

Scene 6. AMELIA's airplane, flying over the Southwest.

(JACKIE and AMELIA are flying in AMELIA's Lockheed Vega — a closed cockpit,¹ with AMELIA at the controls, JACKIE in the seat some distance behind. The SOUNDS of the engine and propeller are loud. The WOMEN must shout to be heard.)

ME AND AMELIA

JACKIE

LOOKY HERE,
WE'RE DOIN' FINE.
THOSE GRAY, STORMY DAYS
WHEN THE SUN WON'T SHINE
ARE BEHIND US,
LIKE THE CONTRAILS OF THIS PLANE.
SURE AS HELL
WE'RE QUITE A PAIR.
WE FLY THROUGH THE SKY
AND WE DON'T CARE WHERE.
WE ARE PILOTS
WHO YOU'D NEVER DARE,
NO, YOU'D NEVER DARE RESTRAIN.

WE CONTROL THE SKIES,
ME AND AMELIA EARHART.
GO TELL THE SUN TO RISE,
FOR ME AND AMELIA...
ME AND AMELIA EARHART.

AMELIA (shouting)

The Grand Canyon! Isn't it beautiful?

(SHE banks, tilting the plane, so JACKIE can get a better view)

JACKIE (shouting)

Yes!

(SHE looks out)

But I thought we were rerouting over Brice Canyon!

¹ In Amelia's actual plane, the pilot is likely separated from the passengers, unable to hear or see them. Artistic license, here. What is true, though, is that inside the plane the sound would be extremely loud.

AMELIA (shouting)

We were! But don't worry about that storm — it'll pass. How could we miss these magnificent colors?

JACKIE

SEE HOW WE'RE CHANGING ROUTES,
DARING TO FACE BAD WEATHER.
RISING ABOVE OUR DOUBTS,
SHARING THE VIEW TOGETHER!

WE WILL BRAVE THE CLOUDS,
ME AND AMELIA EARHART.
LAUGHING ABOVE THE CROWDS,
THAT'S ME AND AMELIA...
ME AND AMELIA EARHART.

(The plane suddenly skids sideways. AMELIA regains control
and they're flying straight again.)

JACKIE & AMELIA (shouting)

Whoa!!

AMELIA (shouting)

You all right?

JACKIE (shouting)

I'm fine! You?

AMELIA (shouting)

Fine!

JACKIE (shouting)

Crosswinds?

AMELIA (shouting)

Yes! Kind of rough!

JACKIE (shouting)

I'll say!

AMELIA (shouting)

I'm going to fly above them!

JACKIE (shouting)

Good!

(The plane heads upwards as well as out)

SURE, SO SHE MADE A SLIP.
YEAH, SO SHE STARTED SLIDING.
NOW THAT SHE'S FOUND HER GRIP,
LOOK HOW WE'RE UP HERE GLIDING!

WE EMBRACE THE WIND,
ME AND AMELIA EARHART!
HERE, WHERE THE AIR HAS THINNED,
THAT'S ME AND AMELIA...
ME AND — AND —

(The plane has climbed upwards too sharply. It starts to slow down.)

JACKIE (shouting)

Amelia!!

AMELIA (shouting)

I know, I know!!!

JACKIE (shouting)

We're losing lift!!

(the plane starts to fall.)

AMELIA (shouting)

Hang on!!

JACKIE (shouting)

Now! Point the nose of the plane down!!

(AMELIA does.)

AMELIA (shouting)

Yes!! Got it!!

(The plane picks up speed, pointing down. Amelia straightens it out, and they are level. BOTH take a deep breath.)

That is how...you pull out of a stall!

(a beat)

I'm sorry if I worried you.

JACKIE (shouting)

I wasn't worried!

(to herself)

Much.

HEADLINES FOR FLYING FAR...
HOOPLA FOR FLYING FASTER...
THAT'S FOR SOME KINDA STAR.
THAT'S FOR A FLYING MASTER!

WHO THE HELL IS THIS?!
WHERE IS AMELIA EARHART?
THIS WOMAN'S HIT OR MISS!
SO WHERE IS AMELIA?
WHERE IS AMELIA?
WHERE IS AMELIA EARHART?

Jeeppers!

Scene 7. Back in California. An airplane hangar.

(JACKIE and AMELIA climb out of AMELIA's airplane)

JACKIE

There's something you ought to know about me. I don't like being quiet. It's against my nature.

AMELIA

I understand.

JACKIE

My husband is planning to invest in your flight school. But he did not become head of Greyhound and RKO and all those other damn companies by making decisions that were foolish. These are hard times, Amelia. Money should be spent wisely.

AMELIA

Floyd has made many wise investments. He is extremely successful.

JACKIE

Floyd is rich! But that's not my point!

AMELIA

You want to tell Floyd about today's mishap. A mishap that I was able to remedy!

JACKIE

Amelia. I saw you slip and skid all over the sky! More than once! You may have piloted a plane over the Atlantic and the Pacific, but Lord knows how. I'm sorry if this hurts your feelings, but I cannot allow Floyd to invest in anything else that you do!

AMELIA

Certainly you've had mishaps of your own, haven't you?

JACKIE

Of course I have. But I'm not Amelia Earhart.

AMELIA

I'm not always sure I am, either.

(a beat; JACKIE puzzles over this)

Jackie, I've come to represent something to other people. And it gives me a responsibility. A chance to be useful. I'm a social worker, did you know that? Seven years ago, I was living in Boston, a social worker with a passion for flying planes. I didn't know George. He was in New York, looking for a female pilot to hop the Atlantic as a passenger. Do you know why he chose me? Not because of my flying skills; they were good — just good. I know that.

AMELIA (cont'd)

But I looked like Charles Lindberg. And George figured I could write a book about the flight. I was lucky, in a way that very few women are ever lucky. I want other women to have the same kind of opportunities that I do.

JACKIE

But if Floyd is going to invest in —

AMELIA

Please — I beg you — let me finish.

WE NEED AN AMELIA EARHART

I WAS LIFTED FROM A PLEASANT JOB
AND DRAFTED TO CELEBRITY.
MY LIFE TRANSFORMED WITH ONE AUSPICIOUS ACT.
WHAT STARTED AS A THRILLING LARK
BECAME AN OPPORTUNITY,
I ONLY HAD TO GAIN THE SKILLS I LACKED.

Which I am working on.

IT'S A STRANGE POSITION, I KNOW.
I'M NOT YEARNING FOR MY BIG BREAK.
MY BIG BREAK IS YEARNING FOR ME.

BUT THIS IS MORE THAN JUST MY STORY
THERE'S A MOUNTAIN THAT WE CLIMB.
WE NEED LEADERS, WE NEED FIGHTERS,
WE NEED ALLIES, WE NEED TIME.
BUT WHAT WE NEED MOST OF ALL...

WE NEED A SOURCE OF HOPE.
WE NEED AN AMELIA EARHART.
THERE'S SO MUCH AN AMELIA CAN FULFILL.
THE MORE THAT SHE SUCCEEDS,
THE MORE THE WORLD BELIEVES
THAT OTHER WOMAN CAN SUCCEED
AND WILL.

(Upstage, one WOMAN, and then more WOMEN, each simply dressed, emerge from the shadows. Include as many women as cast size allows.)

AMELIA (cont'd)

WOMEN WHO GIVE US HOPE,
WOMEN WHO GIVE US CONFIDENCE,
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO KEEP THIS MOVEMENT STRONG.

WOMEN 1

JUST LIKE SOJOURNER TRUTH,

WOMEN 2

JUST LIKE SUSAN B. ANTHONY,

WOMEN 1, 2, 3

AMELIA MIGHT PROPEL SOME DREAMS ALONG.

AMELIA

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

DREAM WITH ME.

(underneath)

DREAM WITH ME.

OOH...

HELP ME TO KEEP THAT NAME

AAH...

PEOPLE SEEM TO CHEER.

BELIEVE IN ME, THE ONE RIGHT HERE.

AAH...

NOT THE ONE FLYING PLANES.

NOT THE ONE GIVING TALKS.

NOT THE ONE ON PARADE;

SHE CAUSED QUITE A STIR.

AHH...

I'LL CATCH UP TO HER.

WOMAN 5

AAH...

BELIEVE IN MARGARET MEAD,

WOMAN 6

BELIEVE IN ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

AAH...

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

BELIEVE IN WHAT ONE WOMAN CAN INSPIRE.

WOMAN 1

SHE CAN GIVE US HOPE,

WOMAN 2

SHE CAN GIVE US CONFIDENCE.

AMELIA

HELPING US TO FLY A LITTLE HIGHER.

(WOMEN fade away)

AMELIA

MAYBE SHE'S AN ILLUSION,
AND THERE IS NO AMELIA EARHART,
JUST A WOMAN GLAD AND GRATEFUL TO HAVE FLOWN.
BUT LET ILLUSION LAST.
LET HER IMAGE LINGER.
LET'S NOT LIVE BY REALITY ALONE.
WE NEED A SOURCE OF HOPE....

JACKIE

I'm still gonna tell my husband. ...But maybe I won't try so hard to convince him.

(JACKIE exits)

AMELIA

WE NEED AN AMELIA EARHART.