

## R. Wilkins

WILKINS. Labs are more nicely appointed in Paris, then?

ROSALIND. ~~There's no comparison.~~

→ WILKINS. You know, not all of us felt we should leave England when she needed us most.

ROSALIND. Thank you, Dr. Wilkins, for your patriotic spirit. I can assure you, however, that I was doing much more for British society after the war by working on coal molecules in France than I would have had I been in London eating rationed food and parking my car on a site cleared by a bomb that used to be someone's home.

WILKINS. I was only joking — really.

~~GOSLING. (Trying to lighten the situation.) It's true — he's quite the joker.~~

ROSALIND. And aren't you the same Wilkins who worked on the Manhattan Project in *California* during the war?

WILKINS. (*Proudly.*) For a few months' time, yes.

ROSALIND. Maybe you're aware of the fact that not a single female scientist from Britain was given a research position during wartime?

WILKINS. Is that so.

ROSALIND. I'll have you know that nuclear force is not something of which I approve.

WILKINS. Then I suppose it's good no one asked you to work on it.

ROSALIND. I beg your pardon?

WILKINS. (*Attempting to joke.*) At any rate, you lot never do seem to approve of it.

ROSALIND. I'm not sure I understand what you're driving at.

~~GOSLING. No, he~~

WILKINS. All I meant was — the irony of ...

ROSALIND. What irony?

WILKINS. (*Without apology.*) Just that ... people ... worked hard to ... come up with these ways to save ... well, the Jews, and then all you hear back from them is how they don't approve. It feels a little ...

ROSALIND. You're absolutely right that the Jews should be in a more grateful frame of mind these days.

WILKINS. All right, Rosy.

ROSALIND. My name is Rosalind. But you can call me Miss Franklin. Everyone else does. **end**

WILKINS. Fine.

ROSALIND. Of course I'd prefer Dr. Franklin, but that doesn't seem to be done here, does it, Mr. Wilkins?

WILKINS. Dr. Wilkins.

ROSALIND. Dr. Wilkins, I don't joke. I take my work seriously, as I trust you do too.

WILKINS. Of course I do. (*Long beat.*)

GOSLING. How do you like that — it's nearly two already.

WILKINS. No need for constant updates on the time, Gosling. There's a clock right there that we can see perfectly well —

GOSLING. No ... I was just saying, or, I mean, suggesting, that perhaps we might take our lunch?

ROSALIND. We've been having so much fun that the time has really flown, hasn't it, Dr. Wilkins?

WILKINS. Has it.

ROSALIND. So where shall we go? I'm famished, actually. (*Wilkins starts to leave; he's off to lunch.*) Dr. Wilkins?

WILKINS. (*Turning back.*) Hm? (*Off her look.*) Oh, I'd love to have lunch, but ...

ROSALIND. But what?

WILKINS. (*Matter-of-fact.*) I eat in the senior common room.

ROSALIND. That's where we'll go then.

WILKINS. That's the thing.

ROSALIND. What's the *thing*?

WILKINS. It's for men only.

ROSALIND. Is that so.

WILKINS. It is. (*Beat.*)

ROSALIND. Well go to it then.

WILKINS. If you're sure.

ROSALIND. Absolutely.

WILKINS. All right then.

GOSLING. (*To the audience.*) The next hour was ... well, it wasn't what you'd traditionally think of as fun.

ROSALIND. It's absurd, isn't it? Archaic!

GOSLING. What is?

ROSALIND. Well, this business of the senior common room, of course.

GOSLING. I suppose. But ... you can't worry about it.

ROSALIND. I can worry over whatever I choose to worry over, Mr. Gosling!

GOSLING. It's not like biophysicists have such great conversations