

YOUNG WOMAN AND THE SEA

Written by

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Based on the book by Glenn Stout

For Jodi

WHITE -- 3/3/2022
BLUE -- 3/25/2022
PINK -- 4/05/2022
YELLOW -- 4/21/2022
GREEN -- 4/25/2022
GOLDENROD -- 5/9/2022
BUFF -- 5/10/2022
SALMON -- 5/16/2022
CHERRY -- 5/24/2022

"YOUNG WOMAN AND THE SEA"

OVER BLACK WE HEAR A SOUND COMING TOWARD US -- A THUNDERING ROAR LIKE NO OTHER SOUND ON EARTH --

FADE IN:

A HUNDRED TONS OF WATER COMES STRAIGHT TOWARD CAMERA LIKE A FREIGHT TRAIN -- A WAVE FURIOUSLY CRASHING AGAINST THE SHORE --
- THUNDER CLAP AND SPRAY RISING UP WITH AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE -

TITLE CARD: CAPE GRIS-NEZ, FRANCE -- AUGUST, 1926

1 EXT. - BEACH OF CAPE GRIS-NEZ. - FRANCE. - SUNRISE 1

TRUDY EDERLE STANDS ALONE FACING THIS OMINOUS BLACK SEA -- WATCHING THE WAVES IN SILENT AWE.

TRUDY'S ENTIRE BODY COVERED IN LARD AND BODY GREASE -- HER RED RUBBER CAP, THICK GOGGLES AND **SILVER GRAY SHEEP'S GREASE** MAKING HER LOOK LIKE A MONSTER THAT HAS EMERGED FROM THE DEPTHS.

SHE STANDS ON THE SHORE STUDYING THE RESTLESS, CHURNING WATER AS IT FIGHTS AGAINST ITSELF LIKE A CAGED ANIMAL -- THE SOUND TAUNTING HER AS THE OCEAN POUNDS AGAINST THE SHORE.

SUDDENLY TRUDY BEGINS TO SMILE -- AND THEN SING TO HERSELF -- HER VOICE RISING WITH THE SEA --

TRUDY
(singing)
*Every morning, every evening
Ain't we got fun!
Not much money, Oh, but honey
Ain't we got fun!*

TRUDY STARTS TO DANCE AS SHE SINGS -- THE UNINHIBITED DANCE OF AN AMERICAN TEENAGER MOVING AS IF SHE'S ALONE IN HER ROOM.

SHE SINGS AND DANCES FASTER NOW AS THE OCEAN SURGES AND SHE TRIES TO WARM UP -- THE WAVES AND SPRAY SOMEHOW ACCOMPANYING HER VOICE --

TRUDY (CONT'D)
(singing quietly)
*In the winter, in the Summer
Don't we have fun!*

SUDDENLY A VOICE STOPS HER --

MEG
Trudy. You don't have to do this.

TRUDY STOPS -- SUDDENLY REMEMBERS WHERE SHE IS. SHE LOOKS THROUGH HER GOGGLES TOWARD HER OLDER SISTER MEG, WHO WEARS A THICK COAT AND WOOL HAT TO FIGHT THE COLD.

TRUDY

I don't know. Seems like a nice day for swim...

AND NOW TRUDY LOOKS BACK TOWARD THE ENGLISH CHANNEL AS ANOTHER MONSTROUS WAVE CRASHES TOWARD HER. AS THE WIND HOWLS AND THE SEA RAGES -- A SMILE CROSSES HER FACE.

TRUDY (CONT'D)

Every morning, every evening --

MEG

...Ain't we got fun!

TRUDY/MEG

Not much money, Oh, but honey Ain't we got fun!

THE TWO SISTERS SING TOGETHER AS THEY STARE OUT AT THE OCEAN -- ONLY NOW THE SEA BEGINS TO CHANGE --

THICK BLACK SMOKE APPEARS ON THE HORIZON --

A FIRE RAGES AT SEA

MATCH CUT:

2 INT. - TRUDY'S BEDROOM. - LITTLE GERMANY. - NEW YORK. - DAY 2

THROUGH A SMALL WINDOW WE SEE BLACK SMOKE RISING FROM THE EAST RIVER -- A FIRE BURNING IN THE DISTANCE.

TITLE CARD: NEW YORK CITY -- 1914

TEN YEAR-OLD TRUDY EDERLE IS WATCHING THE SMOKE FROM HER BEDROOM WINDOW -- SQUINTING TOWARD THE SUNLIGHT. HER FACE AND NECK ARE SPOTTED WITH MEASLES -- HAIR TANGLED -- HER BEDCLOTHES STAINED WITH SWEAT.

AS SIRENS WAIL TRUDY TURNS TO THE DOOR --

3 EXT. - AMSTERDAM AVENUE. - GERMANTOWN. - NEW YORK CITY 3

TIGHT ON TRUDY AS SHE WALKS OUT FROM HER BUILDING AND MOVES THROUGH THE BLUR OF PANICKED ADULTS, THE DISTANT SIRENS AND HORNS MIXED WITH THE CRIES OF PEOPLE AS TRUDY GETS CAUGHT IN THE CROWD --

TRUDY IS WEAK AND COUGHING AS SHE MOVES THROUGH THE CHAOS. HER TWELVE YEAR-OLD SISTER MEG RUNS OUT FROM THE BUTCHER SHOP AT THE BOTTOM OF THEIR BUILDING.

Pink (04/05/2022)

2A.

MEG

Trudy! Get back inside!

MEG GRABS TRUDY -- LEADS HER BACK THROUGH THE CROWD --

4 INT. - TRUDY'S ROOM. - DAY

4

MEG CLOSES THE DRAPES, MOVES TOWARD THE BED AND COVERS TRUDY WITH A BLANKET. TRUDY IS SHIVERING -- AND MEG TAKES HER HAND.

MEG
How many times has Mom told you to
stay put...

TRUDY
What happened?

MEG
Just mind your peas and rest.

GERTRUD
Is her fever back?

GERTRUD IS A STRONG WOMAN IN A PLAIN APRON WHO INSTILLS FEAR WITH A SINGLE LOOK. BUT ON THIS DAY SHE LOOKS BROKEN AS SHE SLOWLY WALKS INTO THE ROOM -- TOUCHES TRUDY'S FOREHEAD.

MEG
I think so. She was outside.

TRUDY
I saw smoke on the water.

GERTRUD
A ferry caught fire as it came to
dock. They say hundreds dead --
mostly women. Meg -- go down and
wet a towel for her.

MEG TURNS TO GO -- BUT WAITS AT THE DOOR.

TRUDY
Women? Why women?

GERTRUD
Thirty feet from shore and they
wouldn't jump. They stayed on the
boat.

TRUDY
Why? I don't understand?

GERTRUD
They can't swim.

5

INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - GERMANTOWN. - NIGHT

5

GERTRUD POURS A HEAVY BUCKET OF WATER INTO A POT. SHE LIGHTS THE OIL COOK STOVE -- THEN UNWRAPS SOME HERRING FROM A NEWSPAPER -- A FADING HEADLINE STILL VISIBLE.

LIST OF DEAD REACHES 847 IN PASSENGER STEAMBOAT DISASTER

GERTRUD STARES AT THE HEADLINE FOR A BEAT -- THEN HEARS A SOUND BY THE FRONT DOOR.

GERTRUD

He's home, Meg. Light the lamp.
Henry -- get his coat!

HENRY EDERLE BURSTS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR IN A BLOODY APRON AND EVERYONE MOVES TOWARD HIM -- A SILENT BALLET AS HENRY JR.(7) TAKES HIS FATHER'S APRON AND COAT AND TOSSES THE HAT TO MEG -- WHO HANGS IT AS SHE MOVES TOWARD THE LAMP AND GERTRUD TAKES HIS SHOES AND POURS A BEER FROM A BUCKET.

HENRY EDERLE

They're charging the German butchers more for veal -- 30 cents a pound west of 17th! They want to run us off with the Irish! First they break my windows -- now veal! Why is everyone staring at me?

GERTRUD

Doctor Weiss is upstairs with Trudy.

HENRY LOOKS AT THEM -- KNOWS WHAT THIS MEANS.

HENRY EDERLE

Meg -- take Henry across the street to your Uncle Jan.

HENRY JR. AND MEG DON'T MOVE -- STARE AT THEIR FATHER AS THEY STAND THEIR GROUND.

MEG

We're staying.

FOOTSTEPS APPROACH ON THE STAIRS. THEY ALL TURN TO THE SOUND -- SLOW AND STEADY COMING DOWN AS **DOCTOR WEISS** EMERGES. HE WALKS STRAIGHT TOWARD HENRY --

DOCTOR WEISS

There's nothing else to do for her. The fever won't break. Trudy fought hard -- a strong girl -- but she can't fight the measles.

MEG

How long?

DOCTOR WEISS LOOKS TOWARD MEG -- THE ONLY ONE BRAVE ENOUGH TO ASK. HE LEANS DOWN TO HER --

DOCTOR
Tonight, Meg. I'll stay with her.
But the next time I come down the
stairs she will be gone. I'm
sorry.

THE DOCTOR TURNS TO WALK BACK UP THE STAIRS -- AND ALL THEY CAN DO IS LISTEN AS HIS FOOTSTEPS FADE AWAY --

6

INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - LATER THAT NIGHT

6

MEG HAS HER FACE BURIED IN HER SWEATER -- IS LOOKING THROUGH THE FABRIC HOLES AND STARING AT THE STAIRCASE.

THE APARTMENT IS LIT BY KEROSENE LAMPS. GERTRUD SITS AT THE SMALL TABLE USING A FOOT PEDAL SEWING MACHINE TO MAKE A FLOWER. HENRY LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW AS HE SHUFFLES A DECK OF CARDS -- HIS HANDS UNSTEADY. HE LOOKS TO HENRY JR., WHO HAS FALLEN ASLEEP.

GERTRUD
I went down to the docks, Henry --
watched them count the bags. The
women from that ship were from this
neighborhood. A church group.

HENRY EDERLE
This is not the time.

GERTRUD
This is the time.

GERTRUD STANDS NOW -- MOVES TOWARD HIM.

GERTRUD (CONT'D)
(quietly)
I won't lose another -- do you
understand? I've decided the
children will learn to swim.

HENRY TURNS TO HER NOW --

HENRY EDERLE
You've decided, Gert? You've
decided?

GERTRUD EDERLE
They could have walked to shore.

HENRY EDERLE
Henry Jr., yes -- we will teach
him. But not Meg -- it's indecent
for a girl. What will people say?

GERTRUD EDERLE

They'll say she didn't stand on a
burning ship. They'll say she swam
to shore. Meg will learn.

HENRY EDERLE

No. I'm saying no. If anyone is
to learn to swim, I will decide!

**AND NOW GERTRUD LOOKS AT HER HUSBAND -- A LOOK THAT SUDDENLY
HAS THE MASSIVE BUTCHER VERY QUIET. THE LOOK ONLY LASTS A
MATTER OF SECONDS -- BUT IT HAS AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT.**

HENRY EDERLE (CONT'D)

Summer. I've decided they will
learn in Summer! That's final!

**AND NOW THEY HEAR THE SOUND THEY'VE BEEN DREADING --
FOOTSTEPS ON THE STAIRS. MEG BURIES HER FACE DEEPER IN HER
SWEATER -- HIDING AS SHE SILENTLY CRIES.**

THE FOOTSTEPS COMING CLOSER -- ALL OF THEM SLOWLY GETTING TO
THEIR FEET -- KNOWING IT'S OVER. HENRY LOWERS HIS EYES --
CAN BARELY WATCH AS THE FOOTSTEPS FINALLY STOP --

**AND FROM THE DARKNESS TRUDY STANDS IN FRONT OF THEM AT THE
BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS.**

HER SKIN PALE AND HER HAIR STICKING UP. THEY ALL FREEZE AS
THEY STARE AT THEIR DAUGHTER --

TRUDY

Doctor Weiss fell asleep in the
chair. Is there any cheese? I'm
starving.

TRUDY WALKS PAST THEM AND HEADS FOR THE KITCHEN. SHE MOVES
WITHOUT A HINT OF GRACE -- ROUNDED SHOULDERS AND HEAVY FEET.
SHE YAWNS WIDE AS SHE SCRATCHES HERSELF LIKE A BEAR.

GERTRUD UP NOW -- QUICKLY TOUCHING TRUDY'S HEAD. HENRY LOOKS
TO GERTRUD -- WHO SLOWLY NODS. THE FEVER HAS BROKEN. HENRY
STEPS BACK IN SILENT DISBELIEF -- BENT PLAYING CARDS IN HIS
HANDS AS HE TURNS TO THE WINDOW TO HIDE HIS EMOTION.

MEG SLOWLY EMERGES FROM HER OWN SWEATER -- WALKS TOWARD HER
SISTER. SHE REACHES OUT AS IF SHE'S TOUCHING A GHOST --
TEARS IN HER EYES --

MEG

Trudy -- you're okay?

MEG GRABS HER NOW -- HOLDS HER FOR BEAT AS TRUDY REACHES FOR
SOME FOOD -- STARTS TO EAT -- SHOVELING THE FOOD IN.

TRUDY
I heard what you said, *Mutter*.

AND NOW TRUDY SMILES -- HER MOUTH FULL --

TRUDY (CONT'D)
When do we learn to swim?

7 EXT. - CONEY ISLAND. - DAY 7

THE BEACHES ARE FULL AS THE BUSY SUMMER SEASON BEGINS. ALL THE WOMEN WEAR HEAVY, LONG BATHING GOWNS WITH SKIRTS AND HATS THAT COVER EVERY INCH OF THEIR BODIES. WE SEE A FEW MEN IN THE CALM OCEAN -- MOST ONLY A FEW FEET OUT.

8 EXT. - CONEY ISLAND STARLIGHT PARK. - PUBLIC POOL. - DAY 8

MEG AND A FEW LOCAL GIRLS ARE IN THE "WOMEN ONLY" PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL LEARNING TO **DOG PADDLE**. THE SMALL POOL IS THREE FEET DEEP -- AND THE GIRLS WEAR LONG BATHING GOWNS WHICH WEIGH THEM DOWN. AN OLD INSTRUCTOR YELLS FROM THE SIDE OF THE POOL.

OLD MAN
Head up! Paddle faster -- like a dog!

ALL OF THE GIRLS LOOK TERRIFIED -- EXCEPT FOR MEG -- WHO GRACEFULLY MOVES THROUGH THE WATER AND EASILY MASTERS THE DOG PADDLE. NEXT TO THEM IN THE MASSIVE STARLIGHT POOL -- HENRY JR. IS BEING TAUGHT THE BREAST STROKE WITH THE OTHER BOYS. THIS POOL IS MASSIVE AND FULL OF ACTIVITY.

TRUDY LOOKS ENRAGED AS SHE STANDS ON THE SIDE OF THE GIRL'S POOL WITH HER MOTHER AND FATHER --

TRUDY
If Meg swims -- I swim!

HENRY EDERLE
And why do you need to swim so badly?

TRUDY
You won't let me play stickball!
You won't let me box!

HENRY EDERLE
Box! Keep your voice down!

TRUDY
I'm not allowed to cross two avenues by myself!

HENRY EDERLE

You have dolls -- many dolls! That one with the bottle cost 90 cents!

TRUDY

What am I suppose to do with a doll?

HENRY EDERLE

Feed it! It's hungry!

TRUDY

If you swim around the pier you get a free hot dog at Nathan's!

HENRY EDERLE

Little girls don't swim around things! The doctor said water will hurt your ears -- so that's final. Here's five cents for the hot dog!

TRUDY

I don't want to buy it. I want to win it.

TRUDY STORMS OFF TOWARD THE BOARDWALK.

A9

EXT. - CONEY ISLAND BOARDWALK. - CONTINUOUS

A9

TRUDY PASSES TWO POLICE OFFICERS WHO ARE ARRESTING A YOUNG WOMAN OFF THE BEACH --

POLICE OFFICER

Bare legs are not allowed!

TRUDY LOOKS AROUND -- SEES A STREET PERFORMER **PLAYING A UKULELE** AND SINGING FOR A SMALL CROWD ON THE BOARDWALK. AS TRUDY WALKS TOWARD THE MUSIC -- AN IDEA BEGINS TO FORM.

9

INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - SUNRISE

9

TRUDY HAS AN OLD UKULELE -- IS PLAYING "**AIN'T WE GOT FUN**" AND SINGING AND DANCING HER HEART OUT. HER VOICE IS APPALLINGLY LOUD AND OFF KEY --

TRUDY

*Every morning, every evening --
Ain't we got fun? Not much money,
oh, but honey -- Ain't we got fun?*

10

INT. - BEDROOM. - CONTINUOUS

10

GERTRUD AND HENRY AWAKE AS NEIGHBORS BANG ON THE THIN WALLS.

HENRY EDERLE

TRUDY!!

11 INT. - EDERLE BROTHERS BUTCHER SHOP. - DAY 11

TRUDY STANDS INSIDE THE BUTCHER SHOP PLAYING THE UKULELE --
HER FATHER AND UNCLES STANDING WITH BLOODY KNIVES AND SAWS.

TRUDY

(singing)

*Every morning, every evening --
Ain't we got fun? Not much money,
oh, but honey -- Ain't we got fun?*

HENRY EDERLE

You're scaring the customers away!

12 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - DAY 12

GERTRUD IS MAKING DINNER AS TRUDY SINGS AS LOUD AS SHE CAN --
MEG DANCING NEXT TO HER IN A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY.

TRUDY

*Every morning, every evening --
Ain't we got fun? Not much money,
oh, but honey -- Ain't we got fun?*

NEIGHBORS BANG ON THE WALLS AND CEILING ONCE MORE --

NEIGHBOR (O.S.)

GERT -- KEEP THAT CHILD QUIET!!

A NEIGHBOR SUDDENLY APPEARS AT THE WINDOW -- TAPS ON THE
GLASS AS SHE LEANS OVER THE RAIL FROM NEXT DOOR --

GERTRUD

TRUDY!!

13 INT. - TRUDY'S ROOM. - NIGHT 13

TRUDY'S YOUNGER SIBLINGS SLEEP WITH PILLOWS OVER THEIR HEADS
AS TRUDY FORCES HERSELF TO STAY AWAKE -- MEG BY HER SIDE.

TRUDY

(singing, half asleep)

*Every morning, every evening --
Ain't we got fun? Not much money,
oh, but honey -- Ain't we got fun?*

THE DOOR TO THE ROOM IS THROWN OPEN -- AND GERTRUD AND HENRY
ARE STANDING IN FRONT OF THEIR DAUGHTER. HENRY WALKS TOWARD
TRUDY WITH COTTON IN HIS EARS -- A LOOK OF RAGE IN HIS EYES.

HE WALKS TOWARD TRUDY -- GLANCES AT GERT -- THEN SILENTLY
THROWS A **BATHING GOWN** DOWN ON THE EDGE OF HER BED.

AND TRUDY CLUTCHES IT -- THROWS HERSELF INTO HER FATHER'S
ARMS AND ALMOST KNOCKS HIM OVER.

14 EXT. - CONEY ISLAND SHORE. - BROOKLYN. - DAY

14

TRUDY IS BEAMING AS HER FATHER TIES A LONG CLOTHES LINE
AROUND HER WAIST -- MEG AND GERTRUD WATCHING.

MEG
Why can't she learn in the pool?

GERTRUD
Trudy was sick -- they won't allow
it.

HENRY EDERLE
I will teach her myself! One time -
- and then we never discuss again!

GERTRUD
Do you know how to swim?

HENRY EDERLE
Of course! My father sold trout.

HENRY TAKES THE END OF THE LINE AND WALKS UP TO THE PIER --
STARTS WALKING PARALLEL TO THE SHORE.

HENRY EDERLE (CONT'D)
Go on then! Swim!

TRUDY LOOKS OUT TOWARD THE SEA -- WALKS TOWARD THE WATER AND
PUTS A TOE IN. SHE STARES AT THE CRASHING WAVES -- HENRY
STANDING ABOVE HER ON THE PIER HOLDING THE LINE LIKE A
FISHERMAN WAITING FOR A BITE. MEG WALKS TOWARD TRUDY --
TOUCHES HER SHOULDER.

MEG
Are you afraid?

TRUDY
Look at it, Meg. I wonder where it
ends.

MEG WATCHES AS HER SISTER SMILES AT THE SEA --

MEG
What are you waiting for? Go find
out.

HENRY EDERLE
 (yelling down)
 There is no reason to be scared --
 I've got you. Nice and slow...just
 your feet...put your toes in...

TRUDY STARTS TO SPRINT INTO THE SEA -- RUNNING STRAIGHT
 TOWARD THE WAVES --

HENRY EDERLE (CONT'D)
 No, Trudy -- TRUDY! WAIT!

AND HENRY HAS TO RUN ALONG THE PIER TO KEEP UP WITH HER --

GERTRUD INSTINCTIVELY MOVING TOWARD HER DAUGHTER -- STOPPING
 BEFORE HER FEET TOUCH THE WATER -- CLEARLY AFRAID --

TRUDY GETTING TO THE FIRST WAVE -- WHICH KNOCKS HER BACK --

MEG DIVING IN AFTER HER SISTER -- TRYING TO CHASE TRUDY DOWN --

TRUDY QUICKLY TO HER FEET -- CONTINUES TO MOVE OUT TO SEA AS
 MEG SWIMS AFTER HER --

HENRY TRYING TO REEL HER IN -- BUT TRUDY FIGHTS AGAINST THE
 ROPE LIKE A TUNA -- AND HENRY DROPS TO HIS KNEES -- IS
 PULLING BACK WITH ALL HE'S GOT --

A BIG WAVE COMING NOW AS TRUDY HEADS STRAIGHT FOR IT --

MEG REACHING OUT FOR HER -- TRYING TO GRAB HER -- BUT THE
 WAVE CRASHES OVER TRUDY'S HEAD --

AND SUDDENLY THE ROPE GOES SLACK -- AND HENRY STANDS UP --
 REALIZES THE ROPE HAS COME UNTIED --

HENRY EDERLE (CONT'D)
 TRUDY!

GERT SEARCHING FOR HER DAUGHTER FROM THE SHORE -- BUT TRUDY
 IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN --

UNDERWATER --

TRUDY IS GETTING ROLLED BY A WAVE -- DEAD SILENCE ALL AROUND
 HER -- A SILENCE THAT IS ALMOST COMFORTING --

15 MEG DOG PADDLES OUT -- SEARCHING AS THE WAVES CONTINUE TO 15
 COME -- A LONG BEAT AND THEN -- TRUDY POPS UP IN THE WHITE
 WATER -- TAKES A DEEP BREATH --

SHE 17 YEARS-OLD NOW -- STRONG AND CONFIDENT IN THE WATER.

A BIG SMILE ON TRUDY'S FACE AS SHE DOG PADDLES TOWARD MEG --

CAPTION: 1922

TRUDY

Race you around the pier!

AND TRUDY AND MEG START TO DOG PADDLE AROUND THE PIER --

16 EXT. - NATHAN'S HOT DOGS. - CONEY ISLAND. - DAY 16

TRUDY AND MEG ARE SOAKING WET AND SILENTLY DEVOURING THEIR FREE HOT DOGS -- SAVORING EVERY BITE.

TRUDY

You want another?

MEG

I can't eat four hot dogs.

TRUDY

Suit yourself. I'll be right back.

AND TRUDY WALKS TOWARD THE OCEAN --

17 EXT. - STARLIGHT PARK POOL. - BROOKLYN. - WEEKS LATER 17

A RACE IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE. TEENAGE BOYS LINED UP AT THE EDGE OF THE POOL -- A SMALL CROWD WATCHING.

JAMES SULLIVAN

Ladies and gentlemen, these boys represent the best of American -- athletes of the highest order who will compete in six races today. Some will go to the Olympics in Paris!

TRUDY AND MEG STAND BY THE POOL WAITING FOR THE RACE TO BEGIN -- EXCITEMENT IN THEIR EYES. MEG IS SNEAKING GLANCES AT THE TEENAGE BOYS -- ONE OF THEM (CHIP) LOOKING BACK AT HER.

TRUDY

Meg -- that boy is staring at you?

MEG TRIES TO BLOCK TRUDY -- BUT SHE KEEPS LOOKING.

MEG

Quiet! You don't know your onions.

TRUDY

I know my onions! I love onions.

MEG

Stop looking at him!

A STARTER'S GUN SOUNDS -- AND THE BOYS TAKE OFF IN THE WATER --
 - ALL USING THE BREAST STROKE.

TRUDY
 Meg -- join the next race. They
 don't look that fast.

A LIFEGUARD TURNS TO THEM --

LIFEGUARD
 Sorry girls. Boys only. The baby
 pool is over there.

TRUDY
 She could beat them!

LIFEGUARD
 I've seen her dog paddle. Maybe
 she could race a German Shepherd.

AND NOW WE PAN OVER TO GERTRUD -- WHO HAS BEEN STANDING
 BEHIND HER GIRLS. SHE STEPS FORWARD -- **GIVES THE LIFEGUARD A
 LONG STARE AS SHE SLOWLY SPEAKS IN GERMAN.**

GERTRUD
 (in German)
*Die Schnauze voll haben. Geh mir
 aus den Augen!*

THE CONFUSED LIFEGUARD STEPS BACK IN FEAR -- THEN QUICKLY
 RUNS AWAY.

18

INT. - EDERLE HOUSE. - NIGHT

18

TRUDY, MEG AND GERTRUD ARE PLACING THE FAMILY MEAL ON THE
 TABLE. HENRY AND HENRY JUNIOR ARE WAITING AT THE TABLE AS
 GERTRUD DISHES OUT THE STEW.

GERTRUD
 I've decided Meg and Trudy will
 join a swim team.

MEG AND TRUDY FREEZE -- HAD NO IDEA THIS WAS COMING.

HENRY EDERLE
 A what?

GERTRUD
 They will join a team. To race
 with other girls.

HENRY EDERLE
 You mean Henry will join --

GERTRUD

Not Henry. He hates to swim. The girls.

HENRY LOOKS AT HIS WIFE -- WHO CONTINUES TO SERVE DINNER.

HENRY EDERLE

You decided this!

ALL THE KIDS FROZEN -- WAITING FOR HIM TO EXPLODE. HENRY RISES -- IS ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING -- BUT HE QUICKLY SITS BACK AND STARTS TO LAUGH HYSTERICALLY.

HENRY EDERLE (CONT'D)

Yes. Wonderful! A swim team for Meg and Trudy! You go ahead!

HE LAUGHS SO HARD HE BEGINS TO CHOKE.

GERTRUD

And what's so funny?!

AND NOW HE CAN BARELY SAY THE WORDS --

HENRY EDERLE

For girls -- there's no such thing!

19 EXT. - NEW YORK CITY. - DAY 19

TRUDY AND MEG MOVE THROUGH THE PEDDLERS AND FRUIT CARTS WITH GERTRUD -- WALK STRAIGHT TOWARD THE PIEDMONT BUILDING -- A DILAPIDATED SIX STORY OFFICE BUILDING.

20 INT. - PIEDMONT BUILDING. - BASEMENT. - NEW YORK. - DAY 20

TRUDY AND MEG FOLLOW THEIR MOTHER DOWN A STEEP STAIRCASE. WHEN THEY GET TO THE BASEMENT THEY SEE A SIGN ON THE DOOR THAT READS: **BOILER ROOM.** AND NEXT TO IT A TINY HANDWRITTEN SIGN -- "**WOMEN'S SWIMMING ASSOCIATION.**"

21 INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - NEW YORK CITY. - DAY 21

TRUDY, MEG AND GERTRUD WALK INTO THE BASEMENT AND STARE AT THE NARROW 30-FOOT LONG PIEDMONT INDOOR SWIMMING POOL. THE WALLS ARE WET AND DIRTY FROM THE STEAM AND STIFLING HEAT --

CHARLOTTE "EPHY" EPSTEIN STANDS AT THE SIDE OF THE POOL PACING BACK AND FORTH. SHE IS FULL OF ENERGY -- IMPECCABLY DRESSED WITH WHITE GLOVES AND A HINT OF MAKE-UP. SHE WATCHES THE FIVE GIRLS AS THEY SWIM THE "AMERICAN CRAWL" (WHAT WE KNOW TODAY AS FREESTYLE.) THESE GIRLS ARE IN SPORTY SWIM TOPS AND SHORTS -- WHILE TRUDY AND MEG ARE IN SWIM DRESSES.

EPPY

Arms and legs kick together at
twenty-eight beats per minute! Not
twenty-six! Not twenty-seven!

TRUDY SMILING WIDE AS SHE WATCHES THE GIRLS GO BACK AND FORTH
-- TURNS TO MEG.

TRUDY

What are they doing?

EPPY

Twenty-eight beat American Crawl --
a stroke invented by Louis J.
Handley. Fastest stroke there is.

GERTRUD

Is Mr. Handley here? I wish to
speak to him about my girls.

EPPY

So you'd like to speak to the boss?
The man in charge?

AND NOW CHARLOTTE TURNS TO GERTRUD --

EPPY (CONT'D)

Men believe that women who exercise
will harm themselves -- become
incapable of producing offspring.
That we're too weak to run, swim,
compete -- that our hearts will
explode! Yet in nature it's the
lioness who hunts while the lions
sit on their big asses -- and it's
the Queen Bee who rules the hive!
And what do the little male bees do
-- they mate and then they die!
You see my point?

GERTRUD HAS NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT.

EPPY (CONT'D)

I'm Charlotte Epstein -- and this
is my team. Call me Eppy.

EPPY REACHES OUT TO SHAKE HANDS -- AND NOW GERTRUD IS EVEN
MORE CONFUSED.

GERTRUD

This is Meg and Trudy. They won a
free hot dog.

EPPY

My girls are the fastest women
swimmers in the United States.

(MORE)

EPPY (CONT'D)

Aileen Riggan and Helen Wainwright
were the first women to compete in
the Olympics. To swim in this pool
-- you'll have to catch them.

22

INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - LATER

22

RIGGIN, WAINWRIGHT AND THE REST OF THE SWIMMERS SIT ON THE EDGE OF THE POOL TRYING NOT TO LAUGH AS THEY WATCH MEG AND TRUDY DOG PADDLE ACROSS THE POOL -- TRUDY'S ARMS FLAILING ABOUT. EPPY STUDIES THEM BOTH BEFORE TURNING TO GERTRUD.

EPPY

I can take the older one -- she's got potential. Very graceful and beautiful.

GERTRUD

And Trudy?

EPPY

She swims like a horse with two broken legs. Quite possibly three. You see the way she fights the water -- we call that drowning.

GERTRUD

If you want Meg -- you take Trudy.

EPPY

I'm sorry. I'll take the swan --

GERTRUD

Trudy is very strong. And has no fear. You see that, can't you? She swims alone in the ocean -- goes as far as the boys.

AND NOW EPPY YELLS AT TRUDY --

EPPY

FEET! KICK YOUR FEET, CHILD!

GERTRUD

She's a good girl -- will do exactly what you say. She wants to be like her sister. She could help you clean this place up.

AND NOW EPPY CONSIDERS THIS --

EPPY

Part of my agreement here is to feed the boiler. I have to keep it running all day -- bring in coal for the stoker. Sixty pound bags.

GERTRUD GLANCES AT THE BOILER --

GERTRUD

Trudy will help with the furnace.

EPPY

Congratulations. Your girls just joined the Women's Swimming Association. That will be two dollars a week -- each. Will that be a problem?

23 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT

23

HENRY IS HOME FROM WORK -- WASHING THE BLOOD FROM HIS HANDS. GERTRUD POURS HIM A CUP OF BEER FROM THE BUCKET --

HENRY EDERLE

Absolutely not! Two dollars to swim! Swimming is free! I'm saving money to buy a telephone!

GERTRUD

A telephone? For what reason?

HENRY EDERLE

I'm not sure. But I want one.

GERTRUD SITS DOWN AT THE SEWING TABLE -- STARTS TO WORK.

HENRY EDERLE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

GERTRUD

If you won't pay. I will.

SHE STARTS UP THE SEWING MACHINE --

HENRY EDERLE

What about dinner?

GERTRUD

I'm not hungry thank you.

24 EXT. - AMSTERDAM AVENUE. - DAY

24

GERTRUD IS STANDING IN FRONT OF A STREET PEDDLER -- SHOWING HIM TEN HANDSEWN FLOWER PIECES SHE'S MADE FOR HIS HATS. HE HANDS HER SOME COINS --

25 INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - WEEKS LATER

25

MEG AND THE OTHER GIRLS ARE SWIMMING FREESTYLE ACROSS THE POOL. MEG IS KEEPING UP WITH THEM -- ALREADY UP TO SPEED.

TRUDY IS WHISTLING AS SHE HAPPILY CARRIES IN A BAG OF COAL FROM THE STREET AND DUMPS IT INTO THE STOKER NEXT TO THE BOILER. EPPY GLANCES OVER AT TRUDY -- WATCHES HER WORK --

26 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NEW YORK CITY 26

GERTRUD IS TEACHING MEG TO SEW.

THE SEWING TABLE IS FULL OF SEWN FLOWERS -- FIFTY OF THEM.

27 EXT. - CONEY ISLAND. - DAY 27

TRUDY SWIMS ALONE IN THE OCEAN -- TRYING HARD TO IMITATE THE AMERICAN CRAWL AS SHE SWIMS IN A CROOKED LINE OUT TO SEA.

ON SHORE MEG IS SITTING WITH A GROUP OF GIRLS -- ALL OF THEM TALKING TO THE BOYS FROM THE SWIM TEAM. MEG LOOKS AROUND -- AND AFTER A BEAT SHE REMOVES THE BOTTOM STOCKINGS FROM HER SWIM SUIT -- EXPOSING HER CALF.

28 INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - DAY 28

TRUDY IS COVERED IN BLACK SOOT -- DRAGGING ANOTHER BAG OF COAL AS RUTH AND MILLIE APPROACH FROM THE POOL.

RUTH

Trudy -- you have a little dirt on your chin.

THE GIRLS LAUGHING NOW --

MILLIE

Why don't you run to the corner and buy us a sinker.

RUTH

We said go to the corner and get us a doughnut. You hear us, boiler girl?

THE GIRLS KNOCK OVER THE COAL BAG -- AND TRUDY STARTS TO CLEAN IT UP.

MILLIE

What's wrong -- you have sand in your ears! You'd rather have sauerkraut?

MEG

Leave her alone.

MEG IS SOAKING WET -- STANDING BEHIND THE TWO GIRLS AND READY TO FIGHT -- PROTECTING HER SISTER.

RUTH

She needs you to fight?

MEG

Trudy beat measles. You goons
wouldn't stand a chance.

EPPY

Back in the water, girls!

THE GIRLS DIVE IN AS EPPY WALKS OVER TO TRUDY -- STANDS IN FRONT OF HER. TRUDY IS COVERED IN SOOT --

EPPY (CONT'D)
You had measles?

TRUDY
It went to my ears. But I hear just fine.

EPPY
I lost my Mother to Spanish flu.

TRUDY
I'm sorry, Mrs. Epstein.

EPPY
They tell you not to go in the water -- that you could go deaf.

TRUDY
Oh yes. They told me. Many times!

EPPY
Well nobody told me. This is a team for athletes, not a sanatorium. Go home, Trudy.

BUT TRUDY DOESN'T BUDGE --

EPPY (CONT'D)
I said go home. The other girls laugh at you -- why don't you fight back?

TRUDY
You won't let me in the pool.

TRUDY GOES BACK TO THE BOILER. EPPY EYES HER NOW -- TURNS TO THE GIRLS IN THE POOL --

EPPY
We're going to start something new. Every day you'll race each other. Last place feeds the boiler. Starting now.

29

INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - DAY -- MONTAGE

29

TRUDY IS BEHIND THE OTHER GIRLS IN THE POOL -- HER STRONG ARMS BREAKING THROUGH THE WATER WITH INCREDIBLE POWER --

EPPY
TWENTY-EIGHT BEATS A MINUTE, TRUDY!
LIKE MUSIC!

EPPY STARTS TO SING -- BANGS HER HAND ON THE DECK.

EPPY (CONT'D)

*All around the water tank waiting
for a train -- a thousand miles
from home -- sleeping in the rain!*

TRUDY STRUGGLES AS THE OTHER GIRLS TOUCH THE SIDE --

WE SEE TRUDY AT THE BOILER DRAGGING A BAG OF COAL --

30 INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - NEW YORK CITY. 30

TRUDY IS RACING AGAIN -- BUT THIS TIME EPPY IS BANGING ON A METAL TRASH CAN TO KEEP THE BEAT.

EPPY
*-- a thousand miles from home --
sleeping in the rain!*

SUDDENLY THERE'S A RHYTHM TO TRUDY'S STROKE -- A POWER THAT CAUSES HER TO SURGE A BIT FORWARD --

SHE COMES IN LAST AGAIN --

TRUDY IS SOAKING WET AND COVERED IN SOOT AS SHE FEEDS THE BOILER --

31 INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - DAY 31

TRUDY HAS CAUGHT ONE OF THE GIRLS (MILLIE) -- IS RACING HER TO THE END FOR LAST PLACE --

MEG
Come on, Trudy! COME ON!!

THE OTHER GIRLS CHEERING FOR MILLIE AS HANDS TOUCH THE WALL AND THEY BOTH LOOK UP AT EPPY.

EPPY
Millie. Feed the boiler.

32 INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - LATER 32

MILLIE IS CRYING AS SHE STRUGGLES TO CARRY A SACK OF COAL TO THE BOILER. TRUDY FLOATS IN THE POOL -- A HUGE SMILE ON HER FACE AS EPPY CALLS TO HER FROM THE SIDE --

EPPY
Learn to kick your feet and you'll
never leave the pool again.

33 EXT. - CONEY ISLAND OCEAN. - SUNSET 33

TRUDY IS SWIMMING TOWARD AN ORANGE SUNSET -- ALONE AND WAY PAST THE PIER -- SWIMMING IN A PERFECTLY STRAIGHT LINE. ON THE BEACH MEG IS WRAPPED IN A TOWEL AS **CHIP ANDERSON** COMES UP BEHIND HER -- THE BLONDE BOY WHO WAS EYEING HER FROM THE SWIM TEAM.

CHIP

She shouldn't swim alone at night.
There's sharks out there.

MEG

There's more sharks on shore.

CHIP

Doesn't look very safe, Meg.

MEG

You know my name?

CHIP

Lucky guess. She's a half mile out
-- you want me to save her?

MEG

My sister doesn't need to be saved
by any boy.

CHIP

What about you? And boys, I mean?

MEG

My father is a butcher. Spends all
day with a bone saw -- tossing raw
meat into the grinder. My advice --
save yourself, Chip.

CHIP

You know my name?

MEG

Lucky guess.

AND WITH THAT MEG SMILES AND TURNS TO WALK AWAY.

34

INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NEW YORK CITY. - NIGHT

34

AS MEG AND TRUDY WALK IN THE FRONT DOOR THEY SEE THE ENTIRE
FAMILY STARING AT THEM. A TWENTY YEAR-OLD BOY (HORST) SITS
AT THE DINNER TABLE WITH THE REST OF THE FAMILY. THE BOY IS
TERRIFIED -- HOLDING A BAG OF NUTS. HENRY RUSHES TOWARD THE
GIRLS -- ALMOST SHOVES MEG OUT OF THE WAY AS HE GRABS TRUDY.

HENRY EDERLE

Where have you girls been? Trudy,
come here. This is Horst -- just
arrived from Heidelberg. His
father is cousins with Rolfe's
wife. You know Rolfe's cart in
front of my store --

HENRY JUNIOR
The nut peddler.

HENRY EDERLE

The most delicious nuts. His English is not so good, but he's learning.

HORST

Nuts!

HE OFFERS TRUDY THE BAG OF NUTS. DEAD SILENCE FOR A BEAT. TRUDY NERVOUSLY LAUGHS OUT LOUD -- CAN'T HELP HERSELF.

HENRY EDERLE

Horst is going to stay for supper.

35

INT. - EDERLE KITCHEN. - NIGHT

35

DINNER IS OVER. TRUDY, MEG AND GERTRUD ARE IN THE KITCHEN CLEANING.

MEG

(whispering)

Mother -- you have to stop this!

TRUDY

What's happening?

MEG

They're trying to arrange a marriage.

TRUDY

For who?

MEG

YOU!! AND HORST!!

TRUDY STARTS TO SCREAM -- AND MEG COVERS HER MOUTH.

GERTRUD

Your father just wants Trudy to meet him. For later.

TRUDY STILL TRYING TO SCREAM --

GERTRUD (CONT'D)

This is how it's done.

TRUDY

But Meg is the oldest! Why has he never brought a boy for her?

GERTRUD

Because Meg's arrangement has been made -- a boy from the Durshley family in Hamburg. His name is Karl -- he'll arrive as a butcher's apprentice.

AND NOW MEG STARTS TO SCREAM AND TRUDY COVERS HER MOUTH --

MEG

You think I'd marry a butcher?

GERTRUD

Your father only knows the old ways. Like how I was taught to gut a chicken.

AND NOW GERTRUD LEANS IN -- LOOKS VERY SERIOUS AS SHE GRABS A KNIFE AND WHISPERS TO HER GIRLS.

GERTRUD (CONT'D)

You cut off the neck at the backbone. Then get rid of the head. You see -- all gone.

GERTRUD WALKS OUT OF THE KITCHEN --

TRUDY

Meg -- what's happening?! Is she telling us to kill him?!

MEG

She's telling us to gut the chicken.

36

EXT. - HUDSON PIER. - NIGHT

36

A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT ON THE RIVER -- THE LONG PIER ALMOST EMPTY. MEG AND TRUDY WALK WITH HORST TOWARD THE END OF PIER -- HORST SNEAKING GLANCES AT TRUDY --

MEG

I'll wait by the end of the pier, Trudy. Okay?

TRUDY

Right. Got it.

HORST AND TRUDY STAND TOGETHER IN THE MOONLIGHT -- THE SMALL NUT FARMER STARING INTO HER EYES. HORST SLOWLY REACHES OUT TO TAKE TRUDY'S HAND, BUT SHE AVOIDS IT.

HORST

Trudy...I am Horst.

TRUDY
Yes. Horst. Meg?!

HORST
Horst. Trudy.

AS HE TAKES HER HAND WE HEAR SCREAMING --

MEG
TRUDY -- HELP ME!!!

TRUDY AND HORST RUSH TOWARD MEG -- WHO IS DANGLING OVER THE
SIDE OF THE PIER -- HOLDING ON FOR DEAR LIFE.

MEG (CONT'D)
I SLIPPED, TRUDY! DON'T LET ME
FALL!!

MEG IS HOLDING ON AS TRUDY AND HORST TRY TO PULL HER IN.

MEG (CONT'D)
I CAN'T HOLD ON MUCH LONGER!!
PLEASE -- HELP ME!! I DON'T WANT
TO DIE!!!

TRUDY
TAKE MY HAND! I'VE GOT YOU!!

MEG GRABS TRUDY'S HAND NOW -- DANGLES HER OVER THE WATER AS
HORST STARES AT THEM BOTH -- TERRIFIED.

MEG
HERE WE GO!!

AND NOW MEG PULLS TRUDY OVER WITH HER -- AND THE TWO OF THEM
GO FLYING OVER THE EDGE OF THE PIER AND DISAPPEAR INTO THE
DARKNESS OF THE WATER -- A DISTANT SPLASH IS ALL THAT'S LEFT.

HORST STARING DOWN IN SILENT DISBELIEF -- HAS NO IDEA HOW TO
SWIM -- STARTS TO SCREAM AS HE TURNS TO THE EMPTY PIER --

HORST
NUTS!! NUTS!!!!

37 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT

37

TRUDY AND MEG ARE WRAPPED IN TOWELS AND SITTING ACROSS FROM
THEIR FATHER -- WHO IS FURIOUS.

HENRY EDERLE
I'm not going to ask again. Where
is Horst?

TRUDY

I don't know. When we came out of
the water he was gone. Left in a
big hurry...

MEG

Trudy saved my life.

TRUDY TRYING NOT TO LAUGH, CAN'T HELP HERSELF. SHE LAUGHS SO
HARD SHE FALLS ONTO THE FLOOR. SHE STARTS FARTING AS SHE
LAUGHS -- AND NOW MEG FALLS ON THE FLOOR NEXT TO HER -- THE
TWO GIRLS HYSTERICAL --

TRUDY/MEG

NUTS!! NUTS!!

IN THE KITCHEN GERTRUD IS BITING ON A TOWEL TO KEEP FROM
LAUGHING --

HENRY EDERLE

That's it! No swimming! For both
of you! One month!

AND NOW GERTRUD STOPS LAUGHING -- STEPS OUT FROM THE KITCHEN
AND SLAPS THE DINNER TABLE --

HENRY EDERLE (CONT'D)

Two days! No swimming for two
days!

WE FOLLOW THE GIRLS AS THEY RUSH UP THE STAIRS LAUGHING --
MEG STOPPING WHEN SHE HEARS --

HENRY EDERLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Horst is a fine boy! Who did you
think will marry a girl like Trudy!

GERTRUD (O.S.)

Lower your voice!

MEG LISTENING NOW -- LOOKS TOWARD TRUDY AT THE TOP OF THE
STAIRS (UNABLE TO HEAR HER PARENTS). --

HENRY EDERLE (O.S.)

SHE'S SHY -- HAS NO FRIENDS --
TROUBLE HEARING! WHAT KIND OF
FUTURE DOES SHE HAVE? WHO WILL
TAKE CARE OF HER?!

MEG QUICKLY UP THE STAIRS NOW -- GRABS HER SISTER AND PULLS
HER INTO THE BEDROOM --

TRUDY

What's wrong?

MEG

Nothing. We're stuck with each other, Trudy. Forever.

TRUDY

Forever.

MEG

Let's go to the movies.

38 INT. - WAITZMAN MOVIE HALL. - DAY

38

IN THE SILENT MOVIE HALL WE HEAR ORGAN MUSIC PLAY AS TRUDY SITS NEXT TO MEG AND HENRY JR. EATING FROM BAGS OF NUTS. ON SCREEN WE SEE GRAINY FOOTAGE OF THE **ENGLISH CHANNEL** -- A "NEWS OF THE WORLD" LOGO CUTS TO A MAN SWIMMING THROUGH CHOPPY WATERS. HENRY JR. ATTEMPTS TO READ THE TITLE CARDS --

HENRY JUNIOR
(reading titles)
William Burgess -- second man to
swim the English Channel.

WE SEE BURGESS EMERGE FROM THE SEA -- A THICK MAN WEARING CAP AND GOGGLES -- **THE KIDS IN THE THEATER LAUGHING** AT THE SIGHT OF THIS STRANGE MAN STANDING BY THE CLIFFS OF DOVER.

HENRY JUNIOR (CONT'D)
(reading)
Burgess spent twenty-two hours and
thirty-five minutes in the water.
The Queen congratulates a British
hero.

AS THE OTHER KIDS LAUGH TRUDY STARES AT BURGESS ON SCREEN --

MEG
Twenty-two hours in that water?
It's not possible.

BUT TRUDY JUST STARES AT THE SCREEN -- A BIG SMILE ON HER FACE AS SHE EYES THE ENGLISH CHANNEL. SUDDENLY RUTH COMES RUNNING DOWN THE AISLE --

RUTH
Meg -- there's going to be a race
next week! The best swimmers are
coming from Australia!

MEG
There's a race every week.

RUTH
Not the boys, Meg. Us!

39 EXT. - STARLIGHT PARK POOL -- CONEY ISLAND. - DAY

39

JAMES SULLIVAN, BLACK SUIT AND STRAW HAT, STANDS ON THE EDGE OF THE STARLIGHT POOL. GERTRUD WATCHES WITH A SMALL CROWD. PHOTOGRAPHERS YAWNING AS PEOPLE WALK BY WITHOUT STOPPING.

JAMES SULLIVAN

Ladies and gentlemen, the A.O.U. welcomes the champion swimmers from Australia! And here are the six brave American girls who will be competing in today's exhibition. Remember, these graceful birds have all been trained by professionals, which is why we are allowing them in the men's pool!

EPPY

We refer to them as athletes, Mr. Sullivan. Not birds.

TRUDY AND THE GIRLS STAND IN THEIR SWIM DRESSES AND SKIRTS HOLDING SMALL AMERICAN FLAGS --

JAMES SULLIVAN

And now I will introduce the Australians -- led by the fastest female in the world -- Annette Kellerman!

THE AUSTRALIAN GIRLS STEP FORWARD -- AND ANNETTE KELLERMAN TAKES OFF HER OVERCOAT TO **REVEAL A SHORT, ONE-PIECE SWIM SUIT**. THE MEN IN THE CROWD SUDDENLY RUSHING FORWARD -- KELLERMAN TAKING OFF HER STOCKINGS TO REVEAL BARE LEGS.

JAMES SULLIVAN (CONT'D)

STAY BACK!

PANDEMONIUM AT THE POOL AS THE AUSTRALIAN GIRLS SHOW OFF THEIR LEGS -- ALL SMILING AND ENJOYING THE ATTENTION --

A POLICEMEN TRYING TO COVER THE AUSTRALIANS WITH HIS COAT AS PHOTOGRAPHERS MOVE IN AND A NEAR RIOT BREAKS OUT. SULLIVAN TURNS TO EPPY --

JAMES SULLIVAN (CONT'D)

Athletes?

40

EXT. - STARLIGHT POOL. - LATER

40

THE GIRLS ARE LINED UP ON THE EDGE OF THE POOL WAITING TO RACE. THE CROWD HAS GROWN -- MEN LINED UP AROUND THE POOL -- ALL CHEERING FOR THE HALF DRESSED AUSTRALIANS.

EPPY STEPS BEHIND HER GIRLS.

EPPY

Meg -- you have the speed to stay with Kellerman. When she breaks -- you break with her.

TRUDY

What should I do, Mrs. Epstein?

EPPY

Stay out of their way.

JAMES SULLIVAN

Ladies -- there are lifeguards at both ends for your safety -- and a medical doctor is standing by! The girls will race four laps -- 200 meters!

THE GIRLS ARE READY -- STAND ON THE EDGE OF THE POOL -- TRUDY SMILING AT THE AUSTRALIANS -- WHO ARE ALL BUSINESS --

AS THE GUN FIRES AND THE GIRLS DIVE INTO THE WATER -- TRUDY TRIPS OVER HER OWN FEET AND FALLS HEAD FIRST INTO THE POOL --

EPPY COVERING HER FACE AS TRUDY COMES UP LAUGHING --

TRUDY

SORRY!!

MEG SWIMMING NEXT TO KELLERMAN -- THE WOMEN BUNCHED TOGETHER IN THEIR LANES AS TRUDY STARTS TO SWIM FAR BEHIND THE PACK --

JAMES SULLIVAN

The Australians take the lead!

MEG IN THE WATER SWIMMING NEXT TO KELLERMAN -- KEEPING PACE --

TRUDY FINALLY GETS HER STROKE -- BREAKS THROUGH AND BEGINS TO MAKE UP GROUND -- HER LONG ARMS AND POWERFUL STROKE CUTTING THROUGH THE WATER LIKE A KNIFE --

CLOSE ON TRUDY AS SHE SWIMS --

JAMES SULLIVAN (CONT'D)

Three laps to go!

EVERYTHING SILENT IN THE WATER -- THE EXPRESSION ON HER FACE ONE OF PURE JOY AS SHE MOVES IN THE WATER -- ALONE AND FREE

EPPY NERVOUSLY SINGING TO HERSELF AS SHE WATCHES HER GIRLS --

EPPY

*All around the water tank waiting
for a train -- a thousand miles
from home -- sleeping in the rain!*

JAMES SULLIVAN

Two laps to go and it appears to be neck and neck between Meg Ederle and Annette Kellerman!

GERTRUD LOOKING DOWN FROM THE STANDS AS MEG SWIMS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN -- BOTH REACHING THE FAR END OF THE POOL --

AND THEN GERTRUD NOTICES SOMETHING -- TRUDY IS COMING UP FAST IN THE FAR LANE -- PASSING SEVERAL GIRLS -- SUDDENLY NECK AND NECK WITH HER SISTER AT THE END. AND NOW TRUDY STOPS --

TRUDY
MEG?! SHOULD I WAIT?

AND MEG LOOKS AT HER SISTER --

MEG
GO!!!!!!

AND TRUDY PUSHES OFF HARD -- STARTS TO SURGE AHEAD OF KELLERMAN --

JAMES SULLIVAN
THE FINAL LAP AND THERE IS ONE GIRL
OUT FRONT! AN AMERICAN IN THE FAR
LANE!

EPPY STEPS FORWARD -- MOVES IN FRONT OF TRUDY'S LANE NOW --

EPPY
Trudy?! KICK!!! KICK THOSE FEET!!

TRUDY IS ALONE OUT FRONT -- PICKING UP SPEED AS THE REST OF THE GIRLS TIRE -- HER LEAD GROWING WITH EACH STROKE AS SHE STARTS TO KICK TOWARD THE END. THE CROWD CHEERING -- REALIZING AN AMERICAN IS WAY OUT FRONT.

JAMES SULLIVAN
THE AMERICAN TRUDY EDERLE IS AHEAD
BY FIVE BODY LENGTHS!!!

EPPY LOOKING AT HER WATCH AS TRUDY COMES TOWARD THE FINISH.

EPPY
ALL AROUND THE WATER TANK ---
WAITING ON A TRAIN!!

TRUDY CHARGING WITH A FEROCIOUS KICK THAT HAS HER MOVING FURTHER AND FURTHER AHEAD -- HER EASE IN THE WATER SHOWING AS THE REST OF THE GIRLS STRUGGLE.

GERTRUD TO HER FEET -- SHOWS NO EXPRESSION -- SIMPLY NODS TO HERSELF.

GERTRUD
That's that.

TRUDY TOUCHES THE END AS EPPY STARES DOWN AT HER WATCH -- COMPARES HER TIME WITH SOME MALE COACHES. ALL OF THEM LOOK CONFUSED --

EPPY

Two minutes forty-four seconds.

TRUDY LOOKS UP AT EPPY -- A BIT CONFUSED AS THE OTHER GIRLS COME IN BEHIND HER. AND NOW THE CROWD SURGES TOWARD THE AUSTRALIANS AS THEY EXIT THE POOL -- THE POLICE AND PHOTOGRAPHERS SURROUNDING THEM.

TRUDY STANDS ALONE AS A STUNNED EPPY WALKS UP TO HER --

TRUDY

I stayed out of their way.

41 INT. - EDERLE BUTCHER SHOP. - DAY

41

GERTRUD, MEG AND TRUDY WALK INTO THE BUTCHER SHOP -- PASSING CUSTOMERS AND HANGING SLABS OF MEAT. GERTRUD LOOKS AT HENRY -
- HOLDS UP A SMALL BLUE RIBBON.

GERTRUD

Your daughter Trudy has the record
in 200 meters swimming.

HENRY EDERLE

What record?

GERTRUD

World.

AND SHE STICKS THE RIBBON IN A LARGE SIDE OF BEEF -- THEN TURNS TO WALK OUT. HENRY STARES AT THE RIBBON IN COMPLETE CONFUSION -- THE UNCLES ALL STANDING BEHIND HIM.

UNCLE JAN

What is that?

HENRY EDERLE

She won a blue ribbon.

UNCLE JAN

Like a cow?

HENRY TAKES THE RIBBON -- PUTS IT IN A DRAWER.

HENRY EDERLE

Get back to work!

42 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT - KITCHEN. - NIGHT

42

GERTRUD IS IN THE KITCHEN MAKING DINNER AS MEG AND TRUDY LAUGH AND SING TOGETHER.

TRUDY/MEG

*Yes, we have no bananas. We have
no bananas today.*

(MORE)

TRUDY/MEG (CONT'D)
*We've string beans and onions,
cabbages and scallions, and all
sorts of fruit today...*

THE GIRLS DANCING AROUND THEIR FATHER --

TRUDY/MEG (CONT'D)
*Just try those coconuts, those
walnuts and doughnuts -- we'll sell
you two kinds of red herring, dark
brown and ball-bearing! YES, WE
HAVE NO BANANAS -- WE HAVE NO
BANANAS TODAY --*

HENRY SITS AT THE TABLE -- THE FRONT PAGE OF HIS NEWSPAPER SHOWS THE AUSTRALIAN GIRLS. HE TURNS TO THE BACK PAGE AND SEES A TINY HEADLINE. **AMERICAN SHOCKS AUSTRALIANS.**

HENRY JUNIOR
Trudy's name is in the paper.

HENRY EDERLE
Yes. Next to the dead people.

43 EXT. - SWIMMING POOL. - DAY 43

WE SEE TRUDY WINNING A CLOSE RACE AGAINST MEG, RIGGINS AND WAINWRIGHT -- EPPY HOLDING HER WATCH IN HAND.

EPPY
Four twenty-eight!

GERTRUD WATCHES FROM THE STANDS WITH HENRY --

GERTRUD
That's that.

44 EXT. - WINNER'S PLATFORM. - DAY 44

TRUDY IS HANDED A SMALL TROPHY -- FIVE PEOPLE IN THE CROWD AS SHE SMILES AND WAVES -- HER FATHER NOW STANDING NEXT TO HER AS GERTRUD STAYS OFF TO THE SIDE.

MEG IS GIVEN THE SECOND PLACE RIBBON -- THEN TURNING AND FINDING CHIP IN THE CROWD. THEIR EYES MEET -- AND SHE DOESN'T TURN AWAY.

45 EXT. - POOL. - CONTINUOUS 45

WE SEE TRUDY'S HAND TOUCHING THE WALL AGAIN AND AGAIN -- A FEW YOUNG GIRLS NOW WATCHING FROM THE STANDS --

MEG TOUCHES THE WALL -- COMES IN THIRD.

46 EXT. - POOL. - DAY 46

EPPY IS GIVING AN INTERVIEW AT THE EDGE OF THE POOL.

EPPY
Trudy is a very gifted athlete -

REPORTER
Does she like to bake? We'd like to get a photo of her in the kitchen with a pie. Do German's eat pie?

EPPY

She holds four world records --
nobody has done this before.

REPORTER

She'd probably do well in a dance
marathon? Has she considered that?

47 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - DAY 47

RIBBONS AND SMALL TROPHIES FILL A CORNER OF THE APARTMENT -- ALL DISPLAYED WITH GREAT CARE BY TRUDY AND MEG.

TWO MEN CARRY A **TELEPHONE** INSIDE THE APARTMENT -- PLACE IT ON THE TABLE IN FRONT OF HENRY. HE STARES AT IT WITH THE REST OF THE FAMILY -- A BIT CONFUSED.

HENRY JUNIOR
Now what happens?

HENRY EDERLE
I wait for a call. Nobody touches
this but me.

HENRY AND HIS SON SIT TOGETHER FOR A LONG BEAT STARING AT THE PHONE. SUDDENLY HENRY PICKS IT UP AND HOLDS IT TO HIS EAR --

HENRY JUNIOR
What are you doing?

HENRY EDERLE
Practicing. Hello. *Hello.*

48 EXT. - CONEY ISLAND - DAY 48

YOUNG GIRLS ARE ASKING FOR AUTOGRAPHS AFTER A RACE -- TRUDY SURROUNDED.

TRUDY
What's your name?

AMELIA
Amelia.

THE GIRL TOUCHES TRUDY'S ARM -- FEELS HER MUSCLE.

AMELIA (CONT'D)
Trudy -- what is that?

TRUDY
That's a muscle.

AMELIA
I want one. Where did you get it?

WE PUSH THROUGH THE CROWD -- SEE MEG STANDING OFF TO THE SIDE BY HERSELF. SHE LOOKS ACROSS THE BOARDWALK AT CHIP.

49 EXT. - STARLIGHT POOL. - DAY 49

MEG HIDES UNDER THE BLEACHERS EATING ICE CREAM WITH CHIP. AS HE REACHES TO TAKE HER HAND --

WE WATCH THROUGH THE BLEACHERS AS TRUDY WINS ANOTHER RACE.
CLOSE ON A WATCH -- EPPY AND THE OTHER COACHES --

EPPY

Trudy just broke the world record
in the 500 meters. By 40 seconds.

GERTRUD WATCHES FROM THE STANDS --

GERTRUD

That's that.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen -- the fastest
female swimmer in the world! She
breaks records every 100 meters!
Trudy Ederle!

A SMALL CROWD CHEERS FOR TRUDY AS SHE COMES OUT OF THE POOL.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

And here's the fastest man in the
world -- Johnny Weissmuller!

AND NOW THE CROWD ERUPTS AS A TALL, 21 YEAR-OLD BOY STANDS
NEXT TO HER -- A LANKY, HANDSOME KID WITH A WINNING SMILE.
JOHNNY WEISSMULLER IS SHIRTLESS -- PUTS HIS ARM AROUND TRUDY --
- AND SHE CAN'T HELP BUT SCREAM AS HE HOLDS HER -- EVENTUALLY
PUTTING A HAND OVER HER OWN MOUTH -

JOHNNY WEISSMULLER

So when are we going to race,
Trudy?

JOHNNY LETS GO OF HER -- DOES A BACK FLIP INTO THE POOL -- A
NATURAL SHOWMAN WHO HAS THE CROWD GOING WILD. JOHNNY LOOKS
UP AT TRUDY FROM THE POOL --

JOHNNY WEISSMULLER (CONT'D)

Come on! Just the two of us. A
hundred meters.

AND TRUDY IMMEDIATELY MOVES TOWARD THE POOL -- SUDDENLY ALL
BUSINESS. JOHNNY'S SMILE STARTS TO FADE AS HE REALIZES SHE'S
READY TO RACE HERE AND NOW. BEFORE SHE CAN GET IN THE WATER
EPPY GRABS HER BY THE HAND -- LEADS HER AWAY --

EPPY

No, Trudy. It's time for the men
to race.

TRUDY

But he wants to race me, Mrs.
Epstein.

EPPY

He's the fastest man in the world.

EPPY STARES AT TRUDY NOW -- SEES THE INTENSITY IN HER EYES.

EPPY (CONT'D)

You think you could win, don't you?

TRUDY

Isn't that what I'm supposed to think?

50

INT. - EDERLE BUTCHER SHOP. - DAY

50

A SILVER ROLL ROYCE PULLS UP IN FRONT OF THE SHOP, AND A DRIVER OPENS THE DOOR FOR JAMES SULLIVAN.

HENRY AND THE UNCLES ALL WATCH AS SULLIVAN WALKS INTO THE SHOP. TRUDY AND MEG ARE MOPPING THE FLOOR AND CLEANING KNIVES -- STOP WHEN THEY SEE HIM.

JAMES SULLIVAN

Henry Ederle? Trudy's father?

HENRY EDERLE

Yes?

SULLIVAN REACHES OUT TO SHAKE HIS HAND -- TRIES NOT TO REACT WHEN HE SEES ALL THE BLOOD.

JAMES SULLIVAN

James Sullivan, A.O.U. After months of consideration I have decided to send six female swimmers to the Olympic Games in Paris, France. Congratulations.

HENRY EDERLE

Okay. Why? For what?

JAMES SULLIVAN

Sir, we will show the world that America is not afraid to let women compete -- as long as it's not archery. Archery is inherently dangerous -- there are arrows.

HENRY EDERLE

And when it's over. Then what?

JAMES SULLIVAN

Then she'll have four gold medals.

TRUDY AND MEG WALK AROUND THE COUNTER WEARING BLOODY APRONS.

JAMES SULLIVAN (CONT'D)

Trudy, we expect great things from you in Paris. There's going to be a recipe exchange with the French. Have you ever had mousse?

TRUDY
What about Meg?

JAMES SULLIVAN
 Meg's a wonderful swimmer. There
 were only a few spots. I'm sorry.

MEG STARES AT THEM -- TURNS AND RUNS OUT THE DOOR.

51 EXT. - AMSTERDAM AVENUE. - DAY 51

TRUDY RUSHES OUTSIDE -- WATCHES AS MEG RUNS DOWN THE STREET.

52 EXT. - CONEY ISLAND BEACH. - DAY 52

SEVERAL VAUDEVILLE ACTS LINE THE BEACH -- JUGGLERS AND FIRE
 BREATHERS DRAWING A CROWD TOWARD A MAKESHIFT STAGE THAT IS
 FLANKED BY SMALL BLEACHERS.

TRUDY IS SEARCHING FOR MEG -- MOVING THROUGH THE CROWD AS SHE
 HEADS FOR THE PIER --

TRUDY
 MEG!? MEG!!!

CARNIVAL BARKER
 Today the Coney Island Vaudeville
 extravaganza will present a
 swimming exhibition from Englishman
 Bill Burgess -- only the second man
 to conquer the treacherous waters
 of the English Channel!

AS TRUDY WALKS UNDER THE PIER SHE SEES MEG BETWEEN THE
 PILLARS. MOVING CLOSER SHE SEES CHIP STANDING WITH HER --
 COMFORTING HER AS SHE CRIES.

TRUDY FREEZES NOW -- WATCHES AS CHIP SLOWLY STARTS TO KISS
 MEG. TRUDY STUNNED -- SILENTLY TURNS TO GO WHEN SOMETHING
 CATCHES HER EYE.

**BILL BURGESS STANDS AT THE END OF THE PIER ON A SMALL WOODEN
 PLATFORM -- HIS FACE OBSCURED BY THICK MOTORCYCLE GOGGLES --
 HIS BODY COVERED IN GREASE. HE LOOKS LIKE A SEA MONSTER THAT
 HAS CRAWLED FROM THE DEPTHS.**

BURGESS FIGHTS WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE ON THE PLATFORM AS THEY
 TRY TO TAKE THE FLASK FROM HIS HAND. HE TAKES A SWING AT ONE
 OF THEM -- THEN DIVES INTO THE WATER AND STARTS TO SWIM --

CARNIVAL BARKER (CONT'D)
 No place on earth has taken more
 souls and ships! That water of the
 channel is close to frozen,
 currents strong enough to throw a
 steamer against the rocks!

TRUDY WALKS ALONG THE BEACH AS BURGESS SWIMS -- WATCHING HIM AS HE EASILY CUTS THROUGH THE OCEAN.

CARNIVAL BARKER (CONT'D)
This is Mr. Burgess's first
appearance in America -- so welcome
a true living legend as he comes to
shore after a dangerous ocean swim!

THE CROWD LOOKS TOWARD SHORE -- WATCHES AS BILL BURGESS
EMERGES FROM THE WHITE WATER. THEY ALL CHEER NOW -- BURGESS
WAIST DEEP AND WAVING TO THE CROWD --

CARNIVAL BARKER (CONT'D)
FOR ONLY A PENNY YOU CAN SHAKE THE
HAND OF THE GREATEST SWIMMER ON
EARTH! HERE HE COMES! THE MAN WHO
TAMED THE ENGLISH CHANNEL -- BILL
BURGESS!!

AS BURGESS DRUNKENLY STEPS OUT OF THE WATER THE CROWD GOES
QUIET --

BURGESS
Ladies and gentlemen of America --
here's an interesting fact. I swim
in the buff.

WOMAN
THAT MAN IS NAKED!!!

PANDEMONIUM IN THE CROWD AS WOMEN FAINT AND CHILDREN ARE
DRAGGED AWAY.

CARNIVAL BARKER
NOBODY PANIC!!

BURGESS IS SUDDENLY HIT BY A SMALL WAVE -- IS THROWN FACE
DOWN INTO THE SAND AS SEVERAL CLOWNS AND JUGGLERS RUSH TO
COVER HIM UP.

TRUDY WATCHES AS THEY GET BURGESS TO HIS FEET --

BUT BURGESS BEGINS TO STAGGER ACROSS THE SAND -- WAVING AS HE
MAKES HIS WAY UP TO THE BLEACHERS --

TRUDY IS LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY AS A NAKED BILL BURGESS IS
TACKLED BY POLICE -- HANDCUFFED IN THE SAND --

MAN
He's deranged!

SEVERAL CLOWNS ARE ARGUING WITH PROMOTERS AS TRUDY PUSHES
THROUGH THE CHAOS -- FINDS A DRUNK BILL BURGESS LYING
HANDCUFFED AGAINST THE BLEACHERS -- A WINTER COAT COVERING
HIM.

TRUDY

Mr. Burgess -- how did you do it?
How did you swim the channel?

BURGESS LOOKS UP AT TRUDY -- EYES HALF CLOSED AND A THIN
SMILE ON HIS LIPS.

BURGESS

You don't swim the channel -- all
the swimmers drown. It's the
dreamers who have half a chance.

AND NOW BURGESS LAUGHS AS THE POLICE DRAG HIM AWAY.

BURGESS (CONT'D)

WAIT! MY MONEY! WHO HAS MY MONEY!
I HAVE A SIGNED CONTRACT!

53

INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT

53

A SMALL SIGN IS DRAPED ACROSS THE APARTMENT DOOR -- "GOLD 4
TRUDY"!

THE HOUSE IS QUIET -- THE KIDS ASLEEP. HENRY AND GERTRUD ARE
WAITING UP AT THE SEWING TABLE. THEY BOTH TURN AS THE FRONT
DOOR SLOWLY OPENS -- AND MEG STEPS IN FROM THE DARKNESS.
HENRY SLOWLY STANDS AS SHE WALKS IN.

HENRY EDERLE

Where were you?

MEG

I was with Trudy --

HENRY EDERLE

She's been home for hours! You
think I don't know what's
happening?

HENRY MOVES CLOSER -- FACE TO FACE.

HENRY EDERLE (CONT'D)

That I don't know what whiskey
smells like? Who is he?

TRUDY

What's wrong?

TRUDY HAS COME DOWN THE STAIRS --

MEG

Please stay out of this, Trudy.

HENRY EDERLE

Drinking -- home past midnight! Do you know what people will say about my daughter? What's his name?

MEG

Chip. His name is Chip Anderson. He took me to a jazz club in Harlem. Wants to marry me.

HENRY EDERLE

Is that so? You think a boy named Anderson will marry you? The daughter of a German butcher -- he probably throws rocks through my windows! Writes *Kraut's Go Home* on my door! You won't see him again --

MEG

I'm not Trudy -- you can't tell me what to do!

HENRY EDERLE

It's my job to protect this family! My children!

MEG

What about me? All these years I've been protecting her -- done everything you asked -- everything right! What do I get? Where's my trophy? I guess if you're a few seconds behind you get a butcher from Hamburg!

GERTRUD

Don't speak like this in front of your sister...

MEG

This has nothing to do with her!

HENRY EDERLE

You will never see the Anderson boy again. In a few weeks Karl Durshley arrives in New York!

MEG

Chip and I are in love. I've been seeing him for five months. There's nothing you can do.

MEG TURNS AND WALKS OUT THE DOOR --

TRUDY
No -- Meg -- MEG!!!

MEG LEAVES -- TRUDY CHASING AFTER HER --

54 EXT. - AMSTERDAM AVENUE. - NIGHT

54

A HEAVY RAIN FALLS AS MEG RUSHES DOWN THE STREET -- THE ROADS
EMPTY AS PEOPLE WAIT OUT THE STORM.

TRUDY
MEG! MEG!!!

TRUDY RUNS AFTER MEG -- CATCHES UP TO HER --

TRUDY (CONT'D)
Tell them you're sorry!

MEG
I'm not sorry!

TRUDY
We'll talk to the men at the
Olympics. You and I can go to
Paris together --

MEG
You still don't understand. They
don't want me. I'm not good
enough!

TRUDY
I can't do it alone. You know I
can't.

MEG
You're the fastest woman in the
world....

TRUDY
And you're my sister -- said we'd
always be together. Please -- come
with me.

MEG
I'm not going anywhere. I'm sorry,
Trudy.

MEG LOOKS AT HER AND WALKS OFF -- LEAVING TRUDY STANDING
ALONE AS THE RAIN CONTINUES TO FALL.

55 INT. - AMERICAN OLYMPIC UNION. - NEW YORK CITY. - DAY 55

TRUDY LOOKS NERVOUS AS SHE STANDS WITH THE REST OF THE FEMALE SWIMMERS IN THE A.O.U. OFFICES. JAMES SULLIVAN STEPS AROUND HIS DESK -- LIGHTS A CIGAR.

JAMES SULLIVAN

This is Jabez Wolffe -- he'll be coaching the women's swim team.

JABEZ WOLFFE, A MUSCULAR THIRTY YEAR-OLD WEARING A DARK SUIT AND PENCIL MUSTACHE, EYES THE GIRLS LIKE A DRILL INSTRUCTOR.

WOLFFE

It's my job to protect you on the ship -- to make sure there is no contact with the male athletes. To that end -- you won't leave your rooms without alerting your escorts.

RUTH

Escorts?

WOLFFE

Nuns. They will be standing guard in front of your cabins. Each of you will be representing your country, so take great pride in how you dress and how you speak. For those who are overweight, I will personally oversee your diet. There will be no pastries! I expect all of you to memorize the US Olympic Decorum Pamphlet -- specifically chapter two.

(holds it up)

"What to do if you are approached by a Frenchman."

TRUDY

Did you say *nuns*?

WOLFFE

And I insist on all of you swimming the breast stroke -- the stroke I used to swim the English Channel twenty-one times.

TRUDY

Did you ever make it across, Mr. Wolffe?

WOLFFE TURNS TOWARD TRUDY --

WOLFFE

One day I will.

56 EXT. - USS AMERICA GANGPLANK. - DAY 56

TRUDY WALKS INTO FRAME HOLDING A SUITCASE -- NERVOUSLY STARES UP AT THE TOWERING SHIP THAT WILL TAKE HER ACROSS THE WORLD. SHE LOOKS BACK AT HER FATHER.

SHE SLOWLY WALKS UP THE GANGPLANK -- ALONE AND TERRIFIED AS SHE DISAPPEARS INTO THE SHADOWS --

A57 INT. - BOWELS OF SHIP. - DAY A57

TRUDY AND HER FIVE TEAMMATES ARE LED DOWN A NARROW HALLWAY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SHIP. THE SOUND OF THE ENGINE GETTING LOUDER AND LOUDER AS THEY APPROACH A CABIN DOOR MARKED WITH A SIMPLE SIGN. "WOMEN."

TWO NUNS STAND GUARD AT THE DOOR.

57 INT. - USS AMERICA. - TOP DECK. - DAY 57

MALE RUNNERS SPRINT BY ON THE DECK AS AN ATHLETE THROWS HIS JAVELIN OVER THE SIDE OF THE SHIP -- A ROPE TIED TO THE END.

MALE SWIMMERS WORK OUT IN A LARGE LEATHER SWIM TUB.

JABEZ WOLFFE IS FIGHTING SEA SICKNESS AS HE TAKES OUT A VIAL OF PILLS AND POPS ONE IN HIS MOUTH. TRUDY AND THE FEMALE SWIMMERS APPROACH AS SEVERAL NUNS FOLLOW THEM ONTO THE DECK.

AILEEN

Mr. Wolffe -- it's been over a week. We need to train.

WOLFFE

Back to your room, girls. I'm not feeling well...

HELEN

The men swim in the tub all day. They run laps on deck, lift dumbbells.

WOLFFE

It's my responsibility to keep you safe! There are 300 men on this ship! Another fifty in crew -- and some of them are Norwegian!

WOLFE TAKES A HANDKERCHIEF AND COVERS HIS MOUTH --

AILEEN

Our cabins are next to the engine room. We can't sleep -- they bring bread and cheese twice a day...

WOLFFE

I'll let you walk the deck a few
times while the men eat in the
ballroom.

TRUDY

What about Paris, Mr. Wolffe? Will
we get to swim?

WOLFFE

You'll get your chance, Trudy.
When the gun sounds.

TRUDY WATCHES AS JOHNNY WEISMULLER COMES OUT OF THE SWIM TUB.

JOHNNY

It's steak night in the ballroom,
Trudy. Don't worry -- we'll sneak
you some leftovers.

TRUDY SMILES AT JOHNNY -- KNOWS HE'S SINCERE AS THE NUNS LEAD
THEM AWAY.

A58 INT. TRUDY'S CABIN. - USS AMERICA. - NIGHT A58

FOUR GIRLS ARE ASLEEP -- CRAMMED INTO A TINY CABIN AS TRUDY SITS ALONE IN THE TOP BUNK CRYING SOFTLY TO HERSELF -- A PICTURE OF HER FAMILY IN HAND.

THE AMERICA'S STEAM ENGINE ROARS LOUDER AND LOUDER -- THE SOUND SLOWLY EVOLVING INTO THE ROAR OF A CROWD --

58 EXT. - OLYMPIC SWIM STADIUM. - PARIS. - 1924 58

A GUN SOUNDS -- AND EIGHT WOMEN DIVE INTO THE WATER -- FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE POOL WE WATCH THEM SWIM SILENTLY ABOVE US --

TRUDY TOUCHING THE END AND LOOKING UP TO THE MANUAL SCORE BOARD -- JABEZ WOLFFE STARES DOWN IN SILENT DISBELIEF.

ANNOUNCER
Gold medal, Kurtz. Silver medal,
Stromburg. Bronze, Ederle!

TRUDY REALIZES SHE'S COME IN THIRD -- DUNKS HERSELF --

59 THE WATER SETTLES AS EIGHT MEN COME SWIMMING PAST US TOWARD THE FINISH -- JOHNNY WEISSMULLER TOUCHING FIRST --

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
Gold medal, Weissmuller!

60 TRUDY TOUCHING THE SIDE AGAIN 60

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
...Bronze for Ederle...

61 JOHNNY TOUCHING -- 61

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
GOLD FOR WEISSMULLER!!

62 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT 62

A STEWART WARNER RADIO SITS NEXT TO THE PHONE. THE FAMILY IS LISTENING TO HARRY HORLICK ON THE RADIO.

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)

Harry Horlick with a report from
Paris -- American Johnny
Weissmuller won his third gold
medal for the United States on the
last day of competition! A hero
for the ages is coming home!

HENRY JUNIOR

What about Trudy?

63 EXT. - AMSTERDAM AVENUE. - NEW YORK. - SUNRISE 63

A NEWSPAPER TRUCK PULLS UP TO THE CORNER -- STACKS OF PAPERS DROPPED DOWN AT THEIR FEET. HENRY GRABS A NEWSPAPER AND SEES JOHNNY WEISSMULLER'S FACE ON THE FRONT PAGE --

GERTRUD'S FACE DROPS AS HE READS.

HENRY EDERLE
Two bronze. No individual gold.
No records. One team medal.

HENRY JUNIOR
I thought nobody could beat her?

HENRY EDERLE
I have to go to work.

GERTRUD LOOKS AT THE PAPER -- HOLDING HER EMOTIONS.

GERTRUD
That's that.

A64 EXT. - USS AMERICA. - TOP DECK. - SUNRISE. A64

TRUDY STANDS ON DECK AS THE MORNING SUN RISES OVER NEW YORK HARBOR. NOT A SINGLE BOAT TO GREET THEM AS THE CITY SLEEPS.

64 EXT. - USS AMERICA. - NEW YORK HARBOR. - MORNING 64

TRUDY WALKS DOWN THE NARROW GANGPLANK HOLDING HER OWN LUGGAGE. SHE MOVES THROUGH THE CRUSH OF REPORTERS -- WHO ALL IGNORE HER -- SURGE FORWARD AS JOHNNY WEISMULLER APPEARS ON DECK WITH HIS MEDALS.

A65 EXT. - MANHATTAN. - MORNING A65

TRUDY KEEPS ON WALKING -- THE STREETS EMPTY IN FRONT OF HER.

65 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - DAY 65

THE HOUSE IS QUIET. TRUDY WALKS DOWN THE STAIRS -- GLANCES AT THE "WELCOME HOME TRUDY!" SIGN.

HENRY JUNIOR
Mom made berliner with jam for you.

TRUDY LOOKS AT A BOX IN THE CORNER. ALL OF HER **RIBBONS AND TROPHIES HAVE BEEN TAKEN OFF THE WALL.**

HENRY JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Trudy, when will you race again?

TRUDY STOPS AND LOOKS AT HER BROTHER --

TRUDY

Never. Do you understand?

HENRY JUNIOR

What about the next Olympics?

TRUDY

They say they won't let women swim again. No more funding -- no more trainers. It's over. From now on I work downstairs.

HENRY JUNIOR

So you'll be here for Meg's wedding?

TRUDY

What did you say?

66 EXT. - EDERLE BUTCHER SHOP. - DAY

66

TRUDY STOPS AT THE FRONT OF THE BUTCHER SHOP -- SEES HER SISTER CLEANING THE KNIVES. MEG LOOKS UP AT HER -- THE TWO GIRLS STARING AT EACH OTHER THROUGH THE GLASS.

67 EXT. - ALLY BEHIND THE BUTCHER SHOP. - DAY

67

MEG AND TRUDY WALK INTO THE ALLY -- TRUDY CLEARLY UPSET.

TRUDY

How could you get engaged and not tell me?

MEG

You were gone -- it happened so fast. I want you to be my maid of honor, Trudy.

TRUDY

How did you convince them? Suddenly nobody cares that you're about to be Meg Anderson?

AND NOW MEG TURNS TO TRUDY.

MEG

Anderson? They didn't tell you? It's not Anderson. It's Durshley. I'm marrying Karl Durshley.

TRUDY

The butcher?

MEG

The Andersons sent Chip to Chicago to work for his uncle. They made sure I'd never see him again. But It's okay -- Karl is good to me -- makes me laugh --

TRUDY

You need to call it off! Tell them you've changed your mind!

MEG

I have to marry Karl. That was part of the deal --

TRUDY

The deal?

MEG

It's the reason he came to America.

TRUDY

You're not part of any deal!

MEG

What do you think happens to girls around here? What do you think will happen to you?

TRUDY

I'm not marrying the nut peddler!

MEG

He's already engaged. But there's a hundred others just like him. I'm sorry, Trudy, I tried.

TRUDY SLOWLY STEPS BACK -- THE REALITY WASHING OVER HER.

TRUDY

Dad put our ribbons in a box.

MEG

We'll be okay. I promise.

TRUDY

Maybe if I had won...

MEG

It wouldn't have mattered, Trudy.
They didn't want to see us. And
they never wanted us to be heroes.

MEG TURNS TO GO BACK TO THE SHOP --

TRUDY

Meg. My hero was you.

68

INT. - EDERLE BUTCHER SHOP. - DAY

68

TRUDY WEARS AN APRON, WASHES THE WINDOWS INSIDE THE BUTCHER
SHOP -- A MOP AND BROOM BY HER SIDE. A NINE YEAR-OLD GIRL
WALKS UP TO HER --

YOUNG GIRL

Excuse me, Miss. Are you Trudy
Ederle?

TRUDY

Yes.

THE GIRL MOVES CLOSER NOW --

YOUNG GIRL

Because of you -- they let me swim.

TRUDY LOOKS AT THE GIRL AND SMILES. MEG WATCHING FROM BEHIND
THE COUNTER.

TRUDY

Are you fast?

YOUNG GIRL

I once beat my brother in a race.
But he says it never happened.
That it's impossible.

TRUDY KNEELS DOWN NOW -- EYE TO EYE WITH THE GIRL.

TRUDY

But it did happen, didn't it? The
impossible?

YOUNG GIRL

It sure did. One day I want to be
just like you.

AND NOW TRUDY STEPS BACK -- LOOKS DOWN AT THE BUCKET.

TRUDY GOES BACK TO WORK -- WATCHES THROUGH THE GLASS AS THE
LITTLE GIRL RUNS DOWN THE STREET WITH HER FRIENDS.

MEG WATCHES AS TRUDY PLUGES HER MOP INTO THE WATER.

A69 INT. - WAITZMAN MOVIE HALL. - DAY [**PREVIOUSLY SC. 71**] A69

IN THE SILENT MOVIE HALL WE HEAR THE LIVE ORGAN MUSIC PLAY AS
TRUDY SITS ALONE IN THE FRONT ROW.

ON SCREEN WE SEE THE GRAINY FOOTAGE OF THE **ENGLISH CHANNEL** --
A "NEWS OF THE WORLD" LOGO CUTS TO A MAN SWIMMING THROUGH
CHOPPY WATERS. THE TITLE CARD READS: **LONDON'S DAILY SKETCH
OFFERS 1000 POUND PRIZE TO THE NEXT MAN WHO CAN SWIM THE
ENGLISH CHANNEL.**

WE SEE MEN TAKING TO THE SEA -- GRAINY FOOTAGE OF MEN
SWIMMING IN THE ROUGH WATER. ANOTHER TITLE CARD: **THE WORLD
WAITS TO SEE IF ANY OF THESE BRAVE MEN WILL MAKE HISTORY.**

TRUDY GLANCES BACK -- SEES MEG WALKING DOWN THE AISLE WITH
KARL. MEG FROZEN AS SHE STOPS IN THE AISLE -- THE TWO
SISTERS STARING AT THE SCREEN TOGETHER.

69 EXT. - SMALL CHURCH. - AMSTERDAM AVENUE. - DAY 69

MEG WEARS A PLAIN WHITE WEDDING DRESS, SMILES AS SHE WALKS
OUT OF THE CHURCH WITH KARL. AS THE FAMILY CONGRATULATES
THEM MEG TURNS TO TRUDY -- SLOWLY WALKS OVER AND HANDS HER
SISTER THE BOUQUET.

MEG
English roses.

70 OMITTED 70

71 OMITTED[**THIS SCENE IS NOW A69**] 71

72 EXT. - PIER. - DAY 72

TRUDY SITS ALONE ON THE EDGE OF THE PIER HOLDING THE FLOWERS.
MEG WALKS OVER IN HER WEDDING DRESS -- SITS DOWN AND HANDS
HER SISTER A PIECE OF CAKE. SILENCE BETWEEN THEM AS THEIR
LEGS DANGLE OVER THE SIDE -- THE EXPANSE OF THE OCEAN IN
FRONT OF THEM.

TRUDY
You look so beautiful.

MEG
How far is it across?

TRUDY LOOKS AT HER NOW --

TRUDY
It's your wedding day...

MEG
How far is it from France to
England?

TRUDY
You don't know your onions.

MEG
I know you've thought about it.

TRUDY
It doesn't matter. We can't win.

MEG
We won free hot dogs. And in case
you forgot -- there were onions.

TRUDY
It's 21 miles across.

MEG
Sounds like fun.

TRUDY
Do you think I could do it?

MEG
I've seen that look in your eye...

TRUDY
Do you think I can?

MEG
You bet your ass.

TRUDY STARES AT HER -- COVERS HER MOUTH AS SHE BURSTS OUT LAUGHING.

TRUDY
DID YOU JUST CURSE!!

MEG
NO!

TRUDY
YOU SAID ASS! --

MEG
I'm going to dance with my husband.
Where you going, Trudy?

MEG STANDS UP NOW -- TURNS TO GO --

MEG (CONT'D)
(singing)
In the morning, in the evening,
ain't we got fun...!

TRUDY'S MIND RACING -- RACING LIKE IT'S NEVER RACED BEFORE.

SHE TAKES THE BOUQUET AND THROWS IT INTO THE SEA --

73

INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT

73

THE FAMILY IS EATING DINNER -- GERTRUD DISHING OUT THE FOOD AS HENRY RUSHES IN AND THROWS OFF HIS BLOODY APRON -- STARES DOWN AT HIS TELEPHONE.

HENRY EDERLE
Did anyone call?

HENRY JUNIOR
Nobody has ever called.

HENRY EDERLE
They will. And when they do --
I'll be ready.

TRUDY SERVES MEG AND KARL -- MARRIED NOW AND SITTING AT THE END OF THE TABLE. MEG AND TRUDY EXCHANGE A GLANCE.

TRUDY
I've decided to swim the English
Channel.

DEAD SILENCE. EVERYTHING STOPS. TRUDY CASUALLY SITS DOWN TO EAT HER SOUP. MEG TRANSLATES TO KARL.

HENRY EDERLE
Trudy -- what did you say?

TRUDY
I'm going to swim the English Channel. Could you pass the bread?

AS MEG TRANSLATES KARL LAUGHS -- THINKS SHE'S JOKING. AFTER A BEAT HE FEELS THE TENSION -- CROSSES HIMSELF.

GERTRUD WALKS OUT FROM THE KITCHEN NOW -- STARES AT TRUDY.

HENRY EDERLE
No. The answer is no.

AND NOW TRUDY GIVES HER FATHER A LOOK -- **A LOOK THAT REMINDS US OF HER MOTHER.**

TRUDY
I wasn't asking.

74

INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - DAY

74

EPY STANDS AT THE SIDE OF THE POOL YELLING AT A NEW CROP OF YOUNG SWIMMERS, THE GIRLS RACING ACROSS THE POOL.

EPY
Twenty-eight strokes, Vera!

TRUDY WALKS IN -- WATCHES A YOUNG GIRL LIFT THE COAL FOR THE BOILER. TRUDY GOES OVER TO HELP HER -- AND SUDDENLY EVERYONE STOPS TO WATCH AS TRUDY FEEDS THE FURNACE.

TRUDY
Mrs. Epstein -- do you think it's possible?

EPY
I asked to coach the women's Olympic team. They said I could be team manager, chaperone. They're not ready for us.

TRUDY
What if I'm ready?

EPY TURNS TO TRUDY -- SLOWLY SHAKES HER HEAD.

EPY
You know what will happen when you fail -- when you get hurt? They'll use that failure to shut us down. To kick every girl out of the pool.

TRUDY

And what if I make it? What then?

AND EPPY LOOKS AT TRUDY -- CAN'T HELP BUT SMILE.

EPPY

Then they've got a serious problem.

75 INT. - AMERICAN OLYMPIC UNION. - NEW YORK CITY. - DAY 75

TRUDY AND CHARLOTTE EPSTEIN SIT ACROSS FROM JAMES SULLIVAN IN THE AMERICAN OLYMPIC UNION OFFICES.

JAMES SULLIVAN

Mrs. Epstein, I've fought against female athletics most of my life. I voted against women competing in the Olympics.

EPPY

Yes, Mr. Sullivan, I'm aware of the fact that you're a *Temper Kop*.

JAMES SULLIVAN

What is that?

EPPY

Yiddish for imbecile.

JAMES SULLIVAN

And yet you come here and ask me to pay for Trudy to swim the Channel -- after she embarrassed us in Paris.

EPPY

She didn't train for three weeks because of you. You failed her. You need Trudy, Mr. Sullivan. Think of the publicity.

SULLIVAN STANDS NOW -- GRABS HIS JACKET.

JAMES SULLIVAN

The channel is 21 miles across, currents changing every few hours. To fight those currents she'd have to swim close to 50 miles. The water is freezing, storms blow in without warning and bring waves twenty feet high. There's jellyfish and sharks, even the occasional unexploded mine left over from the war. I honestly believe she'll die in that water. I don't need that publicity.

SULLIVAN GRABS HIS HAT.

JAMES SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Now if you'll excuse me, I have to meet my mother for dinner in the Jersey Highlands. It's her 88th birthday -- she's requested Penner's for Lobster. A table on the water.

TRUDY
What if I meet you there, Mr. Sullivan?

JAMES SULLIVAN
I don't understand.

TRUDY
You drive your car. And I'll swim from New York to New Jersey.

JAMES SULLIVAN
You want to swim to Jersey?

EPPY
It's about seven miles across the lower bay from Rockaway Point.

TRUDY
We'll make a deal. If I make it -- the A.O.U pays my way to the channel. Passage, trainer, guide boat -- everything.

JAMES SULLIVAN
Seven miles? In how many hours?

EPPY
Five.

TRUDY
I'll do it in four.

JAMES SULLIVAN
Three.

AND NOW JAMES SULLIVAN REACHES OUT AND SHAKES TRUDY'S HAND.

JAMES SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Do it in three -- and we'll sponsor you. And dinner will be on me.

A SMALL SLIP AT THE TIP OF THE ROCKAWAY PENINSULA IN QUEENS. CHARLOTTE AND TRUDY (IN HER BATHING SUIT) STAND AT THE EDGE OF THE WATER.

BEHIND THEM ARE SEVERAL A.O.U MEN IN SUITS -- ALL THERE TO VERIFY THE SWIM. FAR OFF IN THE DISTANCE -- THE LIGHTS OF NEW JERSEY.

EPPY

We don't have a guide boat -- you need to watch for barges. Use the Highlands lighthouse as your guide! Right now it's six-thirty. I have to catch the train to meet you!

TRUDY

What's the name of the restaurant?

EPPY

Penner's. THAT WAY! GO!!

AND WITH THAT TRUDY RUSHES INTO THE SEA. AS SHE DOES THE A.O.U. MEN RUSH TO GET IN THEIR CARS --

77 EXT. - PENNER'S LOBSTER AND SEAFOOD. - NEW JERSEY. - NIGHT 77

THE RESTAURANT SITS ON THE SANDY HOOK WHARF -- A BRIGHT RED LOBSTER SIGN FLASHING IN THE NIGHT.

78 INT. - PENNER'S LOBSTER AND SEAFOOD. - NEW JERSEY. - NIGHT 78

JAMES SULLIVAN SITS AT A TABLE BY THE WINDOW WITH HIS MOTHER. AS A WAITER TIES A BIB AROUND HIS NECK HE GLANCES AT HIS WATCH --

79 EXT. - LOWER BAY. - NIGHT 79

TRUDY SWIMS ALONE TOWARD NEW JERSEY IN THE DARK. SHE SEES THE SANDY HOOK LIGHTHOUSE IN THE DISTANCE AS SHE MAKES HER WAY ACROSS THE BAY.

A HUGE BARGE COMES TOWARD HER -- AND TRUDY DIVES DOWN AS DEEP AS SHE CAN --

AS SHE DIVES DOWN SHE COMES FACE TO FACE WITH A HARBOR SEAL. They look at each other for a long BEAT --

80 EXT. - PENNER'S LOBSTER AND SEAFOOD. - NEW JERSEY. - NIGHT 80

SEVERAL CARS PULL UP TO THE BACK OF THE RESTAURANT. A.O.U. MEN IN SUITS JUMP OUT AND FACE THE WHARF.

81 INT. - PENNER'S LOBSTER AND SEAFOOD. - NEW JERSEY. - NIGHT 81

A BIRTHDAY CAKE IS SET DOWN ON THE TABLE. JAMES SULLIVAN'S MOTHER BLOWS OUT HER CANDLE AS HE CHECKS HIS WATCH.

HE GLANCES OUT THE WINDOW -- SEES THE CAR HEADLIGHTS LIGHTING UP THE WATER. CHARLOTTE EPSTEIN IS PACING OUTSIDE -- WAITING.

JAMES SULLIVAN
I'll take the bill.

82 EXT. - PENNER'S LOBSTER AND SEAFOOD. - NEW JERSEY. - NIGHT 82
JAMES SULLIVAN WALKS OUTSIDE AND HEADS STRAIGHT FOR HIS CAR. CHARLOTTE EPSTEIN IS WAITING FOR HIM.

JAMES SULLIVAN
Sorry, Mrs. Epstein, a deal's a deal. It's nine-thirty. Her time is up.

SULLIVAN OPENS HIS CAR DOOR -- AND THERE'S TRUDY SITTING IN THE BACK SEAT WRAPPED IN A TOWEL -- SHIVERING.

TRUDY
How was dinner, Mr. Sullivan?

SULLIVAN TURNS TO HIS MEN -- THE WITNESSES.

EPPY
Two hours and fifty-six minutes.
Your men will verify the time.

TRUDY
Do I have to swim home?

A83 INT. - PENNER'S LOBSTER AND SEAFOOD. - NEW JERSEY. - NIGHT A83
TRUDY AND EPPY SIT TOGETHER IN THE NEAR EMPTY RESTAURANT -- SMILING AS THEY DEVOUR THEIR LOBSTER.

83 EXT. - SMALL PIER. - NEW JERSEY. - NIGHT 83
ON THE PIER BELOW THE RESTAURANT THEY CELEBRATE IN THE MOONLIGHT -- DANCING AND LAUGHING.

84 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT 84
GERTRUD IS WAITING UP AT THE SEWING TABLE. AS TRUDY WALKS IN HER MOTHER STANDS TO GREET HER.

GERTRUD
Where were you? Drinking?
Dancing? If your father finds out
you're home this late --

TRUDY
I was swimming.

GERTRUD
Swimming? At night?

TRUDY
To New Jersey. I swam from New
York to Jersey.

GERTRUD
Did you say New Jersey?

TRUDY NODS. GERTRUD LOOKS AT HER DAUGHTER, HAS TO SIT DOWN.

TRUDY
Mother -- I leave for the Channel
next week.

TRUDY LOOKS AT HER MOTHER -- STARTS TO WALK TOWARD THE
STAIRS. AS SHE DOES GERTRUD WHISPERS --

GERTRUD
Don't go. Please.

TRUDY STOPS NOW -- TURNS TO HER MOTHER.

GERTRUD (CONT'D)
Not this time. I don't think you
can make it. Stay....

TRUDY
I can't stay here. I look at Meg --
the other girls. I don't know how
to be like them. I'm sorry -- but
when I'm out of the water I'm so
afraid...

GERTRUD
Do you know why I didn't go with
you to Paris? Because I'm afraid
of the water. You swam to New
Jersey -- I've never been on the
ferry. I'm afraid...

Trudy has never heard her Mother talk like this.

AND NOW GERTRUD WALKS OVER TO A CABINET -- OPENS THE BOTTOM
DRAWER AND PULLS OUT A SMALL BOX. SHE HESITATES AS SHE
REMOVES A SMALL VICTORIAN LOCKET --

GERTRUD

I had a twin sister. I was raised not to speak of such things. She drowned when we were seven. I won't say more about it, Trudy. Your father doesn't know -- and he never will. You're my child. And the thing you love most -- it terrifies me...

AND NOW GERTRUD SHOWS THE LOCKET TO TRUDY. SHE OPENS IT -- REVEALING A HAND COLORED PHOTOGRAPH OF TWO YOUNG SISTERS --

TRUDY

What was her name?

AS STRONG AS SHE IS, GERTRUD HAS TROUBLE SAYING THIS.

GERTRUD

Pearl.

TRUDY REACHES OUT AND TOUCHES HER MOTHER. AND FOR A MOMENT GERTRUD HOLDS HER DAUGHTER'S HAND -- THEN QUICKLY COMPOSES HERSELF.

GERTRUD CLOSES THE LOCKET AND PUTS IT BACK IN THE BOX -- REFUSING TO SHOW ANY MORE EMOTION.

GERTRUD (CONT'D)

I won't be there if something happens to you. I can't imagine where you get the courage.

TRUDY

From you.

GERTRUD

Tell me what it's like out there. In the dark.

TRUDY

Well -- tonight while I was swimming a harbor seal followed me for the last mile.

GERTRUD

A seal followed you to New Jersey?

TRUDY

I'm pretty sure.

AND NOW GERTRUD STARES AT HER DAUGHTER -- AND A LOOK OF PRIDE WASHES OVER HER.

GERTRUD

Not followed, Trudy. Chased.

AND WITH THAT GERTRUD TOUCHES HER DAUGHTER'S FACE -- THEN
TURNS AND WALKS BACK INTO THE KITCHEN.

85 INT. - JAMES SULLIVAN'S OFFICE. - A.O.U. - DAY 85

TRUDY SITS ALONE FACING JAMES SULLIVAN AND HIS MEN. SHE
DRINKS FROM A FANCY TEA CUP -- SIPPING LOUDLY.

JAMES SULLIVAN
Trudy, I'd like you to meet the man
I've selected to train you.

JABEZ WOLFFE WALKS INTO THE ROOM -- AND TRUDY SPILLS HER TEA.

TRUDY
Charlotte Epstein is going to train
me. She's my coach.

WOLFFE
A woman training a woman? Like a
lion taming a lion. Bad idea.

THE MEN SMILE AT THIS.

JAMES SULLIVAN
Mr. Wolffe is your coach, Trudy.
Or we don't sponsor.

86 EXT. - USS AMERICA. - FRANCE. - MORNING 86

THE AMERICA MAKES ITS WAY THROUGH THE ENGLISH CHANNEL --
WAVES POUNDING THE STEAMER. TRUDY STANDS AT THE RAIL LOOKING
OUT AT SEA. JABEZ WOLFFE COMES OUTSIDE -- LOOKING HALF
ASLEEP AND FIGHTING SEA SICKNESS AS HE STANDS AT THE RAIL.

WOLFFE
The Channel. You feel the ship
fighting it? I know we've had our
differences, Trudy. But I know
every inch of this place.

TRUDY
Not every inch, Mr. Wolffe. Not
where the tide meets the shores of
England. For that I'd have to ask
Webb, Toth or Burgess --

WOLFFE
Burgess is a side show freak --
kicked out of England!

TRUDY
But he made it across.

WOLFFE

Two of his witnesses disappeared!
He's a disgrace to the sport --
probably climbed into a follow
boat. Now I'm all you've got --
and you will respect me!

WOLFFE LOOKS ACROSS AT TRUDY -- WHO CALMLY STARES AT THE
CHANNEL.

87

INT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - CAPE GRIS-NEZ. - FRANCE

87

JABEZ WOLFFE WALKS WITH TRUDY INTO THE SMALL HOTEL LOBBY --
WHERE A GROUP OF MEN STAND AT A BAR DRINKING BEER. THESE ARE
SWIMMERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD -- EACH OF THEM GRIZZLED AND
WIND-CHAPPED. EVERY ONE OF THESE MEN HAS FAILED TO SWIM THE
CHANNEL -- AND TRUDY IS CLEARLY NOT WELCOME.

WOLFFE

Wait here. I'll get your key.

AS WOLFFE WALKS OFF -- A LARGE, SHIRTLESS SWIMMER -- BENJI
ZAMMIT -- HIS BALD HEAD ALMOST AS TALL AS THE CEILING --
GRABS HIS BEER AND LUMBERS TOWARD TRUDY. BENJI IS A GIANT,
EASILY DWARFING HER.

BENJI ZAMMIT

We're drinking to our friend
Rudolph Vittali -- who died this
week trying to cross. Got caught
in the Goodwin Sands.

BENJI DRINKS HALF OF HIS BEER AND SLAMS IT DOWN ON THE TABLE.
TRUDY STARES UP AT HIM -- AFRAID TO MOVE.

BENJI ZAMMIT (CONT'D)

This is a place where men come to
risk everything -- offer their
souls to the depths of hell. What
gives a woman the right to come to
such a place?

TRUDY STARES AT BENJI FOR A LONG BEAT -- GRABS HIS BEER AND
TAKES A BIG SWIG.

TRUDY

To Vittali! A great swimmer!

BENJI STARES DOWN AT HER NOW -- CAN'T HELP BUT SMILE. ALL OF
THE SWIMMERS RAISE THEIR GLASSES AS WOLFFE COMES RUSHING
TOWARD TRUDY -- PULLS HER AWAY TOWARD THE STAIRS --

88 INT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - ROOM - FRANCE. - DAY

88

TRUDY IS LED INTO A SMALL ROOM ABOVE THE LOBBY. AS SHE WALKS INSIDE SHE OPENS THE WOOD SHUTTERS --

WOLFFE

From this moment on you will stay away from those men. You will wake each morning at dawn -- train in the morning and afternoon -- but only the breast stroke.

TRUDY

Eppy told me not to overtrain --

WOLFFE

You will follow my rules, child! Slow and steady is the way across -- am I understood? Fifteen minute miles -- not a second faster.

TRUDY LOOKS THROUGH THE WINDOW -- STARES AT THE FULL FORCE OF THE ENGLISH CHANNEL -- DARK SKIES AND STORMY SEAS STRETCHING OUT AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.

TRUDY

Mr. Wolffe -- how close were you to making it?

WOLFFE

Closer than most men will ever get. One time I could see the beach -- and then *she* pulled me back.

TRUDY

She?

WOLFFE

(disgusted)
She.

TRUDY

I need to go in.

89 EXT. - SHORE OF THE ENGLISH CHANNEL. - DAY

89

TRUDY STANDS ON THE SHORE IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL. SHE WEARS HER BATHING SUIT AS SHE MAKES HER WAY DOWN TO THE EDGE. SHE FACES THE WATER FOR A BEAT -- THEN RUSHES INTO THE SEA. AS SHE SWIMS SHE LOOKS BACK AT THE HOTEL -- WHERE ALL OF THE MEN STAND OUT FRONT WATCHING. SHE LOOKS UP TOWARD WOLFFE -- STARTS TO SWIM THE BREAST STROKE.

90 EXT. - NEW YORK CITY. - DAY 90

MEG IS BUYING FISH -- WOODEN CARTS LINE THE STREETS AS FISHMONGERS WRAP THEIR DAILY CATCH IN NEWSPAPER. THE HEADLINE READS: **"TRUDY TO CHALLENGE THE CHANNEL -- TRAINS FOR HISTORIC SWIM!"**

91 INT. - EDERLE HOME. - DAY 91

HENRY JR. TURNS THE RADIO DIAL AS THE FAMILY STANDS BEHIND HIM AND WAITS. GERTRUD IS IN THE KITCHEN MAKING DINNER -- A FAINT VOICE COMING THROUGH THE RADIO --

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)

I'm your host and band leader --
Harry Horlick -- and this is the
A&P Gypsies! Before we begin
there's news coming from Europe --
where Trudy Ederle trains to swim
the English Channel!

THE FAMILY CHEERS WHEN THEY HEAR HER NAME. HENRY SETS HIS
NEWSPAPER DOWN -- EVEN HE CAN'T HELP BUT LISTEN.

HARRY HORLICK (CONT'D)

The odds of her making it have been
set by Lords of London at twenty to
one. American great Babe Ruth
predicted today that this is one
long shot that will not come in!

HENRY EDERLE

Babe Ruth is as German as we are.
He can suck an egg.

HENRY CATCHES HIMSELF -- GOES BACK TO HIS PAPER.

92 EXT. - ENGLISH CHANNEL. - DAY

92

TRUDY IS TRAINING IN THE CHANNEL -- THE WIND HOWLING. BENJI
ZAMMIT SWIMS NEXT TO HER -- CLEARLY STRUGGLING AGAINST THE
CURRENT. HE CAN'T HELP BUT SMILE AS TRUDY CONTINUES TO TRAIN
-- PUSHING HERSELF.

A93 INT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - DAY

A93

BENJI ZAMMIT IS CARVING A NAME INTO THE WALL NEXT TO THE
FIREPLACE. TRUDY WALKS OVER -- SEES HE'S CARVING THE NAME
VITALLI INTO THE WOOD -- A HUNDRED OTHER NAMES ABOVE HIM.
VITALLI IS THE LAST OF THE DEAD.

TRUDY

Benji -- how many times have you
tried?

BENJI

Twelve. Once I came within a few
miles -- but the tide from the
Atlantic came in sideways -- pushed
me toward the shallows. They saved
me before I went into that hell on
earth. Where the current holds you
like the hand of God -- impossible
to break.

TRUDY

So why keep trying?

BENJI

Each time I fail people cheer. You see the color of my skin. Before someone can be first -- someone else must sacrifice.

BENJI FINISHES AND PUTS THE KNIFE DOWN.

BENJI (CONT'D)

They're rooting against us, Trudy. They want the water to win.

TRUDY

I'm rooting for you, Benji.

AND NOW BENJI SMILES --

BENJI

Time to train.

93

INT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - FRANCE. - MORNING

93

BENJI AND THE OTHER SWIMMERS ARE EATING HUGE PLATES OF EGGS AND HAM AND BREAD FOR BREAKFAST. TRUDY SITS ALONE WITH WOLFFE STARING DOWN AT A SMALL PLATE OF FRUIT.

TRUDY

I swam three hours this morning. I'm starving.

WOLFFE

You have to look good for the papers. Eat like a lady.

TRUDY

Eppy told me I had to eat!

WOLFFE

Enough. Lower your voice. I'll get you more fruit.

AS WOLFFE MOVES TO GET HER FRUIT --

BENJI ZAMMIT TOSSES HER A CHUNK OF HAM -- AND SHE CATCHES IT AND QUICKLY SWALLOWS IT DOWN IN ONE BITE. SHE SMILES AS WOLFFE WALKS BACK -- CLEARLY AWARE OF WHAT'S HAPPENED. ALL OF THE SWIMMERS QUIETLY LAUGHING NOW --

WOLFFE (CONT'D)

Benji -- take a look outside. Looks like you'll have some company for your swim tomorrow. I'm guessing that's just the baby.

THROUGH THE WINDOW THEY ALL WATCH AS A FISHERMAN DRAGS A SIX FOOT SHARK OFF A BOAT. ALL OF THE SWIMMERS LOOK TOWARD THE SHARK -- SILENTLY GO BACK TO THEIR BREAKFAST.

TRUDY
You didn't have to do that to him.

WOLFFE
He won't make a fool of me, Trudy.
And either will you.

TRUDY SLOWLY PUSHES HER FRUIT AWAY -- STARTS TO SING QUIETLY.

TRUDY
(singing)
*Every morning, every evening --
Ain't we got fun?*

WOLFFE
Trudy -- stop singing.

TRUDY
*Not much money, oh, but honey --
Ain't we got fun?*

WOLFFE
Trudy -- stop this. Stop it now!

NOW BENJI AND THE OTHER SWIMMERS START TO SING WITH TRUDY --

TRUDY/SWIMMERS
*Every morning, every evening --
Ain't we got fun? Not much money,
oh, but honey -- AIN'T WE GOT FUN!!*

WOLFFE STORMS OUT AS BENJI DROPS A PLATE OF FOOD IN FRONT OF TRUDY -- EVERYONE SINGING AS TRUDY EATS.

94 EXT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - SUNRISE.

94

BENJI IS GETTING READY TO SWIM THE CHANNEL. TRUDY IS STANDING WITH THE OTHER SWIMMERS -- GIVING HIM A PROPER SEND OFF. BENJI PUTS ON HIS GOGGLES NOW -- SMILES AT TRUDY --

BENJI
If I die, Trudy -- you make the toast. You raise the glass.

TRUDY
Benji, go make history.

AND WITH THAT BENJI ZAMMIT ENTERS THE WATER.

95 INT. - JAMES SULLIVAN'S ROOM. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - DAY 95

JAMES SULLIVAN IS UNPACKING HIS SUITCASE. AS HE REMOVES A BLACK SUIT HE LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW AT THE CHANNEL. WOLFFE KNOCKS AND WALKS IN --

WOLFFE
She's making a fool of me, Mr. Sullivan. Laughing, singing in my face -- I won't stand for it!

JAMES SULLIVAN
People are betting on your girl. The odds have come way down.

WOLFFE
She's not my girl. She's yours. This charade is your doing.

JAMES SULLIVAN
Watch your tone, Mr. Wolffe. I've spent years defending the purity of sport. Watched them give women the vote -- the Olympics -- jobs in factories. But nobody can give them this -- am I right?

WOLFFE
Trudy Ederle will fail to swim the English Channel. I'm quite sure of that.

JAMES SULLIVAN
Then this will end the discussion once and for all. We need this more than you think.

SULLIVAN HANDS WOLFFE HIS MONEY FOR COACHING.

JAMES SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
I do have one question. How far do you think she'll get?

AND WOLFFE LOOKS AT HIM NOW --

WOLFFE
A woman out there? She won't get past the seventh mile. Bet on it.

96 EXT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - CHANNEL DOCKS. - DAY

96

A FEW SWIMMERS ARE CARRYING BENJI ZAMMIT OFF A SMALL BOAT. HE'S BARELY ALIVE AS THEY DRAG HIM TO SHORE -- HIS SKIN IS ALMOST BLUE.

JONAS

Get the doctor! He's frozen stiff!

TRUDY AND THE OTHER SWIMMERS RUSH DOWN TO THE SHORE --

TRUDY

BENJI !!

KRIS

We lost him in the fog ten miles out! Lucky we found him at all!

THE MEN LAY BENJI ON THE ROCKS -- COVER HIM WITH BLANKETS AS TRUDY KNEELS DOWN --

TRUDY

Benji! BENJI !!

BENJI OPENS HIS EYES AND LOOKS AT TRUDY -- SHAKING AS HE WHISPERS TO HER.

BENJI

This wasn't my time --

AND BENJI WHISPERS TO HER AS THEY CARRY HIM OFF --

BENJI (CONT'D)

Hand of God, Trudy. You'll have to break it for me.

97 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT

97

GERTRUD IS ALONE IN THE KITCHEN. SHE HEARS HARRY HORLICK ON THE RADIO -- LEANS OUT TO LISTEN.

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)

Reports from France -- American Trudy Ederle will attempt to swim the English Channel at sunrise today -- as the world waits to see if a woman can survive the hardest test in all of Sport.

98 EXT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - MORNING

98

HUNDREDS OF SPECTATORS HAVE COME OUT TO WATCH TRUDY AS SHE BEGINS HER SWIM. THIRTY REPORTERS FIGHT AND PUSH THEIR WAY ABOARD THE FOLLOW BOAT (ALSACE). WOLFFE STARES AT TRUDY BY THE SHORE AS REPORTER READS THE RULES --

REPORTER

The rules of the swim dictate that no swimmer can be touched at any point while in the water. Once a swimmer is touched -- even in the whitewater -- it is an immediate disqualification!

TRUDY STANDS ON SHORE APPLYING LANOLIN TO HER SKIN. SHE LOOKS OUT -- SEES BILL BURGESS IN HIS ROBE WATCHING FROM THE DISTANT ROCKS. JAMES SULLIVAN STANDS NEXT TO TRUDY AS SHE POSES FOR PICTURES, SMILES FOR THE CAMERAS --

JAMES SULLIVAN
Would you look at that. The sun is coming out for you, Trudy.

TRUDY
For us, Mr. Sullivan.

99 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - DAY

99

WOLFFE STEPS ONTO THE FOLLOW BOAT AS REPORTERS PACK THE DECK. TRUDY STANDS ON THE BEACH WAVING TO THE CROWD. SHE PUTS ON HER GOGGLES -- YELLS TO WOLFFE --

TRUDY
Mr. Wolffe -- you promised me some music!

WOLFFE MOTIONS TO A BAGPIPER AT THE FRONT OF THE BOAT -- AND HE BEGINS TO PLAY "HAIL THE BRAVE." TRUDY LISTENS TO THE HORRIBLE SOUND -- SLOWLY PUTS ON HER GOGGLES --

TRUDY (CONT'D)
Lucky I don't hear so good.

AND WITH THAT TRUDY JUMPS INTO THE SEA -- **IMMEDIATELY STARTS TO SWIM FREE STYLE.**

WOLFFE
TRUDY! BREAST STROKE!

BUT TRUDY IS ALREADY SWIMMING HARD OUT TO SEA --

100 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT-- LATER

100

AS TRUDY SWIMS NEXT TO THE FOLLOW BOAT A REPORTER WRITES DOWN NOTES ON A SMALL PIECE OF PAPER --

THE REPORTER TAKES A CARRIER PIGEON FROM ITS CAGE -- TIES THE SMALL PIECE OF PAPER TO THE BIRD AND LETS IT GO.

OTHER REPORTERS TIE THEIR STORIES TO LARGE PIECES OF CORK -- THROW THEM OVER THE SIDE TO MEN WAITING IN SMALL BOATS --

WE WATCH MEN COLLECT THE CORKS AND THEN SPEED BACK TO SHORE --

101 INT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - DAY 101

A CARRIER PIGEON FLIES INTO THE LOBBY, A REPORTER GRABBING THE BIRD AND TAKING THE PAPER FROM ITS FEET.

REPORTER

Seven-fifteen am. Air is 48 degrees, water is 61 degrees. Trudy Ederle is in the water swimming the American crawl!

THE ENTIRE LOBBY IS NOW A REPORTING STATION. MEN COME RUSHING IN WITH CORKS -- PULLING OUT THEIR PAPERS AND USING A WIRELESS RADIO TO TRANSMIT --

102 INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - NIGHT 102

EPPY IS ALONE IN THE BASEMENT.

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)

Reports from France. Trudy Ederle is not swimming the breast stroke. She is swimming the 28 beat American crawl.

EPPY

Come on, girl. Kick your feet!

103 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT 103

GERTRUD AND HENRY JUNIOR ARE LISTENING TO THE RADIO WITH MEG AND KARL.

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)

Trudy Ederle is now two miles into her swim -- looking strong.

104 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - DAY 104

THE BAGPIPER CONTINUES TO PLAY AS WOLFFE GRABS A SMALL BOARD AND WRITES TRUDY A MESSAGE: **SLOW DOWN!!**

WOLFFE

YOU HEAR ME!! SLOW!!

TRUDY SEES THE MESSAGE AND SMILES -- STARTS TO SWIM FASTER.

REPORTER

Three hours in and Trudy Ederle is swimming faster --

THE REPORTER PLACES HIS PAPER INSIDE A PIECE OF CORK -- THROWS IT OVER --

REPORTER (CONT'D)

Four miles --

ON THE FOLLOW BOAT WOLFFE IS STARTING TO SWEAT -- NERVOUSLY PACING BACK AND FORTH. HE GRABS THE BOARD -- WRITES TRUDY A MESSAGE --

WOLFFE

FRUIT!!

WOLFFE GRABS A PIECE OF FRUIT -- MOTIONS FOR THE BOAT TO MOVE CLOSER --

WOLFFE (CONT'D)

She needs to eat. Get me closer.

BOAT CAPTAIN

I can't get any closer in this chop, Mr. Wolffe!

WOLFFE

I said closer!

THE BOAT MOVING ALONGSIDE TRUDY NOW -- WOLFFE HOLDING THE RAIL -- REACHING OUT WITH HIS HAND AND WAITING FOR HIS CHANCE TO TOUCH HER.

WOLFFE (CONT'D)

Come on, Trudy. You need to eat.

TRUDY LOOKING AT HIM -- REACHING OUT TO TAKE THE FRUIT --

WOLFFE LEANING DOWN TO HER NOW -- ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY --

WOLFFE (CONT'D)

HERE! TAKE IT!!

TRUDY REACHING OUT -- AND NOW WOLFFE PRETENDS TO SLIP -- REACHES OUT TO TOUCH HER -- INCHES AWAY --

BUT A WAVE SLAMS THE HULL AND PUSHES THEM BACK -- WOLFFE'S HAND MISSING TRUDY AND PLUNGING INTO THE SEA --

AS TRUDY BACKS AWAY AT THE LAST SECOND --

REPORTER

He almost touched her!

TRUDY BACKING AWAY NOW -- EYEING WOLFFE AS SHE CONTINUES TO SWIM. WOLFFE GETTING BACK TO HIS FEET -- MOVING THROUGH THE REPORTERS AS HE PACES AT THE FRONT OF THE SHIP. HE TURNS TO THE BAGPIPERS --

WOLFFE

SHUT UP!!

105 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT 105

THE UNCLE'S NOW SITTING WITH GERTRUD, MEG, KARL AND HENRY JUNIOR --

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
Trudy is five miles into her swim --
still looking strong.

106 INT. - BUTCHER SHOP. - NIGHT 106

THE STORE IS CLOSED. HENRY IS ALONE IN THE BUTCHER SHOP --
LISTENING TO THE RADIO. HE STARTS TO PACE NOW --

HARRY HORLICK
But it's a long way to Dover --

107 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - DAY 107

WOLFFE IS THROWING UP OVER THE SIDE -- UNABLE TO CONTROL HIS
SEA SICKNESS. HE GOES BELOW DECK -- **TAKES OUT HIS PILL CASE
AND OPENS IT --**

AND NOW HE STARES DOWN AT THE SEA SICK PILLS IN HIS HAND --
LOOKS OUT AT TRUDY AS SHE SWIMS THROUGH THE CHOP.

WOLFFE NERVOUSLY OPENS A CONTAINER OF HOT TEA -- HIS HAND
SHAKING AS HE SLOWLY DROPS TWO OF HIS PILLS INSIDE. HE
HESITATES -- THEN DROPS IN THREE MORE.

108 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - CONTINUOUS 108

WOLFFE COMES UP ON DECK WITH THE CONTAINER OF TEA -- WRITES A
MESSAGE TO TRUDY: **HOT TEA.**

HE TAKES OUT A LONG POLE AND TIES THE BOTTLE OF TEA TO THE
END. HE LEANS THE POLE OVER THE SIDE OF THE SHIP AND TRIES
TO HAND TRUDY THE TEA -- BUT THE WAVES ARE MAKING IT
DIFFICULT.

SHE REACHES FOR THE TEA AND MISSES -- WOLFFE LEANING OUT WITH
THE POLE --

WOLFFE
Come on -- take it. TAKE IT!!

SHE GRABS THE TEA -- BUT THE BOTTLE DROPS INTO THE WATER --
SINKS BELOW THE SURFACE --

WOLFFE PANICKED FOR A BEAT UNTIL TRUDY DIVES DOWN -- BRINGS
HER HAND UP HOLDING THE TEA.

TRUDY
GOT IT!!

TRUDY OPENS THE BOTTLE AND DRINKS DOWN THE HOT TEA -- LYING ON HER BACK AND RESTING FOR A MOMENT AS SHE FINISHES THE LAST DROP.

WOLFFE WATCHING AS TRUDY STARTS TO SWIM AGAIN. HE LOOKS BACK AT HER NOW -- WAITING.

109 INT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - LOBBY 109

JAMES SULLIVAN SITS AT THE HOTEL BAR. HE WATCHES AS A CARRIER PIGEON COMES INTO THE WINDOW -- AND A REPORTER READS THE NOTE.

REPORTER
Six miles in. She's slowing down.

110 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT 110

GERTRUD AND THE FAMILY STARE AT THE RADIO --

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
At mile six Trudy Ederle is having trouble.

GERTRUD GOES TO THE KITCHEN -- CHOPS VEGETABLES.

111 INT. - PIEDMONT POOL. - NIGHT 111

CHARLOTTE EPSTEIN IS LISTENING ALONE --

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
Reports from the English Channel.
Trudy Ederle is struggling.

112 EXT. - ENGLISH CHANNEL. - DAY 112

TRUDY STOPS SWIMMING NOW -- IS THROWING UP IN THE WATER.

AFTER SHE GETS SICK SHE LOOKS UP TOWARD THE FOLLOW BOAT -- EVERYTHING BLURRED AS SHE TAKES OFF HER GOGGLES --

WOLFFE
Trudy -- are you okay?

TRUDY LOOKING TOWARD THE BOAT -- CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING -- HER EYES HALF CLOSED -- UNABLE TO SPEAK AS THE DRUG BEGINS TO WORK --

WOLFFE (CONT'D)
TRUDY!!

TRUDY LOOKING AT THE REPORTERS -- EVERYTHING DISTORTED AS SHE STARTS TO SWIM --

WOLFFE (CONT'D)
Trudy -- the wrong way! You're swimming the wrong way!

TRUDY LOOKING AROUND -- TRYING TO FOCUS -- THE REPORTERS ON THE SHIP NERVOUSLY WATCHING --

REPORTER
Look at her. Not even seven miles. We've all been suckered.

WOLFFE STANDING ON DECK CALLING TO HER --

WOLFFE
TRUDY! IT'S OVER. COME TO THE BOAT.

BUT TRUDY SHAKES HER HEAD NO -- TRIES TO SWIM -- THEN SLOWLY DRIFTS BENEATH THE SURFACE --

TRUDY'S EYES ARE CLOSED AS SHE BEGINS TO SINK BENEATH THE WAVES -- AND NOW JABEZ WOLFFE DIVES IN AND GRABS HER --

AS CORKS GO FLYING OFF THE SIDE OF THE BOAT --

113 INT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - DAY 113

SULLIVAN STANDS AS REPORTERS RUSH IN WITH SEVERAL CORKS --

REPORTER
Trudy is saved by her coach -- Jabez Wolffe -- who dives in as she sinks beneath the waves.

SULLIVAN SITS DOWN NOW -- CONCERNED FOR TRUDY.

114 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - EARLY MORNING 114

MEG SOFTLY CRYING, KARL COMFORTING HER. GERTRUD STANDING ALONE AT THE WINDOW --

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
It is now clear that she simply did not possess the necessary strength or endurance.

UNCLE JAN TURNS THE DIAL OUT OF ANGER --

RADIO ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

The Yankees line up today has Lou Gehrig batting second, Joe Dugan third -- and Babe Ruth will play right field and bat fourth.

GERTRUD LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW -- SEES THE STREETS ARE EMPTY.
WOMEN IN THE ADJACENT BUILDINGS ARE SITTING BY THEIR RADIOS.
ONE BY ONE THEY SILENTLY GO BACK TO WORK.

115 INT. - BUTCHER SHOP. - EARLY MORNING 115

HENRY ALONE IN THE BACK OF THE STORE -- SILENT DEVASTATION ON HIS FACE.

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
Ladies and gentlemen -- Trudy Ederle was pulled from the water six miles from shore. The swim is over. And it is safe to say -- if Trudy Ederle could only get a few miles from the French shore -- no woman will ever swim the English Channel.

HENRY OPENS A DRAWER -- PULLS OUT TRUDY'S FIRST BLUE RIBBON AND HOLDS IT IN HIS HAND.

116 EXT. - FOLLOW BOAT. - LATER 116

TRUDY HAS BEEN TAKEN BELOW DECK -- IS HALF AWAKE AS SHE STARES UP AT WOLFFE.

TRUDY
What happened?

WOLFFE
You went too fast, Trudy. Just like I said.

AND WITH THAT TRUDY CLOSES HER EYES. AND SHE SINKS INTO THE DARKNESS -- FLOATING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO BLACKNESS --

117 EXT. - HOSPITAL. - CAPE GRIS-NEZ. - SUNRISE 117

TRUDY OPENS HER EYES, LOOKS OUT A WINDOW THAT FACES THE CHANNEL. STORM CLOUDS ARE HEAVY -- AND FOR A MOMENT SHE STARES AT THE DISTANT CLIFFS OF DOVER AS SHE LISTENS TO A RADIO PLAYING IN THE B.G. --

BBC RADIO
Two weeks after Trudy Ederle's failure in the channel, the President of the Olympic Committee is considering a proposal that would limit all female competitors to the following four sports. Tennis, equestrian, golf and lawn croquet....

A NURSE LEANS DOWN TO TRUDY NOW --

TRUDY

How far did I get? Nobody will tell me.

FRENCH NURSE

All the nurses think you're very brave --

TRUDY

I've been here for two weeks. I want to go home. I want to go home right now.

FRENCH NURSE

It's okay, Trudy. Home came to you.

THE NURSE MOTIONS ACROSS THE HALL -- AND TRUDY SLOWLY TURNS -- SEES HER FATHER WALKING TOWARD HER. HENRY EDERLE MOVES TOWARD THE BED AS TRUDY GETS TO HER FEET -- GRABS HIM AROUND THE NECK AND HOLDS HIM TIGHT.

TRUDY

What are you doing here?

HENRY HOLDING HER -- TRYING TO CONTROL HIS EMOTIONS.

HENRY EDERLE

I came to say it's not right -- they should let women be butchers. I'm sorry -- I will teach you...

TRUDY

I don't want to be a butcher. Are you crying?

HENRY EDERLE

I've never cried in my life. I'm sorry. But I was listening to you on the radio -- my daughter on the radio. And you were alone -- and I was ashamed of myself. Ashamed I was not here....

TRUDY

You're here now.

HENRY EDERLE

We came to take you home.

TRUDY

We?

AND NOW TRUDY LOOKS PAST HER FATHER -- SEES MEG STANDING AT THE FOOT OF THE BED.

TRUDY GETS TO HER FEET NOW -- SCREAMS AS SHE RUNS ACROSS THE
BED AND LEAPS INTO HER SISTER'S ARMS --

MEG HOLDING TRUDY AS THE TWO SISTERS FALL ONTO A HOSPITAL BED
-- LAUGHING AND CRYING TOGETHER.

TRUDY (CONT'D)
I was dreaming about you. And
cheese. I'm so hungry, Meg.

MEG
She's hungry! She's okay. You're
really okay.

118 EXT. - FRENCH HOSPITAL. - LATER

118

BASKETS OF FOOD ARE PILED AROUND THE BED AS TRUDY EATS BREAD
AND CHEESE AND FRENCH PASTRIES WITH MEG AND HER FATHER.

HENRY EDERLE
There's a ship leaving tomorrow.
Do you think you're strong enough?

SUDDENLY WE HEAR A COMMOTION IN THE HOSPITAL -- SEVERAL
NURSES RUSHING BY --

NURSE
You can't be here like this!!

A SOPPING WET BILL BURGESS WALKS ACROSS THE HOSPITAL FLOOR,
MOTORCYCLE GOGGLES AROUND HIS NECK AND A THIN ROBE CONCEALING
A BARE CHEST AND TINY PAIR OF BATHING SHORTS.

HE DRIPS HIS WAY TOWARD TRUDY'S BED -- NURSES TRYING TO STOP
HIM AS HENRY EDERLE QUICKLY GETS TO HIS FEET --

HENRY EDERLE
Who is this man?

TRUDY
Mr. Burgess?

BURGESS STANDS IN FRONT OF TRUDY --

BURGESS
You were swimming twelve and half
minute miles against the cross
tide.

NURSE
Sir, you must leave this hospital
immediately!

BURGESS
Trudy -- what happened out there?
I was watching from a skiff --
timing you. 28 strokes per minute,
twelve and half minute miles!

HENRY EDERLE
You will leave my daughter alone,
Sir!

BURGESS
Not until she answers the question.
The Captain of the *Alsace* is a
friend of mine -- said Wolffe
almost touched you in the water.

TRUDY
He slipped and --

BURGESS
He's a Channel swimmer -- he didn't
slip.

TRUDY

I know...

BURGESS

You were swimming two knots through heavy chop and then you were drowning! What happened?

TRUDY LOOKS AT ALL OF THEM --

TRUDY

Wolffe gave me tea. I was sick after I drank it. First my stomach -- than my head. I couldn't stay awake...

BURGESS

Tea?

TRUDY

He carries pills to put himself to sleep. Sea sick pills.

BURGESS

Sea sick pills? No wonder he left so fast --

HENRY EDERLE

He poisoned my daughter?

BURGESS

Take it as a compliment. Women must be making progress if their coaches are trying to kill them.

MEG

We'll go to the press.

BURGESS

They won't believe some Biscuit who almost drowned. Not until she touches the sand on the other side.

TRUDY GOES TO THE WINDOW -- STARES AT THE SEA --

BURGESS (CONT'D)
If you like I'll show you the way.

MEG STANDS WITH TRUDY NOW -- THE SISTERS TOGETHER FOR A BEAT
AS HENRY MOVES CLOSER.

HENRY EDERLE
Another swim? I'm saying...please.
I'm saying please! No...

MEG
Trudy -- what do you want to do?

AND NOW TRUDY LOOKS AT MEG -- HER FATHER -- WE'VE SEEN THAT
LOOK IN HER EYE.

TRUDY
We came all this way. Might as
well see England.

119 INT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL LOBBY. - MORNING.

119

TRUDY STANDS NEXT TO JAMES SULLIVAN FACING THIRTY REPORTERS
IN THE LOBBY OF THE HOTEL.

REPORTER #1

Trudy, what do you say to all the women who have come to see you off?

TRUDY LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW -- YOUNG GIRLS ARE EVERYWHERE.

TRUDY

I leave France knowing that I let a lot of people down. But I promise all of you -- one day a woman will make it across.

AND WITH THAT TRUDY LOOKS AT JAMES SULLIVAN -- A LOOK THAT WOULD MAKE HER MOTHER PROUD. A LOOK THAT PUTS THE FEAR OF GOD IN HIM.

120 EXT. - USS AMERICA. - DECK - DAY 120

THE SHIP HAS JUST CLEARED THE DOCKS AND IS HEADING TO SEA. TRUDY STANDS ON THE TOP DECK WITH SULLIVAN -

JAMES SULLIVAN

Get some rest in your cabin, Trudy. In a few days you'll be home and all of this will be forgotten. As if it never happened.

TRUDY SILENTLY NODS --

121 INT. - USS AMERICA. - TRUDY'S CABIN. - DAY 121

TRUDY GETS TO HER ROOM -- LOCKS THE DOOR AND RUSHES TO THE PORTHOLE -- SEES A ROWBOAT ON THE WATER.

SHE OPENS THE WINDOW -- AWKWARDLY CLIMBS OUTSIDE --

122 OMITTED 122

A123 EXT. - USS AMERICA. - CONTINUOUS A123

TRUDY CLINGS TO THE SIDE OF THE SHIP -- SMILES WHEN SHE SEES BILL BURGESS WAITING FOR HER IN THE SMALL BOAT WITH MEG AND HER FATHER.

TRUDY WAVES AT THEM -- THEN CASUALLY DIVES/FALLS 80 FEET OFF THE SIDE OF THE USS AMERICA INTO THE HARBOR.

123 INT. - BURGESS HOME. - CAP GRIS NEZ. - FRANCE. - DAY 123

A SMALL HOUSE ON THE FRENCH CLIFFS FACING THE CHANNEL. THE PLACE IS A MESS -- BOTTLES AND PAPERS EVERYWHERE.

TRUDY IS WRAPPED IN A BLANKET NEXT TO MEG AND HER FATHER,
WARMS HERSELF BY THE STOVE. BURGESS SITS IN A CHAIR -- A
FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH OF A CAT BEHIND HIM.

HENRY EDERLE

Nice place. What happened to the cat?

BURGESS

Drowned. We have three days until that ship arrives in New York -- until the world finds out you're still in France.

MEG

What if she's not strong enough in three days?

BURGESS

A storm is coming. The water temperature is 56 and dropping. Any lower and she can't survive. We can't wait.

TRUDY

I go in three days. No press. No crowds. Nobody to stop me.

124

EXT. - CHANNEL CLIFFS. - SUNRISE.

124

BURGESS AND TRUDY SIT ON THE ROCKS NEAR THE WATER'S EDGE. BURGESS IS DRINKING FROM A FLASK AS HE STUDIES THE SEA.

BURGESS

Everyone thinks it's a straight line to England, Trudy. But the current dictates the line -- and if you know where the North Sea and Atlantic are going to surge -- you can follow that current like a map.

TRUDY

I need you to promise me something, Mr. Burgess. Don't let anyone take me out of the water. No matter what.

BURGESS SLOWLY TURNS TO HER --

BURGESS

It's not right what you're asking.

TRUDY

I decide what's right. I go on my terms. Promise me.

BURGESS

What about your father? Your family?

TRUDY

They could never understand. But you do. So promise me you won't pull me out.

BURGESS

I've broken every promise I've ever made to a woman. Back in England they bought me a thousand whiskeys - - dragged me before the Queen. But I let them all down -- couldn't be what they wanted.

TRUDY

And what's that?

BURGESS

A bloody hero. You're asking the wrong person.

TRUDY

I'm asking for your word, Mr. Burgess. We go to England or die trying.

AND NOW HE LOOKS AT HER -- SLOWLY NODS.

BURGESS

It's time to train.

TRUDY GETS TO HER FEET NOW -- PUTS ON HER GOGGLES AND DIVES INTO THE SEA.

125 INT. - BURGESS HOME. - NIGHT 125

MEG AND TRUDY ARE SINGING TOGETHER AS MEG HELPS HER OUT OF LONG, WET BATHING GOWN.

TRUDY/MEG
Let me call you Sweetheart --

MEG STOPS SINGING WHEN SHE SEES THE DEEP SCARS AND MARKS OVER TRUDY'S BACK, NECK AND SHOULDERS -- THICK CUTS AND BRUISES CAUSED BY THE BATHING SUIT.

MEG
My God. You're cut to pieces.

TRUDY
I'm used to it. Every bathing gown cuts the same.

MEG STANDS AND EXAMINES HER SISTER --

MEG
This has to be tighter. We need to remove the drag across the chest and shoulders. Get rid of everything else.

TRUDY
What are you talking about?

MEG
I need to find a sewing machine.

126 INT. - USS AMERICA. - NIGHT 126

JAMES SULLIVAN STANDS WITH SEVERAL CREW MEMBERS AS HE KNOCKS ON A CABIN DOOR.

JAMES SULLIVAN
Trudy, some reporters upstairs wish to speak with you. We're two days at sea -- you need to come out of your room!

A CREW MEMBER USES HIS KEY TO OPEN THE DOOR, AND SULLIVAN STARES INSIDE -- SEES THE ROOM HAS NOT BEEN DISTURBED.

CREW MEMBER
She has to be here, Sir.

AS SULLIVAN LOOKS INTO THE ROOM -- A SINGLE, UNSETTLING THOUGHT CROSS HIS MIND.

JAMES SULLIVAN

I need to send a telegram to the owner of the Gray Nose Hotel in France.

CREW MEMBER

What should it say?

JAMES SULLIVAN

Ask him if she's in the water.

127 OMIT 127

128 OMIT 128

129 INT. - BURGESS HOME. - FRANCE. - NIGHT 129

MEG IS USING A SEWING MACHINE -- WORKING BY CANDLE LIGHT.

BURGESS IS SHOWING TRUDY'S FATHER A LINE HE HAS DRAWN ACROSS A CHANNEL MAP -- A PATH SHAPED LIKE A "Z."

BURGESS

Most swimmers avoid the moon -- fear the neap tide when slack water is high. That's why we'll trick the current -- attack her when she least expects it. This is the route **Trudy 'll** take to **defeat** the storm.

*

HENRY EDERLE

You expect her to swim sideways?

BURGESS

She'll make two 180 degree turns during the swim. Those turns will carve a "**Zed**" through the Channel -- add about twenty miles.

*

HENRY EDERLE

Twenty miles!

BURGESS

She'll have 4 hours before the tide becomes a westward-flowing riser -- **that's a fact.** My only concern is the weather slowing her down, which could push her south of the Goodwin Sands.

*

*

*

*

HENRY EDERLE

What the hell is he talking about? Speak English! What's a Goodwin Sand?

BURGESS

The shallows. If she gets caught there we can't follow. Not even Trudy is strong enough to swim perpendicular to that tide. She'll be swept out to sea.

*

MEG WALKS OUT FROM THE BEDROOM --

MEG

It's done. Here she is.

TRUDY WALKS OUT FROM THE BEDROOM WEARING MEG'S "BATHING SUIT" -- WHICH IS A TWO-PIECE BLUE SUIT WITH A MAKESHIFT BRA CLASPED IN THE FRONT AND A BOTTOM THAT LOOKS LIKE TIGHT-FITTING SHORTS.

THIS IS THE FIRST BIKINI EVER MADE --

HENRY EDERLE

She can't go out in that! Even the French will lock her up! All of you are crazy!

BURGESS

She'll be covered in sheep's grease and lanolin.

TRUDY

Nobody will ever know the emperor's got no clothes.

130 EXT. - CAP GRIS-NEZ. - FRANCE. -(BACK TO THE FIRST SCENE) 130

TRUDY STANDS ALONE FACING THE OMINOUS BLACK SEA -- HER ENTIRE BODY COVERED IN GREASE.

TRUDY/MEG

*Not much money, Oh, but honey
Ain't we got fun!*

THE TWO SISTERS SING TOGETHER AS THEY STARE OUT AT THE OCEAN -

AND NOW TRUDY LOOKS BACK TOWARD THE ENGLISH CHANNEL AS ANOTHER WAVE CRASHES TOWARD HER. AS THE WIND HOWLS AND THE SEA RAGES --

THE *ALSACE* IS TIED TO THE DOCK -- BURGESS, HENRY AND THE CREW WAITING ON BOARD.

SEVERAL CARS SUDDENLY PULL UP TO THE CLIFFS DIRECTLY ABOVE THEM -- TEN CARS WITH THEIR HEADLIGHTS ON --

REPORTERS JUMPING OUT AND RUNNING TOWARD THE EDGE OF THE CLIFFS -- CAMERAS IN HAND --

REPORTER
TRUDY!! TRUDY!!!

TRUDY LOOKING UP AT THE REPORTERS -- QUICKLY TURNS TO MEG --

TRUDY
Get on the boat!

AND WITH THAT TRUDY DIVES INTO THE CHANNEL --

131 EXT. - *ALSACE* FOLLOW BOAT. - DAY 131

AS REPORTERS CLIMB DOWN THE ROCKS -- MEG JUMPS ONTO THE *ALSACE* --

THE BOAT PULLING AWAY TO FOLLOW TRUDY AS REPORTERS COME CHARGING TOWARD THE WATER'S EDGE.

REPORTER
WE NEED A BOAT!! SHE'S GOING AGAIN!!

132 EXT. - *ALSACE* FOLLOW BOAT. - DAY 132

MEG TAKES OUT A WIND-UP PHONOGRAPH -- PUTS ON A RECORD AND TURNS THE SWIVEL HEAD TOWARD TRUDY. A SONG BLARES FROM THE SHIP -- "AIN'T WE GOT FUN."

MEG
(singing along)
*In the morning, in the evening --
ain't we got fun!!!*

TRUDY SMILES AS SHE SWIMS TWENTY YARDS FROM THE *ALSACE* -- THE REPORTERS SCREAMING BEHIND THEM ON SHORE. BURGESS STANDS ON THE BOAT STARING OUT AT THE CURRENT -- EYEING THE CLOUDS IN THE DISTANCE.

HENRY EDERLE
What's wrong, Mr. Burgess?

BURGESS
In a few hours we'll be in swells.
And that's just the beginning.

133 INT. - GRAY NOSE HOTEL. - FRANCE. - DAY 133

REPORTERS HAVE PACKED THE HOTEL -- SOME SENDING TELEGRAMS
WHILE OTHERS SCREAM AT THE OWNER --

REPORTER
I'LL PAY TWENTY POUNDS FOR A SPOT
ON THE FIRST BOAT THAT LEAVES THE
DOCKS!!

WE SEE A REPORTER ON A TELEPHONE --

REPORTER (CONT'D)
American Trudy Ederle never went
home! She's still in France and
back in the water!

134 EXT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - NIGHT 134

HENRY JUNIOR IS SLEEPING NEXT TO THE RADIO -- SOFT MUSIC
PLAYING.

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
The National Broadcast Company
interrupts the Gypsy Hour to report
from Europe -- where Trudy Ederle
is back in the water and attempting
to be the first woman to swim the
Channel.

HENRY JUNIOR OPENS ONE EYE -- STARES AT THE RADIO. HE LOOKS
CONFUSED AS HE STANDS AND WALKS INTO THE KITCHEN -- WHERE HIS
MOTHER IS CLEANING.

HENRY JUNIOR
I just heard something. Or maybe I
thought I did. I'm almost sure --

GERTRUD
What?

HENRY JUNIOR
Harry Horlick said that Trudy was
swimming again. She's in the
Channel.

GERTRUD LOOKS AT HER SON --

GERTRUD
It was a dream. They come home
tomorrow. You're just excited.

HENRY JUNIOR
Are you sure?

GERTRUD
Turn off the radio and go to bed.

HENRY JUNIOR
Okay. Good night.

HENRY WALKS BACK TO HIS ROOM -- AND GERTRUD CONTINUES TO CLEAN.

AFTER A BEAT SOMETHING CATCHES HER EYES -- A LIGHT OUT THE KITCHEN WINDOW IN THE APARTMENT ACROSS THE WAY.

A MOMENT LATER ANOTHER LIGHT GOES ON -- AND THEN ANOTHER. AND SUDDENLY GERTRUD WATCHES AS WOMEN LEAVE THEIR KITCHENS -- PEOPLE START TO GATHER AROUND THEIR RADIOS.

AND NOW GERTRUD WALKS INTO HER SON'S ROOM AND TURNS THE RADIO BACK ON. SHE FLIPS THE DIAL AROUND -- NOTHING BUT STATIC. UNTIL --

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
Trudy Ederle is four miles out and swimming strong. Another update in thirty minutes.

GERTRUD LOOKS AT HENRY JUNIOR -- WHO IS SMILING UP AT HER.

GERTRUD
Get dressed!

135 EXT. - CAP GRIS-NEZ HOTEL. - MORNING 135

REPORTERS AND LOCALS ARE PUSHING THEIR WAY ONTO A FISHING BOAT -- THE SMALL CHARTER OVERFLOWING AS MEN BEGIN TO FIGHT AND A FEW END UP IN THE SEA.

THE BOAT TAKES OFF -- HEADING OUT THROUGH THE CHOP TO CHASE TRUDY DOWN.

136 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - DAY. 136

THE SWELLS HIT THE FRONT OF THE ALSACE -- AND THE PHONOGRAPH GOES CRASHING TO THE GROUND.

BURGESS LOOKS TOWARD TRUDY -- WATCHES AS SHE SWIMS THROUGH THE RISING SWELLS. HE CHECKS HIS WATCH --

BURGESS
Ten and half...

BURGESS STARES AT THE WATER NOW -- READING THE CURRENT.

BURGESS (CONT'D)
Turn five degrees starboard.

THE BOAT SLOWLY TURNS --

HENRY EDERLE
 England is that way, Mr. Burgess!
 You'll tire her out before she gets
 half way.

BURGESS
 We'll keep her with the tide.

MEG WRITES "THIS WAY, KID" ON A SMALL BOARD -- HOLDS UP THE
 SIGN TO TRUDY -- WHO ADJUSTS TO SWIM PARALLEL.

137 EXT. - CHANNEL. - DAY

137

THE BOAT WITH THE REPORTERS IS FIGHTING THE SWELLS, SEVERAL
 REPORTERS LEANING OVER THE SIDE TO BE SICK. AS THE SHIP
 CATCHES UP TO TRUDY -- THEY SEE HER NEW BATHING SUIT IN THE
 WATER -- THE TAR GREASE WASHING OFF TO EXPOSE HER SKIN --

REPORTER
 Look what she's wearing! Get
 closer!!

CLOSE ON TRUDY -- THE SWELLS SLAPPING HER IN THE FACE AS HER
 GOGGLES FILL WITH WATER. SHE HAS TO SWIM BLIND AS THE
 FISHING BOAT MOVES CLOSER AND CLOSER -- MEN TAKING PICTURES --

138 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - CONTINUOUS

138

MEG IS AT THE RAIL WATCHING AS THE REPORTER'S BOAT MOVES
 TOWARD TRUDY --

MEG
 They're too close...

TRUDY STOPS SWIMMING NOW -- THE FISHING BOAT WITHIN A FEW
 YARDS OF HER -- ABOUT TO HIT HER --

MEG (CONT'D)
 GET AWAY FROM HER!!

SUDDENLY A GUN SHOT RINGS OUT. WE SEE BURGESS STANDING AT
 THE RAIL FIRING INTO THE HULL OF THE FISHING BOAT --

REPORTERS HIT THE DECK AS BURGESS AIMS HIS GUN ACROSS AT THE
 TERRIFIED REPORTERS --

REPORTER
 He's shooting at us!!!

THE CAPTAIN QUICKLY GETS THE MESSAGE -- TURNS HIS WHEEL --

BURGESS
 KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!!!

TRUDY PULLING OFF HER GOGGLES -- THROWING THEM TO THE DECK OF
THE *ALSACE*.

TRUDY
They're leaking! I can't see!

MEG PICKS UP THE GOGGLES AS TRUDY CONTINUES TO SWIM --

139 EXT. - NEW YORK CITY. - NIGHT 139

GERTRUD AND THE UNCLES ARE WALKING WITH HENRY JUNIOR DOWN AMSTERDAM AVENUE. THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TOWARD A BUILDING -- A SIGN OUT FRONT READS: **THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY.**

140 INT. - NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY. - NIGHT 140

GERTRUD AND THE FAMILY WALK PAST A SLEEPING SECURITY GUARD TOWARD A RED SIGN THAT READS: **RADIO ON AIR.**

141 INT. - HARRY HORLICK'S RADIO STUDIO. - NIGHT 141

HARRY HORLICK SITS BEHIND A DESK DOING HIS RADIO SHOW. AS MUSIC PLAYS GERTRUD AND THE FAMILY WALK STRAIGHT INTO THE STUDIO -- THE ENGINEER AND SOUND MAN JUMPING TO THEIR FEET.

SOUND MAN
You can't be in here!

GERTRUD
My name is Gertrud Ederle, mother of Trudy Ederle. It takes too long for you people to tell us what's happening. I want you to tell me where she is! NOW!

EVERYONE STARES AT GERTRUD -- ALL OF THE MEN TERRIFIED. HARRY HORLICK NERVOUSLY STANDS.

HARRY HORLICK
Why don't you all have a seat. As reports come in -- you'll see them as we do.

GERTRUD
Where is she?

AND NOW TWO MEN COME RUNNING OVER WITH THE LATEST REPORT.

HARRY HORLICK
Eight miles. Five foot swells.
Air temperature is 56 degrees.
Water is 55.

GERTRUD NODS -- SITS DOWN NEXT TO HARRY. HENRY JUNIOR, KARL AND THE UNCLES SIT AS WELL.

GERTRUD
I don't like this song. Change it.

142 INT. - EPPY EPSTEIN'S APARTMENT. - NIGHT 142

EPPY IS INSIDE HER APARTMENT -- LISTENING TO THE REPORTS.

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
Most men use a variation of the
side stroke. But Trudy is swimming
her American crawl -- which failed
her last time.

EPPY GOES TO HER WINDOW AND SCREAMS --

EPPY
SWIM TRUDY SWIM!!

143 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - DAY 143

MEG IS HOLDING THE GOGGLES -- TRYING TO TIGHTEN THEM. AT THE
FRONT OF THE SHIP HENRY EDERLE STANDS WITH BURGESS.

HENRY EDERLE
Look ahead. The water has turned
red up there.

AND BURGESS LOOKS OUT -- KNOWS IMMEDIATELY --

BURGESS
Red jellyfish.

ANGLE FROM HIGH ABOVE --

A QUARTER MILE OF RED JELLYFISH COVER THE WATER IN FRONT OF
TRUDY.

BURGESS GOES TO THE RAIL -- TAKES OUT THE CHALK BOARD AND
WRITES: **JELLYFISH**. TRUDY LOOKS AT THE SIGN -- COMES UP ONE
OF THE SWELLS AND SEES THE ENDLESS FIELD OF RED JELLYFISH IN
FRONT OF HER.

HENRY EDERLE
What can we do?

BURGESS
Nothing. She swims through.

144 INT. - CHANNEL WATER. - CONTINUOUS 144

FROM BELOW WE WATCH AS TRUDY SWIMS STRAIGHT TOWARD THOUSANDS
OF JELLYFISH -- TRUDY BRACING HERSELF AS SHE SWIMS AS FAST AS
SHE CAN --

HER ARMS HITTING THE JELLYFISH AS SHE BRACES FOR THE STINGS --
HER VOICE HEARD WITH EVERY OTHER BREATH --

TRUDY
*In the mornings -- in the evenings -
- ain't we got fun!!*

THE PAIN CAUSING HER TO WINCE AS SHE GETS STUNG OVER AND OVER
-- TRUDY CUTTING THROUGH THE RED JELLYFISH AS EVERYONE
WATCHES FROM THE TWO SHIPS --

REPORTERS STANDING IN SILENT AWE --

TRUDY SCREAMS NOW AS SHE SWIMS -- THE PAIN GREAT AS SHE
FINALLY MAKES HER WAY THROUGH THE LAST OF THE JELLYFISH. SHE
COMES OUT THE OTHER SIDE -- THROWS THE LAST ONE ASIDE AND
LAYS ON HER BACK FOR A BEAT -- HER ARMS AND NECK COVERED IN
RED WELTS. SHE CLOSES HER EYES -- HER BODY SHAKING --

HENRY EDERLE
She's done. Get her out, Mr.
Burgess.

BURGESS
She's just resting. It's okay.

HENRY EDERLE
OKAY?! SHE JUST GOT STUNG BY A
HUNDRED JELLYFISH!

BURGESS
And still swam at three and half
knots.

145 INT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - CONTINUOUS 145

MEG IS BELOW DECK -- GRABS A MATCH FROM AN OLD SAILOR WHO IS
ABOUT TO LIGHT A CIGAR. SHE TAKES THE MATCH AND LIGHTS A
CANDLE -- THEN TAKES THE CANDLE AND HOLDS IT OVER TRUDY'S
GOGGLES.

THE CANDLE BEGINS TO DRIP WAX AROUND THE RIM OF THE GOGGLES --
THE WAX COVERING THE RIMS AND SEALING THEM INSTANTLY.

146 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - CONTINUOUS 146

AS TRUDY RESTS ON HER BACK -- HER GOGGLES DROP DOWN NEXT TO
HER IN THE WATER. TRUDY GRABS THEM -- LOOKS TOWARD MEG --

MEG
What are you waiting for,
lazybones?! England is that way!

TRUDY SMILES --

147 AND WE SMASH CUT -- 147

TRUDY SWIMMING HARD AGAIN -- ONLY NOW HER GOGGLES HAVE STOPPED LEAKING AND SHE CAN CLEARLY SEE THE RISING SWELLS IN FRONT OF HER --

THUNDER CRACKS IN THE DISTANCE. BURGESS LOOKS AT THE SKY -- THEN BACK TO THE CURRENT --

BURGESS

In an hour the swells will be ten feet.

148 INT. - NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY. - NIGHT 148

A MAN RUSHES OVER TO HARRY HORLICK WITH A PIECE OF PAPER -- AND HE NERVOUSLY TURNS TO GERTRUD AND THE EDERLE FAMILY.

HARRY HORLICK

Ten foot swells.

GERTRUD

How far is she?

AND NOW HARRY HORLICK HITS A SWITCH -- LEANS INTO HIS MICROPHONE --

HARRY HORLICK

Ladies and gentlemen -- an update from the English Channel. Trudy Ederle is half way to Dover.

149 EXT. - ENGLISH CHANNEL. - DAY 149

TRUDY IS TRYING TO SWIM THROUGH THE WAVES -- BUT IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. WITH EACH STROKE FORWARD SHE IS PUSHED BACK -- AND WE CAN SEE IT'S TAKING ITS TOLL.

150 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - CONTINUOUS 150

TRUDY'S FATHER WATCHES HER STRUGGLE -- TURNS TO BURGESS.

HENRY EDERLE

It's been over an hour and she's barely moved. She's exhausted.

TRUDY IS STRUGGLING -- TRYING TO FIGHT THROUGH BUT THE WAVES KEEP PUSHING HER BACK --

BURGESS

She can't keep this up. Another half hour and she'll be done.

SUDDENLY MEG TAKES OFF HER SHOES -- PULLS OFF HER JACKET.

HENRY EDERLE

Meg -- what are you doing?

MEG

Get me in front of her. Trudy hates to lose a race.

MEG STANDS AT THE BOW AS THE ALSACE PULLS AHEAD OF TRUDY. SHE DIVES IN THE WATER -- STARTS TO SWIM TWENTY YARDS IN FRONT OF HER SISTER.

TRUDY LOOKS UP -- IS SHOCKED TO SEE MEG IN THE WATER --

MEG (CONT'D)

RACE YOU AROUND THE PIER!!

MEG STARTS TO SWIM WITH FRESH LEGS -- AND TRUDY QUICKLY SPRINGS TO LIFE -- CHASING HER SISTER THROUGH THE TEN FOOT SWELLS -- MOVING FORWARD AGAIN --

151 INT. - ENGLISH PUB. - DAY

151

JABEZ WOLFFE IS SITTING IN A SMALL PUB -- REPORTS OF THE SWIM COMING OVER THE RADIO --

BRITISH RADIO (O.S.)

At mile 14 the wind has picked up to 40 knots.

THE BARTENDER HANDS WOLFFE A BEER.

BARTENDER

Looks like she's coming our way, Mr. Wolffe. You must be rooting against her.

WOLFFE

And why would I do that?

BARTENDER

If she makes it you'll go down in history. The man who couldn't swim it. And couldn't coach it.

SOME MEN IN THE PUB LAUGH --

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Maybe you'll get lucky! Someone will touch her before she reaches the shore!

AND WE SEE WOLFFE NERVOUSLY GLANCE OUT THE WINDOW. HE QUICKLY WALKS OUT OF THE BAR --

152 EXT. - ENGLISH CHANNEL. - DAY 152

TRUDY IS SWIMMING SIDE BY SIDE WITH MEG NOW -- A FEW YARDS BETWEEN THEM. THE SEA IS STILL RAGING -- THE WIND PUSHING THE SWELLS SIDEWAYS -- BUT SOMEHOW SHE IS MOVING FORWARD.

MEG
I can't swim anymore, Trudy. I'm sorry.

MEG STOPS NOW -- AND TRUDY LOOKS AT HER SISTER AND SMILES --

TRUDY
Get to the boat. And tell Burgess I'm starving.

MEG
What do you want?

TRUDY
Anything but tea!

153 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - DAY 153

MEG IS EXHAUSTED -- LYING ON THE DECK WRAPPED IN TOWELS -- FREEZING AND SHAKING AS SHE TRIES TO RECOVER FROM ONE HOUR IN THE WATER. HER FATHER LEANS DOWN AT HER -- SEES THAT HER HANDS ARE BLUE FROM THE COLD.

MEG
I can't feel my hands or feet. I don't know how she's in there.

BURGESS HAS TIED A CHICKEN LEG TO A PIECE OF ROPE -- THROWS IT OUT TO TRUDY. SHE CATCHES IT -- LIES ON HER BACK AND STARES UP AT THE SKY FOR A BEAT. SHE EATS IT DOWN IN TWO BITES -- THEN LOOKS TOWARD THE SHIP --

TRUDY
Another!

154 EXT. - AMSTERDAM AVENUE. - EARLY MORNING 154

THE STREET ARE QUIET. TRAFFIC IS LIGHT AS MOST OF THE CITY HAS COME TO A DEAD STOP.

155 INT. - EPPY EPSTEIN'S APARTMENT. - EARLY MORNING 155

EPPY IS PACING BACK AND FORTH IN HER APARTMENT -- A BOTTLE OF WINE IN HER HAND.

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
 Fronts moving in from the North
 Atlantic are funneled through the
 Channel and create winds that can
 reach hurricane force.

156 INT. - NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY. - EARLY MORNING 156

GERTRUD SITS NEXT TO HARRY HORLICK -- WHO IS HANDED ANOTHER
 PIECE OF PAPER.

GERTRUD
 What? What's wrong?

AND HARRY LOOKS AT HER AND SMILES --

HARRY HORLICK
 She's six miles from England.

GERTRUD
 Stop smiling. It's a long way to
 go.

157 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - EARLY EVENING 157

AS WAVES CONTINUE TO POUND THE FRONT OF THE BOAT -- A LAYER
 OF FOG DRIFTS ACROSS THE CHANNEL. BURGESS LOOKS THROUGH THE
 FOG TOWARD THE FRONT OF THE SHIP NOW. HE STEPS FORWARD --
 SEES THE HULL OF A SHIPWRECK IN FRONT OF THEM --

BURGESS
 SHALLOWS!!! WE'RE IN THE
 SHALLOWS!!

AND NOW THE CAPTAIN SEES IT -- TURNS THE SHIP HARD AS THEY
 NARROWLY AVOID THE GOODWIN SANDS -- HUGE ROCKS AND SHIPWRECKS
 VISIBLE ON THE SURFACE --

CAPTAIN
 HANG ON!

EVERYONE IS THROWN TO THE DECK AS THE SHIP TURNS AWAY FROM
 THE SHALLOWS AT THE LAST SECOND -- NARROWLY MISSING TRUDY --

THE REPORTER'S SHIP TURNING AS WELL --

HENRY EDERLE
 What's happening?

BURGESS
 The storm pushed us into the
 Goodwin Sands!

MEG
 What do we do?

BURGESS

She'll have to swim across the shallows for the last five miles -- alone. She'll come through the mouth of Dover straight to Kingsdown Beach --

HENRY EDERLE

You said she couldn't swim perpendicular to the current! What if she gets lost? What if she gets sucked out to sea?!

BURGESS

She can do it.

HENRY EDERLE

Take her out of the water now, Mr. Burgess! Get my daughter out!

BURGESS

I'm not taking her out. As long as she wants to swim -- she swims.

MEG

Promise me she'll be okay, Mr Burgess.

HENRY EDERLE

We're losing light. She's frozen stiff -- slowing down! She'll be alone in the dark without a ship to guide her. I want her out of the water!

AND NOW THEY ALL LOOK OVER THE SIDE OF THE ALSACE -- SEE TRUDY STARING UP AT THEM.

HENRY EDERLE (CONT'D)

Trudy -- we can't follow you through the shallows! Get out now! The swim is over.

AND TRUDY LOOKS AHEAD TOWARD THE OMINOUS SHALLOWS -- THE SEAS SLAMMING AGAINST THE ROCKS AND SHIPWRECKS AS THE WINDS BLOWS THE CURRENT SIDEWAYS. SHE TURNS BACK TO THEM WITH A BIG SMILE ON HER FACE.

TRUDY

What for?

AND TRUDY PUTS HER GOGGLES ON -- PLUNGES THROUGH A WAVE INTO THE SHALLOWS -- STARTS TO SWIM BY HERSELF --

BURGESS

We'll meet her on the beach.

AND THE *ALSACE* TURNS AWAY -- EVERYONE ON THE BOAT LOOKING
BACK AS THEY LEAVE TRUDY ALONE IN THE CHANNEL --

158 EXT. - CHANNEL SHALLOWS. - EARLY EVENING 158

TRUDY SWIMS ALONE IN THE DARK NOW -- PAIN ON HER FACE WITH EACH STROKE -- HER BODY BREAKING DOWN.

SHE STOPS SWIMMING -- BREATHING HEAVY AS SHE LOOKS AROUND IN THE DARK -- TRYING TO FIND HER WAY BUT COMPLETELY LOST.

159 EXT. - ALSACE FOLLOW BOAT. - EARLY EVENING 159

THE SHIP MAKES ITS WAY THROUGH THE MOUTH OF DOVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHALLOWS. WAVES SLAPPING THE SIDE AS BURGESS, MEG AND HENRY LOOK FOR ANY SIGN.

MEG AT THE BOW -- TERRIFIED AS SHE STARES INTO THE DARKNESS --

160 INT. - NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY. - DAY 160

HARRY HORLICK IS HANDED A PIECE OF PAPER -- NERVOUSLY LOOKS AT GERTRUD.

GERTRUD

What? Say it.

HARRY HORLICK

She's lost in the shallows. They can't find her.

HE TURNS TO HIS MICROPHONE --

RADIO ANNOUNCER

We have reports that Trudy Ederle is lost in the Goodwin Sands -- only five miles from England. We pray she finds her way to Dover and the beach at Kingsdown.

161 EXT. - ENGLISH CHANNEL GOODWIN SANDS. - NIGHT 161

AS TRUDY STRUGGLES TO SWIM -- SHE LOOKS UP -- LOST AND TERRIFIED. SHE CAN'T MOVE HER ARMS -- HER BODY BREAKING DOWN AS SHE BEGINS TO CRY. SHE TAKES OFF HER GOGGLES -- DROPS THEM. AND WE FOLLOW THE GOGGLES AS THEY SINK TO THE BOTTOM.

162 EXT. - KINGSDOWN BEACH. - NIGHT

162

TRUDY'S FATHER AND MEG FOLLOW BILL BURGESS ONTO THE BEACH AT KINGSDOWN. THEY STAND ON THE SAND LOOKING BACK INTO THE DARKNESS --

HENRY EDERLE

We have to get back on that boat
and find her, Mr. Burgess!

BURGESS

There is no going back. This is
where it ends.

HENRY EDERLE

It's been an hour. We both know
she's lost out there. How is she
supposed to find her way!

MEG

Look!

AND NOW THEY ALL LOOK BEHIND THEM -- WHERE PEOPLE ARE
LIGHTING FIRES ON THE CLIFFS OF DOVER --

163 EXT. - CLIFFS OF DOVER. - NIGHT

163

WOMEN HAVE PACKED THE ROADS ABOVE THE BEACH -- MOTHERS AND
DAUGHTERS ARE LIGHTING FIRES TO SHOW TRUDY THE WAY.

164 EXT. - ENGLISH CHANNEL SHALLOWS. - NIGHT

164

TRUDY CAN BARELY MOVE IN THE WATER -- HER EYES HALF-CLOSED
AND HER BODY SHAKING FROM THE COLD. AS SHE'S ABOUT TO GO
UNDER SHE LOOKS UP -- SEES SOMETHING IN THE DISTANCE.

LIGHT ON THE WATER -- A SHIMMERING REFLECTION AT SEA --

TRUDY LOOKS UP -- SEES FIRES BURNING ACROSS THE CLIFFS --

TRUDY TAKES OFF HER GOGGLES NOW -- STARES AT THE BURNING
CLIFFS OF DOVER -- THE SIGHT CAUSING HER TO SLOWLY SWIM
AGAIN. SHE HEADS STRAIGHT FOR THE LIGHT -- SWIMS HARD
AGAINST THE CURRENT -- GAINING STRENGTH WITH EACH STROKE --

AS THE *LIGHT* LEADS HER TO ENGLAND.

- 165 EXT. - KINGSDOWN BEACH. - NIGHT 165
AS FIRES BURN -- MEG STANDS IN THE BREAKWATER SEARCHING FOR TRUDY.
- 166 EXT. - CLIFFS OF DOVER. - NIGHT 166
WE SEE JABEZ WOLFFE PULL UP IN HIS CAR --
CROWDS ARE STARTING TO MAKE THEIR WAY DOWN TO THE BEACH --
THE FIRES LIGHTING UP THE CLIFFS AS PEOPLE RUSH TOWARD THE SHORE.
WOLFFE DRINKS FROM A BOTTLE -- FOLLOWS THEM DOWN --
- 167 INT. - NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY. - NIGHT 167
HARRY HORLICK LEANS INTO HIS MICROPHONE.
HARRY HORLICK
There's fires burning on the cliffs
of Dover -- as the world stops now
and waits --
- 168 INT. - USS AMERICA. - STATEROOM. - DAY 168
JAMES SULLIVAN SITS ALONE IN A SMALL STATEROOM LISTENING TO THE RADIO.
HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
We are all with her in that
freezing water. We are all
fighting twelve foot swells.
Tonight we are all with Trudy.
- 169 EXT. - ENGLISH CHANNEL. - NIGHT 169
TRUDY IS SWIMMING HARD STRAIGHT ACROSS THE CURRENT -- PUSHING HERSELF THROUGH THE MASSIVE SWELLS --
- 170 EXT. - DOVER SHORE. - KINGSDOWN BEACH. - NIGHT 170
HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAVE CROWDED THE BEACH AS MEG STANDS AT THE WATER'S EDGE. BURGESS MOVES PAST HER IN THE WATER -- SEES SOMETHING IN THE DISTANCE --
BURGESS
THERE!!
AND NOW THEY LOOK OUT -- SEE TRUDY COMING TOWARD SHORE --

MEG

TRUDY!!!

THE CROWD SEEING HER AS PEOPLE SWARM THE BEACH -- CAR HORNS
HONKING --

171 INT. - NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY. - DAY 171
HARRY HORLICK LOOKS AT GERTRUD -- READS FROM A PIECE OF PAPER

HARRY HORLICK
Ladies and gentleman -- Trudy
Ederle is one hundred meters from
shore.

AND NOW GERTRUD SLOWLY GETS TO HER FEET --

HARRY HORLICK (CONT'D)
She's going to make it.

172 EXT. - DOVER SHORE. - NIGHT 172
WE SEE WOLFFE STANDING BACK IN THE CROWD -- BLENDING IN AS HE
HIDES IN THE DARKNESS.

173 EXT. - ENGLISH CHANNEL. - NIGHT 173
TRUDY IS SWIMMING WITH ALL SHE'S GOT -- HER HEAD DOWN AS SHE
SPRINTS TOWARD THE END.

SUDDENLY HER HAND HITS SOMETHING -- AND SHE REALIZES SHE'S
TOUCHING SAND. SHE SLOWLY GETS TO HER KNEES -- LIFTS HER
HEAD AND LOOKS AT THE INCREDIBLE SIGHT IN FRONT OF HER.

THE ENTIRE BEACH IS LIT UP BY HEADLIGHTS AND FIRES -- THE
CROWD CHEERING AS BURGESS AND HER FATHER STAND WITH SEVERAL
POLICE OFFICERS WHO ARE KEEPING THE CROWD BACK.

HENRY EDERLE
Nobody touches her!

TRUDY CRAWLS ONTO THE WHITE WATER -- USES ALL OF HER STRENGTH
TO GET TO HER FEET. SHE STANDS AND FACES THEM ALL NOW --

MEG
Come on, Trudy. A few steps. You
can do it.

AND TRUDY STARTS TO WALK ONTO THE BEACH -- THE WATER LAPPING
AT HER FEET --

AND NOW WE SEE WOLFFE BREAK THROUGH THE CROWD OF PEOPLE --

TRUDY ALMOST OUT OF THE WATER NOW -- JUST A FEW MORE STEPS --

BUT WOLFFE IS RUSHING TOWARD HER -- REACHING OUT TO TOUCH HER
-- HIS HAND A FEW INCHES FROM HERS --

WHEN SUDDENLY A PUNCH SENDS WOLFFE FLYING BACK TO THE
WHITewater. WE PAN UP TO BILL BURGESS -- WHO HAS KNOCKED HIM
COLD. TRUDY LOOKS AT BURGESS AND SMILES -- USES ALL HER
STRENGTH TO WHISPER --

TRUDY
Bloody hero.

MEG
Trudy...look down.

TRUDY TURNS TO MEG NOW -- WATCHES AS HER SISTER WIPES TEARS
FROM HER EYES.

MEG (CONT'D)
Welcome to England.

AND TRUDY LOOKS DOWN -- SEES THAT HER FEET ARE ON THE SAND.
AND NOW SHE COLLAPSES INTO HER SISTER'S ARMS -- THE TWO OF
THEM LAUGHING AND CRYING TOGETHER AS THE CROWD SURROUNDS HER
-- THEIR FATHER EMBRACING THEM BOTH --

TRUDY
Not bad for a girl.

CARS HONKING ALONG THE CLIFFS AS TRUDY HUGS HER FATHER --

HENRY EDERLE
My daughter! I taught her to swim!
I taught her!

174 INT. - NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY. - DAY

174

TWO MEN WALK OVER AND HAND HARRY A PIECE OF PAPER. HE READS
IT -- WALKS OVER TO GERTRUD --

HARRY HORLICK
You daughter is in England, Mrs.
Ederle.

THE UNCLES CHEERING, CRYING. AND GERTRUD CAN'T HELP BUT
SMILE FOR A BEAT -- HER FACE SOFTENING FOR A FEW SECONDS.

GERTRUD
That's that.

HARRY HORLICK HUGS GERTRUD -- AND SHE LOOKS TERRIFIED. AND
THEN A MOMENT LATER --

GERTRUD (CONT'D)
Come on, let's go. Time for
school.

HENRY STARES AT HER --

HENRY JUNIOR
School? Trudy just swam the
Channel.

GERTRUD
Yes, she did. But you did not.

HARRY SITS DOWN AND FACES THE MICROPHONE.

HARRY HORLICK
Ladies and gentlemen, tonight I can
report that the greatest athlete in
the world is not Babe Ruth or Jack
Dempsey.

175 INT. - USS AMERICA. - STATEROOM. - DAY 175

JAMES SULLIVAN SITS ALONE IN HIS ROOM.

HARRY HORLICK (O.S.)
The greatest athlete in the world
is a young woman from New York
City.

AND NOW SULLIVAN STARTS TO SMILE AS HE REALIZES --

JAMES SULLIVAN
Well done, Trudy.

176 INT. - CLIFF'S OF DOVER - POLICE CAR. - SUNRISE 176

TRUDY IS WRAPPED IN TOWELS IN THE BACK OF A POLICE CAR.
SHE'S DRINKING HOT SOUP -- STILL SHIVERING AS A CUSTOM'S
OFFICER APPROACHES.

CUSTOMS OFFICER
I'm sorry -- I can't let you into
the country without a passport.

WE PULL BACK -- SEE THAT THE OFFICER IS SURROUNDED BY A
THOUSAND PEOPLE.

BURGESS
Sir, you need to call someone.

177 INT. - USS AMERICA. - MORNING 177

TRUDY IS SLEEPING LIKE A BEAR -- SNORING IN A STEAMSHIP
CABIN. MEG WALKS INTO THE ROOM -- SITS ON THE EDGE OF THE
BED.

MEG
Trudy -- wake up. We're almost
home.

TRUDY WAKES UP -- STARES AT MEG --

MEG (CONT'D)

We need to fix your hair -- get you ready...

TRUDY

Meg -- my ears are still underwater. What if they want to talk to me?

MEG

Don't worry, I'll be next to you. Besides, it's early. Everyone in New York will be asleep.

178 EXT. - USS AMERICA. - DAY

178

AS THE SHIP SAILS INTO NEW YORK HARBOR -- MEG LEADS TRUDY UP TO THE MAIN DECK. THEY STARE IN SILENT AWE AT THE HUNDREDS OF BOATS THAT HAVE COME OUT TO GREET HER SHIP --

FLOWERS START TO DROP DOWN AROUND TRUDY -- AS TWO BI-PLANES CIRCLE ABOVE DROPPING PETALS.

MEG AND TRUDY STAND ON DECK WITH THEIR FATHER NOW -- ALL TRYING TO TAKE IN THE SPECTACLE.

HENRY EDERLE

What's happening?

MEG

It's for Trudy.

179 EXT. - HARBOR DOCKS. - NEW YORK. - DAY

179

TRUDY RUNS DOWN THE GANGPLANK -- THROWS HERSELF INTO HER MOTHER'S ARMS. HER FAMILY SURROUNDS HER NOW AS TRUDY LOOKS UP, SEES BENJI ZAMMIT STANDING IN THE CROWD. SHE MOVES TOWARD HIM -- BOTH OF THEM LAUGHING AS HE LIFTS HER IN THE AIR --

BENJI

Go on, Trudy. It's your time.

MAYOR WALKER WALKS OVER -- MOTIONS TO A ROW OF CARS --

MAYOR WALKER

Trudy -- we have to go. They're waiting for you.

TRUDY

My coach rides with me.

AND NOW TRUDY MOTIONS TO EPPY EPSTEIN -- OPENS THE CAR DOOR FOR HER. AND THEY GET IN THE CAR TOGETHER.

180

EXT. - NEW YORK CITY. AMSTERDAM AVENUE - DAY

180

MORE THAN A MILLION PEOPLE HAVE LINED THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY -- THE LARGEST TICKER TAPE PARADE THE CITY HAS EVER HELD.

STREAMS OF PAPERS ARE DROPPED FROM WINDOWS AS POLICE HOLD
BACK THE CHEERING CROWDS --

181 EXT. - NEW YORK CITY. - DAY

181

TRUDY SITS IN AN OPEN CAR WITH MAYOR WALKER, MEG AND EPPY --
THE CAR SLOWLY MOVING DOWN AMSTERDAM AVENUE. TRUDY SMILES
AND WAVES TO THE CHEERING CROWDS --

THEY PASS A ROW OF MEN IN SUITS -- THE ENTIRE NEW YORK
YANKEES TEAM STANDS AS SHE PASSES. BABE RUTH TAKES OFF HIS
HAT OUT OF RESPECT. NEXT TO THE YANKEES IS JOHNNY
WEISSMULLER -- WHO IS CHEERING AS TRUDY PASSES HIM BY --

TRUDY TURNS TO MEG NOW -- THE TWO SISTERS HOLDING EACH OTHER.

TRUDY
I'm starving.

AS THE PARADE CONTINUES DOWN AMSTERDAM AVENUE -- WHERE
TRUDY'S ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD HAS COME TO GREET HER. MEN THROW
ROSES -- WHILE WOMEN OF ALL AGES SMILE WITH PRIDE --

THE CHEERS FROM THE CROWD SLOWLY DISAPPEAR. THE MUSIC FROM
THE BAND BARELY AUDIBLE -- AND ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE SILENCE
OF ONE MILLION PEOPLE --

AS TRUDY IS LOST IN A SEA OF CONFETTI --

182 INT. - ENGLISH PUB. - DAY

182

WOLFFE SITS ALONE AT THE BAR LISTENING TO THE RADIO -- HIS
FACE STILL BRUISED FROM THE PUNCH.

BRITISH RADIO
From this moment on Trudy belongs
to the world. Where men like Jabez
Wolffe failed again and again --
Trudy Ederle has triumphed!

WOLFFE GRABS THE RADIO -- THROWS IT ACROSS THE BAR.

183 OMITTED 183

184 EXT. - CONEY ISLAND SHORE. - MORNING 184

THE BEACHES ARE EMPTY -- A WINTER STORM HOVERING IN THE DISTANCE.

GERTRUD EDERLE IS WALKING WITH TRUDY ALONG THE BEACH. THEY STAND ON THE DESERTED SAND FACING THE WATER.

GERTRUD

It looks cold. Maybe another time.

TRUDY

Don't worry. I've got you.

AND NOW THEY SLOWLY WALK ACROSS THE SAND TOWARD THE SEA.

185 INT. - EDERLE APARTMENT. - MORNING 185

TRUDY'S FATHER IS SITTING AT THE TABLE DRINKING COFFEE. SUDDENLY THE PHONE RINGS -- AND HENRY FREEZES.

HE'S NEVER HEARD THE PHONE RING BEFORE.

HENRY EDERLE

I HAVE A CALL!! I HAVE A --

HE MOVES TO ANSWER -- BUT HENRY JUNIOR GETS THERE FIRST.

HENRY JUNIOR

Hello? She's not here. Okay --
I'll tell her you called.

AND HENRY JUNIOR QUICKLY HANGS UP.

HENRY EDERLE

Who was it!?

HENRY JUNIOR

The President of the United States.

186 EXT. - ENGLISH CHANNEL. - MORNING 186

BILL BURGESS IS WALKING NAKED DOWN THE ROCKS THAT LEAD TO THE CHANNEL. HE LOOKS OUT AT THE WATER -- SEES A SHIMMERING LIGHT CALLING TO HIM FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE CHANNEL.

HE DIVES INTO THE FREEZING WATER TO START HIS DAY.

187 EXT. - CONEY ISLAND. - DAY

187

GERTRUD EDERLE LOOKS TERRIFIED AS SHE REMOVES HER HAT AND SHOES. SHE SLOWLY REACHES OUT AND TAKES TRUDY'S HAND.

TRUDY
Come on. We'll go together.

AND NOW TRUDY'S MOTHER SUMMONS ALL OF HER COURAGE -- PLACES HER FEET IN THE OCEAN. SHE STANDS THERE FOR A BEAT LETTING THE COLD WATER WASH OVER HER ANKLES -- CALMLY STARING OUT AT THE SEA WITH TRUDY BY HER SIDE.

THEY BOTH SMILE -- THEN TAKE ANOTHER SMALL STEP INTO THE SEA

TITLE CARD #1

Trudy Ederle swam the English Channel in fourteen hours and thirty one minutes. She broke the men's record by over two hours -- forever changing the course of women in sports.

AN IMAGE SLOWLY COMES INTO FOCUS -- WE SEE NADIA COMANECI SCORING A PERFECT 10 ON THE BEAM -- JANET EVANS SWIMMING -- WILMA RUDOLF SPRINTING -

TITLE CARD #2

The swimsuit Trudy wore currently hangs in The International Swimming Hall of Fame. The goggles she wore reside in the Smithsonian.

WE SEE BILLIE JEAN KING BEATING BOBBY RIGGS -- JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE JUMPING 25 FEET -- LISA LESLIE DUNKING -- DANICA PATRICK DRIVING 190 MPH -- MIA HAMM SCORING TO GIVE TEAM U.S.A. THE WORLD CUP --

TITLE CARD #3

There has never been a larger parade for any athlete in the history of New York City. Male or female.

THE MUSIC FADES -- AND THE IMAGES SLOWLY DISSOLVE INTO GRAINY BLACK AND WHITE FOOTAGE OF TRUDY EDERLE SWIMMING THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.

TITLE CARD #4

Trudy died in 2003 at the age of 98.

188 EXT. - OCEAN. - SUNRISE.

188

TRUDY CONTINUES TO SWIM -- PUSHING HERSELF AGAINST AN
UNBREAKABLE TIDE -- ALONE IN THE OCEAN -- NOTHING BUT HER AND
THE HORIZON.

A YOUNG WOMAN ALONE WITH THE SEA.

FADE OUT.