

GRACE, KATHRYN MACNEIL VON SOCHOCKY

GRACE. Irene?

IRENE. In here!

GRACE. Irene? What are you doing?

IRENE. Shut the door.

KATHRYN. Amelia's workin' inspection today.

GRACE. Is that bad?

IRENE. Not for us.

KATHRYN. She's gonna be sittin' in this room all day. By herself, in the dark, checkin' dials.

IRENE. Poor thing.

KATHRYN. Poor thing.

IRENE. So we're gonna give her a little surprise.

KATHRYN. Boo! Like the Cheshire Cat! (IRENE and KATHRYN laugh.)

GRACE. Oooh! Won't that make her mad?

KATHRYN. Let her get mad.

IRENE. That's half the fun.

GRACE. I don't want to make her mad.

IRENE. Oh, Grace! Do you have to be that way about everything?

GRACE. What way?

KATHRYN. Your teeth, Grace. Put some on your teeth. (GRACE coNsents to be painted.)

IRENE. Ain't like Amelia don't deserve it. She paints more dials than any girl on the floor. And can't be bothered to talk to nobody either. You say "Amelia! What's new?"

She just looks at ya funny.

GRACE. I don't think she can speak much English.

IRENE. It wouldn't kill her to smile, would it? (Footsteps and voices off.)

KATHRYN. She's comin'.

IRENE. Get the light! (KATHRYN turns out the light, and they crouch down

IRENE. . Oops..

GRACE. Mrs. MacNeil!

MACNEIL Paintin' yer faces. Have ya gone off yer minds?

IRENE. It was just a joke.

MACNEIL Just a joke? A joke like that can lose a girl her job.

VON SOCHOCKY. Now, now, Mrs. MacNeil. I'm sure that's not necessary.

MACNEIL I don't tolerate no foolishness, Doctor.

VON SOCHOCKY. Ja, very good. Foolishness, we don't want. Do we? Mr. Roeder. This is the inspection room. All the dials come here that are painted. And here, are some of the girls who should on the floor be working. Girls, this is Mr. Roeder. My new vice president. And your new plant manager.

MACNEIL And I was just telling Mr. Roeder what a fine bunch of girls we have here. I'm sure now he must think I'm halfway out of my mind.

VON SOCHOCKY. Mr. Roeder. Perhaps you have some words for the girls? Mrs. MacNeil? (He ushers MRS.

MACNEIL out of the room.)