

# RISER

## RISER

We choose our battles, Chief Banker. I could see that your team had their hearts set on being here. And I could see that if you didn't go, I might have a mutiny on my hands. I went back to Pershing because, well, sometimes a dance is better than a bake sale.

## GRACE

You still don't think we belong, do you?

## RISER

Let's not get into that.

## GRACE

Perhaps some more champagne?

## RISER

I think men and women are different. I'm sorry if that makes me an irredeemable chauvinist.

## GRACE

Just because we're different doesn't mean we can't serve. In fact, it's why we should.

## RISER

You say that now, but... it's only going to get tougher. Tomorrow is another advance...and there will be no retreat. You've worked, and you've worked hard—but you don't know what it's like to feel...

## GRACE

What?

## RISER

Fear.

## GRACE

You don't think we're afraid? Every night, falling asleep to the sound of shelling. Every day, getting up and walking out into... this?

## RISER

That's not what I mean. Listen...

*(Music in. As RISER speaks, a tableau of Lost Battalion boys appears.)*

**#15B THE LOST BATTALION**

**RISER (CONT'D)**

LAST WEEK FIVE HUNDRED OF OUR BRAVEST BOYS  
WERE SENT TO TAKE A HILL

After they took it, they found out that neither flank had  
advanced to support them.  
They were cut off.

NO FOOD OR WATER, UNDER NEVER-ENDING FIRE  
THEY HELD ON STILL

-sometimes under fire from our own artillery, because no  
one knew where they were.

FOR SIX LONG DAYS, THE GERMANS PUMMELED THEM  
BUT NEVER BROKE THEIR WILL  
A LOST BATTALION - FIGHTING TO SURVIVE  
ALONE AND LOST, AND LESS THAN HALF OF THEM  
WOULD MAKE IT OUT ALIVE

What would you have done, Grace? How could you bear it, as  
a leader? To lose even one of your girls: Suzanne...  
Louise... Bertha... Helen...  
I think women are reasonable, and war is unreasonable. I  
think women are civilized, and war is barbaric. It is  
single-minded. It is relentless. Just like men. Because war  
is our invention.

**GRACE**

I don't know. I don't know what I would do, Captain  
Riser... because I've never been given the chance.

**RISER**

So now we'll find out.