

RACE

I got midtown.

JO JO

I got the Bronx.

BUTTONS

And I got the Bowery.

JACK

Specs, you take Queens. Tommy Boy, you take the Eastside. And who wants Brooklyn?

*(The NEWSIES cringe and look away.)*

C'mon. Brooklyn. Spot Conlon's turf. Finch, you tellin' me you're scared of Brooklyn?

FINCH

I ain't scared of no turf. But that Spot Conlon gets me a little jittery.

JACK

Me and Davey will take Brooklyn.

DAVEY

*(still struggling)*

Me? I have to...

*(KATHERINE enters.)*

**START**

KATHERINE

Why's everyone so scared of Brooklyn?

JACK

*(smiling)*

What're you doin' here?

KATHERINE

Asking a question. Have you got an answer?

JACK

Brooklyn is the sixth largest city in the entire world. You got Brooklyn, you hit the motherlode.

*(sidling up to KATHERINE)*

For someone who works for the *New York Sun*, you spend an awful lot of time hanging around at the *World*. So, what's that about? You followin' me?

KATHERINE

-47-

The only thing I'm following is a story. A rag-tag gang of ragamuffins wants to take on the kingmakers of New York. Think you have a chance?

JACK

Shouldn't you be at the ballet?

KATHERINE

Question too difficult? I'll rephrase: will the richest and most powerful men in New York give the time of day to a gang of kids who haven't got a nickel to their name?

CRUTCHIE

You don't gotta be insultin'. I got a nickel.

KATHERINE

So I guess you'd say you're a couple of Davids looking to take on Goliath?

DAVEY

We never said that.

KATHERINE

You didn't have to. I did.

JACK

I seen a lot of papes in my time and I ain't never noted no girl reporters writing hard news.

KATHERINE

Wake up to the new century. The game's changing. How about an exclusive interview?

JACK

Ain't your beat entertainment?

KATHERINE

This is entertaining... so far.

JACK

What's the last news story you wrote?

KATHERINE

What's the last strike you organized?

**END**

ROMEO

*(pushing his way in)*

You're out of your league, Kelly. Methinks the lady needs to be handled by a real man.