

RISER

(Instrumental. The women continue to work furiously. Smoke drifts in. As the fire intensifies, GRACE orders the women away from the boards, until she remains working, alone. The builds, RISER bursts in.)

GRACE

Hello, Widewing. I'm sorry, sir. We're short on lines. I'll put you through as soon as I can...

RISER

Grace! What the hell are you doing?

GRACE

Someone has to be on the G3.

(on phone)

Hello, sir - I have Waterfall for you. Go ahead.

RISER

You have to get out of here. There's a fire!

GRACE

I'm aware, Captain.

(on phone)

Oui, monsieur - j'ai les nouvelles coordonnées...

RISER

Where's the rest of your team?

GRACE

I sent them away. It's too dangerous.

RISER

Exactly! And now I'm sending you away.

GRACE

Captain, in the last five minutes I've relayed three different artillery strikes, put through a call ordering a retreat, and connected a warning about an incoming air raid. If I leave, we have none of that.

(back to phone)

Hello, Widewing. I have to put you on hold, sir. I don't have any more lines available at -

RISER

(overtop GRACE as she talks on the phone)

Chief Banker—I am giving you a direct order. If you don't leave, you'll be subject to court-martial.

(GRACE suddenly pulls off her headset and slams it down.)

GRACE

Good! Then at least I'll know I'm being treated like a soldier!

RISER

I am treating you like a soldier! Soldiers obey orders—

GRACE

You wouldn't give that order to a man.

RISER

Yes, I would!

GRACE

You send men out to repair lines under enemy fire. The work I'm doing is just as vital!
How many more times do we have to prove it to you?

RISER

There are men outside ready to haul the switchboards out—and if I have to, I'll have them haul you out of here too, because my orders are to—

(GRACE grabs her helmet and runs out of the building. RISER follows.)

RISER

Chief Banker! Where are you going?

GRACE

(still angry)

You ordered me to leave the building. I left.

RISER

But I'm not finished!

GRACE

Then by all means, Captain Riser — go ahead!

RISER

Because my orders are to get everything of value out of this building—
and you are too valuable a soldier to this Army!

(beat)

Grace... I'm sorry. I didn't mean to yell at you. I just... I'm exhausted.

GRACE

We all are. But this isn't about us. If your men can save the switchboards, we have to keep going. I'll find my team.

RISER

Yes, but you don't—

GRACE

Captain, it's our job to get the fighting lines back up and running. Pershing is counting on us.

RISER

Understood, Chief Banker. I'll have them move the G3 into the mess hall, and reconnect as fast as they can.

(He starts to go. She salutes him. He stops, returns the salute, then exits..)

GRACE

HAVE WE GONE TOO FAR?
HAVE WE GONE TOO FAST?
LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE...
WHO'D'VE THOUGHT WE'D LAST THIS LONG?

HELEN, BERTHA, SUZANNE, LOUISE

BUT MAN YOUR STATION
'CAUSE WE'RE IN FOR THE DURATION

GRACE

WE'RE IN THE FIGHT

GIRLS (SANS GRACE)

STILL IN THE FIGHT

GRACE

STAY WITH THE FIGHT