

THE RIVETER

Written by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. RECEPTION HALL - DAY

A 1931 Duesenberg SJ Sedan Convertible is parked out front. Count Basie's "One O'Clock Jump" booms from inside, along with LAUGHTER from a large group of people.

TITLE OVER: September 12, 1941

INT. RECEPTION HALL - DAY

A wedding reception is in full swing. A live band plays the popular tune. PEOPLE dance and eat and socialize.

BRENDA WILSON, a down-to-earth 18-year-old with doe eyes and a perfect smile, classic waves and pins in her mid-length hair, wearing a beautiful wedding gown, dances with her groom, SCOTT THOMAS (19), slicked back hair, dashing in a "bad boy" sort of way, wearing a tux.

Brenda's best friend, AMY DOWLER (18), preppy and bubbly, wearing a lavender gown, dances with JERRY (20).

The song ends to APPLAUSE. Amy addresses all of the single females present.

AMY

Time for the bouquet!

The single women and girls gather in the center of the floor. Brenda's little sisters LISA (5) and MABEL (7) stand by Amy.

Brenda grabs her bouquet from a table and turns her back to the crowd.

BRENDA

One... two... three!

She throws the bouquet backwards, right toward Amy. Amy picks up Lisa just in time for her to catch the bouquet. The little girl couldn't be prouder.

Standing by them, a WOMAN playfully smirks.

WOMAN

(joking)

Great. I'll be dead before I ever get married.

Laughter from some of those around her. The women disperse.

Jerry addresses the men.

JERRY  
It's garter time!

Men cheer as they rush out to the floor. Brenda's younger brothers JOHN (9) and RANDY (4) are among them.

Brenda sits down in a chair, ready to hike up her dress. Her parents, HAROLD and CAROL WILSON (40s), watch close-by, both embarrassed and happy for their daughter.

Scott kneels before Brenda. She lifts one side of her gown to reveal a garter around her thigh. Some of the men whistle and holler.

CAROL  
(to Brenda; laughing)  
Don't lift it too far now.

Scott removes the garter. With his back to the men, he tosses it backwards. A fun-filled brawl takes place for the object. A LITTLE BOY (5) crawls out of the mess with the garter, a puzzled look on his face. He stretches it out.

LITTLE BOY  
Look! I got me a slingshot!

Nearly everyone laughs at his comment. His MOM scoops him up and takes him away from the crowd.

"Stormy Weather" plays. Many couples dance, including Harold and Carol. They watch Brenda dancing with Scott, a seemingly happy couple.

HAROLD  
One down and four to go.

CAROL  
Don't go rushin` it none. Let me hang onto my babies as long as I can.

NEARBY

Brenda and Scott gaze into each other's eyes.

SCOTT  
How does it feel to be married,  
Mrs. Thomas?

BRENDA

I've wanted nothing more since I was a little girl. It all feels like a dream.

She lays her head against Scott's chest, loving the closeness.

EXT. SCOTT'S HOUSE - DAY

A very small two bedroom with a picket fence around the yard, in a lower-class neighborhood. Scott parks the Duesenberg out front and opens the door for Brenda. She gets out, staring at the house in awe. Both wear casual clothing now.

BRENDA

It's ours?

SCOTT

Sure is. I figure we'll get something bigger down the road to raise a family in, but it'll do for now. We need our own car first.

Scott opens the gate for Brenda, and they anxiously move to the door. He uses a key to unlock it. Brenda starts forward -- Scott stops her.

SCOTT

We have to do this all proper now.

He picks up Brenda in his arms. She giggles. They cross the threshold to their new home together.

INT. SCOTT'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Very small with a used sofa, chair, and coffee table.

SCOTT

I know it ain't much, but we'll pick up more things as we go along.

BRENDA

No, I love it. Know why?

SCOTT

Why?

BRENDA

Because it's ours.

She squeezes Scott's hand. They move down the very short:

## HALL

Brenda looks into each doorway she comes to on her way to the kitchen. The smaller bedroom is empty. A larger bedroom has a bed and a dresser, and there's a bathroom.

## KITCHEN

Small with a table and chairs for two. Brenda half-frowns.

## BRENDA

I guess I shouldn't be planning any big dinner parties.

## SCOTT

We can always spend most of our time in the bedroom.

The suggestion worries Brenda, but she smiles. Scott pulls Brenda in closer and kisses her.

## SCOTT

Let's get started, Mrs. Thomas.

He leads his new wife to their bedroom.

## INT. SCOTT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Scott and Brenda lie beneath the covers after an exhausting liaison, at least on Scott's part. While he looks overly satisfied, Brenda appears troubled.

## SCOTT

I never imagined it would be THAT good.

Brenda puts on a fake smile. Scott kisses her neck in preparation for round two. Brenda looks like she might be ill.

## EXT. SODA FOUNTAIN - DAY

A quaint little shop in a downtown area. Ma & Pa stores line the street. PEOPLE walk about on a glorious day.

## INT. SODA FOUNTAIN - DAY

Brenda and Amy sit across from each other in a booth, sipping on malts.

AMY  
So, how's married life treating  
you?

Brenda avoids eye contact as she responds.

BRENDA  
Fine.

AMY  
Okay, what's wrong?

Brenda takes a look around to make sure no one listens. She leans across the table and speaks quietly.

BRENDA  
It isn't... good.

Amy also leans across.

AMY  
What isn't good?

BRENDA  
(embarrassed)  
It.

AMY  
(realizing)  
Oh. Well, it's not suppose to be  
good for a woman.

Brenda sits back, even more troubled now at the mere thought.

AMY  
Look on the bright side. He won't  
bother you when you're pregnant.  
Just have lots of babies.

Brenda saddens.

INT. WILSON KITCHEN - DAY

Carol is busy making a large meal to feed several. Things cooking on the stove, something baking in the oven. She takes a brief break to prepare a salad.

Brenda enters from the front of the house.

BRENDA  
Hi, Mama.