

BUNSEN

But Mr. Pulitzer, how can you express so much sympathy for the trolley workers and yet have none for the newsies?

PULITZER

Because the trolley workers are striking for a fair contract. The newsies are striking against me!

SEITZ

That Jack Kelly seems to be quite an effective leader.

PULITZER

I have it on good authority that Jack Kelly was arrested for stealing food and clothing. I want a public example made of him.

(HANNAH enters.)

HANNAH

Mr. Pulitzer – Jack Kelly is here. He looks pretty roughed up, poor boy.

PULITZER

The guest of honor, right on schedule! (to KATHERINE) And not a peep out of you, young lady. You're in enough trouble as it is

(OSCAR and MORRIS drag in JACK, who has been roughed up on the journey from the theater. KATHERINE steps back so JACK can't see her.)

PULITZER

Which Jack Kelly is this? The charismatic union organizer, or the thief and escaped convict?

JACK

Which one gives us more in common... Joe?

PULITZER

Impudence is in bad taste when crawling for mercy.

JACK

Crawling? Dragged is more like it. You may run this city, but there are some of us who can't be bullied. Even some reporters...

PULITZER

Such as that young woman who made you yesterday's news? Talented girl. Katherine, come here. (KATHERINE emerges. JACK is surprised.) I trust you know my daughter, Katherine. (lets that sink in) Yes. My daughter. You are probably asking, why the nom de plume? I offered Katherine a life of wealth and leisure. Instead she chose to pursue a career, wanted to do it on her own.

KATHERINE

Jack, I—

PULITZER

Don't trouble the boy with your problems, dearest. Mr. Kelly has a plateful of his own. Wouldn't you say so, Warden Snyder?

(SNYDER enters from the private room.)

SNYDER

Hello, Jack. I saved your old bunk for you at The Refuge. The other delinquents will be so happy to see you back behind bars.

(JACK tries to run for the door, but is stopped by the DELANCEYS. He's trapped.)

PULITZER

Defy me, Jack, and I'll make sure your friend with the crutch never leaves The Refuge.

HANNAH

I do wish you'd reconsider, Mr. Pulitzer.

PULITZER

Answer me, Jack: Do you want all your little pals rotting away in jail all because of you?

JACK

No.

PULITZER

No, I didn't think so. Now, I tell you what, if you speak against this hopeless strike tonight, I'll see to it your pockets are filled with enough cash to take you to... where was it?

MORRIS, OSCAR

Santa Fe.

JACK

There ain't a person in this room who don't know you stink.

PULITZER

And if they know me, they know I don't care. What do you say, Jack, do we have a deal?