

SCENE THIRTEEN

The locker room at Beyer Stadium.

It's opening day, and the girls are getting ready in the locker room before the first game of the season. There is a radio on, with the pre-game announcer talking about the game. GEORGIE is off to one side, on a phone call with DALE.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (VO)

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's May 30th, 1943, and we're down here at Beyer Field in beautiful Rockford, Illinois. I'm told these girls are the cream of the crop, and I can't be sure, but I think we're in for a real treat this afternoon at the ballpark.

GEORGIE

(on the phone--she's engrossed in her conversation, so she doesn't realize MO is listening) It'll be on the radio. I thought you might want to listen. *(pause)* We won't make fools of ourselves. *(pause)* I'm not trying to prove anything I just—did you get the money I sent? *(pause)* Dale?

She looks at the receiver then hangs it up. When she turns around, she sees MO standing there.

MO

Trouble in paradise?

LORRAINE

Leave her alone, Mo.

GEORGIE ignores her and walks over to her locker. SIS is sitting on one of the benches. She looks a little pale.

GEORGIE

You okay?

SIS

I'm nervous. I feel like throwing up.

ALICE

Me too.

The girls start to chime in with "Same here" and "Me too."

GEORGIE

Think of it like any other game, girls. You're back home playing at the park or in the factory leagues again.

PEPPER

But this ain't that.

LILLIAN

People are gonna laugh at us.

GEORGIE

They will not.

JANE

And it's up to us to make sure people come back for the next game.

BETTY

Yeah, if there are no fans, there's no league.

GEORGIE

(looks around. This is the moment she steps up as their leader.) When I came here, I had no idea what to expect. I didn't know there were other girls out there like me, who loved this game more than anything else. And you know what I think? I think the ones out there—the ones who love baseball—they're gonna be able to see what I see at practice every day.

PEPPER

Millie's backside?

The girls laugh – it's good natured ribbing, and MILLIE smacks PEPPER with her catcher's glove.

GEORGIE

You're not wrong. *(pause)* We all love to play. And more than that, we love to play together. We're a team. A *real* team. We're Rockford Peaches, and no matter what the newspapers write or the people in the stands yell - that means something.

GEORGIE walks around the girls, putting a hand on some shoulders, encouraging them and building them up.

GEORGIE

So, whether it's for one game or a hundred games or one season or ten, this is our chance. This is *the* chance. Some of us have been waiting a long time for this moment. Since we were kids, right?