

Jonathon Baker

Post World War II Conversation

The war has ended, the nation's men have returned home and the women started to get let off from their wartime jobs. Our female character Peggy, a former Rosie, is somewhat reluctant to giving up her job and feels that she along with other women have proved their skill at the jobs at hand. Our male character Tommy, a former G.I., has returned home and had obtained help from the federal government and had gotten a job that was, in time of war, a Rosie's job.

"Peggy! Is that you?"

"Oh what a delight, if it isn't Tom Handley. When did you get back? Haven't seen you in years."

"Well, not to long ago to be honest. I just started here seems we worked the same shift today, I didn't see you on the floor though."

"Yea, they got me moving around a lot lately. Ever since the war ended and you boys came back, I'm just happy to still be working."

"How's the family doing? How old is little Cal now, seven?"

"Jim and I are doing great, you know, getting by. This job has been a great help. Cal is turning seven this summer, great memory. Well I should be getting home I should get dinner on the table before Jim gets off."

"How long you thinking of staying here? Working here?"

"Well I haven't gave it that much thought, I guess as long as I don't get fired, then for a while.

What brings you to asking such a question?

“Oh, it just seems like with Cal and Jim... you know. He’s young, he needs mother.”

“I understand, and he has one. One, which works hard to supply for his education, one that cares about his wellbeing. I’m not sure I understand your concern for my working here. Are women not good enough to work alongside with? Am I not good enough? Is that it?” The emotion of years seen behind her eyes. War had not only changed the nation’s men at war but also the ideologies of women at home.

“I mean, that is not it at all. Come on Peggy that’s not what I meant. Its just, before the war the mother stayed home. The war is over... does that count for nothing? I got buddies that are still looking for work. Tim’s been back longer then I have and he still doesn’t have a steady job to support his family.”

“Believe me I have heard it all before, you aren’t the first Tom Handley. They say welding isn’t a woman’s job, working the press isn’t a woman’s job. Well, it was good enough when you needed us. It was good enough for then. It’s all big game. Before the war everyone said it takes six years and an apprenticeship to become a welder... well that was the case because that’s what worked for the management. The system is not always as transparent as it seems.”

“The country needed you, and you helped you did your duty. Just like me I did my duty, I served. Now they want me to come back and live life normally, like it was. You payed your duty, many woman did and we are all thankful for that, but don’t you think we all need things back to normal...”

“Normal? You want normal? Back to the way things were, before the war? Like the economic downfall? Or maybe you would prefer the lack of financial security. I don’t know about you, but normal is gone and I for one am happy about that.” (I Pledge, Word Count 601)