

SUSAN
AT-6, B-24s. B-29s.

FISHER
Well, that's what we flew.

SUSAN
(beat)
This is the only job I got.

FISHER
But you're just - filling in. 'Til Bob gets home. And she's - I mean, it's temporary, right?

SUSAN
How do you mean?

FISHER
'Til she gets married.

SUSAN
(beat)
That's how it seems to work.

DOC enters through the front door, struggling with his bow tie.

DOC
Suzy - dangit. I just need a hand with -
(sees Fisher)
Hello.

SUSAN
(tying Doc's tie)
New apprentice.

DOC
What?

SUSAN
Mechanic.

DOC
(shakes hands around Susan)
Start here. Oh, you're filling in for Bob. Back soon! Doc Anvers.

FISHER
Rory Fisher.

SUSAN
Sergeant Fisher.

DOC
Sergeant Fisher, Sergeant Fisher. Susan's dad.

FISHER

Bob's friend.

DOC

Oh, Bob, well, welcome, sir. I know the business gonna pick up soon as Bob gets back. And not much longer, right?

FISHER

What?

DOC

In the meantime, now, we need a few new Bob stories. Our Bob over Berlin. Bob over Dresden. Bob, he's shooting down six Heinkel H-E One-Elevens smack over the English Channel. Routine mission.

SUSAN goes in and out of the hangar throughout DOC's story, with a clipboard, with a box or screwdriver, trying not to hear it again.

FISHER

Bob is coming back? That's great.

DOC

Yessir, we gonna see that Piper buzzin' over Main Street, just like ever.

FISHER

(to Susan)

You didn't say.

DOC

The 19th!

FISHER

Really?

DOC

On a cloudy night. Bob's hunting Germans up in that cumulonimbus.

FISHER

Sorry?

DOC

Clouds so thick you just can't see - cu-mu-lo-nimbus. In the distance, Bob can hear it. Something German.

FISHER

Well, I don't think -

DOC

And his crew, they start to panic. Bob stays cool, he's flying blind in that big fat cumulonimbus, come right out into a pack of Messerschmidts - and Bob, his guns are blazing.

FISHER

Well, there's - five gunners?

DOC

Then blam across the cockpit, and kablooey right smack through the fuel tank and the next one, right across the wing. Ka-pow.

FISHER

Well, in a way, but -

DOC

Yeah, six Messerschmidts, you count 'em, bam. And then Bob dropped his bombs on a big bullet factory, flew on back and ate his biscuits. You were over there with Bob?

FISHER

I was his gunner. Tail gunner.

DOC

Then you know even more than I do.

FISHER

I don't think so.

DOC

Cumulonimbus - had to look that up. But now I use it all the time. Bet you loved to fly with Bob.

SUSAN

Bob promised him a job.

FISHER

I thought he'd be here. But he's coming back next month?

DOC

The 19th!

FISHER

(to Susan)

You didn't say the 19th.

DOC

Yeah, for Suzy's birthday.

SUSAN

We'll see.

DOC

Whole town's waiting. Did you see the park? I put a sign.

FISHER

Well, great, that's great. Then I can - good.

SUSAN

Well, who knows if he's gonna make it right that day.

DOC

You don't want to get your hopes up. But Bob isn't gonna let you down. I tell you - folk are lined up waiting for that Bob. Somebody called the house this morning, wanting lessons.

SUSAN

We can give them flying lessons.

DOC

Oh, they'd rather wait for the real thing. **End here.**

(Fisher's leg)

So where'd you get it?

FISHER

(beat)

English Channel.

SUSAN heads out the hangar door again.

DOC

(eyes Fisher's leg)

Above, or below?

FISHER

. . . Just above.

DOC

Mm mm. How many operations?

FISHER

. . . Three.

DOC

Here, let me see that hand.

FISHER

It's okay.

DOC

Here, just let me -

FISHER

Please, I -

FISHER tries to hide but DOC takes FISHER's hand and tries it out.

DOC

So, what'd you do before?

FISHER

A coach. High school.

DOC

Hey, baseball?