

KATHERINE

Why's everyone so scared of Brooklyn?

JACK

What're you doin' here?

KATHERINE

Asking a question. Have you got an answer? Why is everyone so afraid of Brooklyn?

CRUTCHIE

'Cause Spot Conlon is the toughest newsie in town!

JACK

And Brooklyn is the sixth largest city in the entire world. You got Brooklyn, you hit the mother lode.

KATHERINE

Wouldn't a strike be more effective if someone in charge knew about it?

JACK

Hey, you got a name?

KATHERINE

Katherine... Plumber. It's my byline, the name I publish under.

JACK (to NEWSIES)

She's a dame reporter for the New York Sun. (to KATHERINE) Shouldn't you be at the ballet or the flower show or sumpthin?

KATHERINE

Look, I know a great story when I see one: "A couple of ragtag Davids take on local Goliath."

MURIEL

Hey, that's good!

DAVEY

We never said that.

KATHERINE

You didn't have to. I did.

JACK

I seen a lot of papes in my time, and I ain't never noted no girl reporters writing hard news.

KATHERINE

Wake up to the new century, Mr. Kelly. It's 1899, the game's changing. How about an exclusive interview?

DAVEY (to JACK)

I say we save any exclusive for a real reporter.

KATHERINE

I'm trying to do what's never been done before, just like you and your strike.

JACK

I dunno—

KATHERINE

You see somebody else giving you the time of day? (dropping her guard) All right, so I'm just busting out of the social pages. But you give me the exclusive, let me run with the story, and I promise I'll get you the space. Give me a chance – you help me and I'll help you!

HAZEL

Give her a chance, she's all right!

PIGTAILS

I'm with Hazel! If a girl can sell the pape, why can't she write it?

GIRL NEWSIES

Yeah!