You should get on the ice with us.

MR. FACH

I don't think so.

HILDA

It'd be great practice for us, playing with someone who's got that hard a shot.

MR. FACH

I don't have the right temperament for it.

HILDA

For practicing?

MR. FACH

For playing. What do you want Ranscombe?

HILDA

Oh, uh... I was...

What?
MR. FACH

It's alright.
HILDA

Hilda.
MR. FACH

Nellie's been trying to- She thought you might have some ideas, being someone who works in- sports. ... I need a job.
HILDA

Right.
MR. FACH

I'm not always good with... I've always helped out at home. They took me on at Preston farms, a couple summers but you heard how that turned out... The men thought we were takin' their jobs.
HILDA

Most girls- Women-
MR. FACH

I don't wanna be the one that doesn't contribute. What I really want is- Maybe you could talk to someone. They could see me play. Try me out.
HILDA

They?
MR. FACH

The NHL.
HILDA

... It's a mens league.
MR. FACH

It's the only one that pays. Don't tell the girls. I'd never leave the Rivulettes, but- Not until we've won the Dominion title- Even then, I- but if that's the only option. Do you think they'd ever hire a girl?
HILDA

... What about teaching the kids? Make a bit of money doing that.
MR. FACH

Classrooms make me nervous, Mr Fach, I don't-
HILDA

To skate. You don't need a classroom. You teach them on the ice.
MR. FACH

HILDA

Oh... Sure... I can do that, I can teach them to skate.

MR. FACH

I just have to get a few kids signed up.

HILDA

Oh.

MR. FACH

But when I do I'll- I'll let you know.

HILDA

Thanks Coach. And please don't say anything about the- You're right, it's a men's league, why would they ever...

MR. FACH

If they did, it'd be you.

HILDA

Thanks.

END

HILDA leaves...

14 ~~TAKING SIDES~~

HELEN, MARM, and NELLIE at the Wragge Shoe Company.

~~RADIO~~

~~And a disturbing turn of events, the MS St. Louis that set out from Hamburg has been denied permission to enter the United States. Captain Schroder and the 900 Jewish refugees on board are now forced to turn back and are looking to Belgium, the UK and other European countries to provide sanctuary. We'll keep you informed on that story as it progresses. Stay tuned for local news up next, here on your CBC.~~

~~MARM turns off the radio.~~

~~MARM~~

~~There's plenty of room here.~~

~~HELEN~~

~~You heard our Prime Minister "None is too many".~~

~~MARM~~

~~What side do you think Fach is on?~~

~~NELLIE~~

~~Marm.~~

~~HELEN
... Marm told me about the sign
NELLIE
Ya... I didn't see it.
HELEN
Gladys Hawkins, huh?
NELLIE
She did alright.~~

START

HELEN
(picks up the paper)
"Even with the substitution of young Hawkins, the Rivulettes remain the best stick handlers in the Women's hockey realm." ... She's good.

NELLIE
She's learning.

HELEN
"Nellie Ranscombe in goal is a supreme / performer."

NELLIE
You can skip that part.

HELEN
"Coach Fach iced a well drilled team outsmarting a wall of a goalie having a record breaking season."

NELLIE
Jealous?

HELEN
Sounds like you're taking care of business without me.

NELLIE
We're so close. Would you just play.

HELEN
I don't want to jeopardize the well drilled team.

NELLIE
You are the team!

HELEN
We're talking about having a baby.

NELLIE
... Oh.

Oh? That's it?

HELEN

Sorry. It's great.

NELLIE

What's going on?

HELEN

He's too controlling. He met you when you were a player, he shouldn't expect you to stop / because-

NELLIE

He doesn't. It was my decision. I decided to stop playing.

HELEN

Why?

NELLIE

There might be a war, Nell.

HELEN

Not here.

NELLIE

Whippet's army.

HELEN

Canadian army.

NELLIE

Doesn't matter.

HELEN

What's going on over there has nothing to do with us!

NELLIE

Maybe I don't love it the same way you do.

HELEN

You think I love being shot at, game after game?

NELLIE

You're the best in the league.

HELEN

And I'm still scared of the puck! You wanna- My brothers would take shots at me when I was a kid. They tied cushions to me. Stuck me in net. I didn't know it was a game. I'd run home crying, with a face full of blood.

NELLIE

HELEN

I'm sorry, Nell.

NELLIE

The game is- It's not the same without you. It's the team, I love. You.

HELEN

... You deserve to have the paper say nice things about you.

NELLIE

... And you don't deserve what they said about you.

HELEN

What did they say? Where?!

(reading from the paper)

"Helen Schmucks unsparing efforts lowered her vitality and resistance so much that she suffered a breakdown" That's ridiculous! "a fragile woman who wasn't made to play such an aggressive sport." After this many years?! Have we proved nothing?!

NELLIE

The battles not over.

HELEN

Will it ever be?

NELLIE

Not without you.

HELEN

... Hey... You showed me that on purpose.

END

17 ~~ANYTHING BESIDES HOCKEY~~

HILDA rushes into the arena to find FACH, repairing a hockey net.

HILDA

Coach!

MR. FACH

(jumps)

Geezuz, Hilda!

HILDA

Sorry. Did you talk to Mr. Mulqueen?

MR. FACH

I'm surprised you weren't listening in on the conversation.

START

MARM is warming up and NELLIE is tightening her pads on the bench.

MARM

Norway? Switzerland?! Finland!! Not Germany obviously. Sweden!

NELLIE

I can't get excited until we know for sure.

MARM

It has to be us! It has to. Can you imagine?!

NELLIE

Can we beat Toronto first?

MARM

I gotta get outa here. This town is getting smaller and smaller. I get menstrual cramps, and everyone knows.

NELLIE

Come on.

MARM

I go for a walk at night, and I'm judged for walking too quickly.

NELLIE

I go for a walk and no one notices, which would you prefer?

MARM

You know, we could be Toronto ladies. Say money, is no object.

NELLIE

We can dream.

MARM

I'm serious! You're a smart woman Nell. You can go wherever you want. Let's do it. You can go to university. I'll pound on the door until they finally let me in.

NELLIE

I'm not playing for the Toronto Ladies.

MARM

Course not but we could invade their city. We beat Toronto. We win the Dominion Championships, we go to Europe! And then we get outa here.

NELLIE

What about Helen?

MARM

She's not going anywhere.

She's your sister.

NELLIE

Would you rather go with her?

MARM

Wouldn't it be strange for you? To be so far away?

NELLIE

No. Would it be strange for you?

MARM

I don't know.

NELLIE

Do you love her?

MARM

Marm!

NELLIE

It's not / bad.

MARM

Stop it!

NELLIE

I don't think it's weird or-

MARM

I saw it- the sign in Montreal... I didn't know what to do so I pretended I didn't.

NELLIE

... It's fine.

MARM

No it's not. I should've torn it down, I should've-

NELLIE

END

HILDA enters.

Ready for this?

HILDA

You bet.

MARM

Yup!

NELLIE

MARM storms off, FACH follows her.

~~HILDA~~

~~It's the Eastern finals! ... Norma! You're on for Marm. Let's go ladies!~~

19 THE PITS

START

MARM enters the locker room, FACH follows.

MARM

Get out.

MR. FACH

You think you're the only one whose ever been judged?

MARM

Get outa here!

MR. FACH

Insulted?

MARM

Why do you hate me so much?

MR. FACH

What kind of question is that?

MARM

I've read about people like you, who have these secret lives. Pretending to be one thing in public-

MR. FACH

Pretending what?!

MARM

but really you're a part of these underground- I know what they're doing in your country.

MR. FACH

This is my country! I was born here! Just like you!

MARM

Then why'd they arrest you?

MR. FACH

What?

MARM

Lock you up in that camp?

MR. FACH

...

MARM

You think we didn't know?

MR. FACH

.... My parents were suspected of being enemy aliens. After being invited- recruited to immigrate here. They'd been here for thirty years. They didn't know what was going on. They hardly spoke English. So, I defended them. And I became a suspect too. I was 17 years old when... Do you have any idea what it was like at that camp in Kapuskasing?

MARM

No.

MR. FACH

No one ever should. Our country does horrible things too. As you know. Now... can we go finish a game?

MARM

So I can be laughed at? Made to feel like I'm not good enough?

MR. FACH

You're playing in the Eastern Finals, Miss Schmuck! Not him! Not me! You! Don't let your anger for whatever bullshit is happening in the world ruin what's really important. You've earned the right to play. This team needs you to play.

FACH holds out MARM's stick for her.

MARM

Just once, I'd like to know how it feels to be number one.

MR. FACH

Me too. Now, can we skip out on confession and go win a hockey game?

MARM

(taking the stick)

Jews don't have confession.

MR. FACH

(follows her)

Maybe I'll convert.

END

~~RIVULETTES VS TORONTO LADIES CON'T~~

~~Whistle: Game on~~