

SUSAN #1

Emma's eyes stray to SUSAN, 45, a Saskatchewan farm girl turned ladies' auxiliary president, sits embarrassed slightly by her husband's rant.

Emma clears the breakfast remains, brushes the crumbs from the table cloth. Slips the paper onto her full tray.

SUSAN A.J., it is just a letter -

A.J. Susan, please.

Susan, frustrated, meets Emma's eye.

A.J. *(back to Robertson)* It's irresponsible and misleading - and it's written by another foreigner solely to stir up trouble!

ROBERTSON It isn't illegal to speak one's mind in this country, even for foreigners.

A.J. Then make it illegal! That's why we got you into cabinet.

SUSAN A.J.!

A.J. *(to Susan, firmly)* We need tea.

Susan turns to Emma, who is staring at A.J. in barely contained outrage.

SUSAN Emma! Tea!

DINING ROOM

Emma returns with the tea. The men are already heading to the living room. Susan, holding her temper, remains seated.

A.J. I can guarantee you it's immigrants behind this General Strike talk -

ROBERTSON A.J., I Am the Minister of Labour. There has never been a successful general strike on this continent - but if there is, I will lead fair but firm negotiations.

EMMA *(soto voice)* Ma'am. Why aren't you saying something?

A.J. Forget negotiating, get the damn thing stopped before it gets off the ground! Clear those troublemaking foreigners out of the unions and right out of the country -

SUSAN A.J. -

A.J. Susan! For the love of God!
A.J. waves her away like a very pesky fly.

SUSAN ASHDOWN #2

A.J. & SUSAN'S LIVING ROOM

A.J. What's wrong?
Susan taps the receiver toggle repeatedly, listening at the receiver.

SUSAN It's dead.
He listens, taps the toggle.

A.J. Damn them. They've walked out.
He heads for the door.

SUSAN A.J. – where are you going?

A.J. Out, obviously!

SUSAN When are you coming home?
But he's gone.
(calling after him) They wouldn't shut off our water, would they?
Emma approaches.

EMMA Ma'am?

SUSAN Yes, Emma?

EMMA I'm not wanting you to think I'm ungrateful. But I've been thinking on it and -

SUSAN Not you too, Emma? If it's about your wage, we could probably afford a little more.

EMMA But Ma'am, I've been here for seven years and not once did you offer me a raise.

SUSAN If you go out, I can't promise A.J. would take you back. You have to think about your child.

EMMA

It's my Joey I'm thinking about. He needs to see when the call came, his mother stood up and answered.

Emma nods righteously, leaves Susan dumbstruck.

SUSAN #3

Susan Ashdown addresses an unseen audience. It is a passionate speech, suggesting a new decision, the beginning of an entirely new phase in Susan's life.

SUSAN:

(speaking) Let us be frank. Let us call a spade a spade. And let us not gloat in what some mistake for victory. For we preside over a city, indeed a nation, divided. There is a gulf in the land, a chasm between those of means, and those of none. Deny this and risk the ridicule, and the terror, of the future, where scorn will freely flow in our absence.