

HELEN ARMSTRONG

A Meeting Hall

Jewish and Ukrainian immigrants—including Moishe and Rebecca Mr. Bronfman, Emma, and the Helen Armstrong—make a boisterous entrance. Stefan and Mike enter last.

MIKE ~~—————~~ What do you want with these people?

STEFAN ~~—————~~ You don't have to come I told you.

MIKE ~~—————~~ You shut up. Don't tell me my business.

Helen starts the meeting.

HELEN ARMSTRONG Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Helen Armstrong, thank you very much for inviting me. I am working with the strike committee to reach out to communities like yours across the city -

Bronfman, a Jewish community leader, middle 30's, stands.

BRONFMAN Mrs. Armstrong, please forgive my rudeness, but I feel this must first be said.

HELEN Please.

BRONFMAN Mrs. Armstrong we appreciate you coming all the way to the North End. But...

Looking over at the Ukrainian immigrants...

BRONFMAN ...How do you expect us to work with these people? They show us nothing but contempt.

As the Ukrainians mutter Stefan steals a glance at Rebecca - she's listening carefully to Bronfman.

BRONFMAN - when even their bishop now preaches hatred -

MIKE ~~—————~~ *(without standing)* All da Bishop said—

STEFAN ~~—————~~ *(to Mike)* Don't!

BRONFMAN ~~—————~~ right from the pulpit!

MIKE ~~—————~~ *(louder now)* All da Bishop said—

STEFAN ~~—————~~ *(to Mike)* Would you shut up—

MIKE ~~_____~~ was poor Ukrainians should be careful what over-priced junk they buy from the Jews.

~~_____~~ *Mike shrugs, believing his logic self evident. Jews yell their outrage.*

BRONFMAN ~~_____~~ You see what I'm talking about?

~~_____~~ *Stefan, burning with humiliation, now avoids Rebecca's eyes. Helen Armstrong takes the meeting back.*

HELEN ARMSTRONG Sir, what I have to say affects all of you. Like all workers in this city, you are being paid next to nothing.

The crowd settles down to listen, Bronfman's arms skeptically crossed.

HELEN ARMSTRONG Prices have doubled but your wages have not. Your working conditions are terrible.

Stefan checks Mike with a side-glance. He's listening, for the moment, the same crossed arms.

HELEN ARMSTRONG So the unions are asking all workers to stand together, in strength -

MIKE No. Why are we talking about a strike? We are not union!

HELEN ARMSTRONG Union and non-union! We are calling for all workers to join us in a general strike.

Stefan glances around the room - his father excepted, everyone is listening now.

HELEN ARMSTRONG Every worker in the city, leaving our jobs as one, standing up to the bosses and demanding. Demanding our fair share. Demanding our right to a living wage -