Iron Jawed Angels

A Film by Katja von Garnier
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Synopsis

Katja von Garnier's "Iron Jawed Angels" tells the remarkable and little-known story of a group of passionate and dynamic young women, led by Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and her friend Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor), who put their lives on the line to fight for American women's right to vote.

Swank and O'Connor head an outstanding female ensemble, with Julia Ormond, Molly Parker, Laura Fraser, Brooke Smith and Vera Farmiga as a rebel band of young women
seeking their seat at the table; and such cinematic icons as Lois Smith, Margo Martindale, and Anjelica Huston as the steely older generation of suffragettes.

This true story has startling parallels to today, as the young activists struggle with issues such as the challenges of protesting a popular President during wartime and the perennial balancing act between love and career. Utilizing a pulsing soundtrack, vivid colors, and a freewheeling camera, Katja von Garnier's ("bandits") driving filmmaking style shakes up the preconceptions of the period film and gives history a vibrant contemporary energy and relevance.

In 1912 Philadelphia, young suffragist activists Alice Paul (Hilar

    y Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor) have a meeting with Carrie Chapman Catt (Anjelica Huston) and Anna Howard Shaw (Lois Smith) of NAWSA (National American Woman Suffrage Association, formed in 1890 by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton). The breezy, rebellious spirit of the two younger activists is in stark contrast to the more conservative older women. Paul and Burns want to press for a constitutional amendment for women to have the right to vote, but the older women prefer a state-by-state approach. Still, Paul is permitted to take over NAWSA's Washington, D.C. committee, provided she and Burns raise their own funds. They begin planning their first big event, a parade to promote women's suffrage, and recruit a team of volunteers, including Alice's college friend Mabel Vernon (Brooke Smith), Polish factory worker Ruza Wenclawska (Vera Farmiga) and social worker Doris Stevens (Laura Fraser).

While soliciting donations at an art gallery, Paul convinces labor lawyer Inez Mulholland (Julia Ormond) to serve as a figurehead for the parade and meets a Washington newspaper political cartoonist, Ben Weissman (Patrick Dempsey), causing romantic sparks to fly. Returning to Washington, President Woodrow Wilson (Bob Gunton) finds himself ignored, while across town, the parade turns into a riot, with hecklers attacking the suffragettes. Paul and Burns are pleased with the resulting front page publicity, and over Catt's objections, seek to press their advantage by leading a delegation to see President Wilson. He puts them off with promises to study the issue, and the women lobby members of Congress to get the suffrage amendment to the floor for a vote, but it dies in committee.

Paul and Burns further antagonize Catt when they raise funds outside of NAWSA to publish a newspaper calling for women to boycott Wilson in the next election. Paul presses Weissman to help the cause, and agrees to go on a date with him. She is taken aback when Weissman, a widower, brings his young son to dinner with them. Although attracted to Weissman, Paul chooses to forego a relationship with him in order to devote herself completely to the suffrage cause.

When Catt calls for an NAWSA board investigation into the expenditures of Paul and Burns, they leave the organization to form the National Woman's Party (NWP), which opposes any candidate against the proposed constitutional amendment. The NWP disrupts President Wilson's speech to Congress with a protest, and the influential Senator
Leighton (Joseph Adams) cuts off his wife Emily's (Molly Parker) allowance after discovering she has made donations to the NWP. The women embark on a cross-country speaking tour for the cause, and an exhausted Mulholland asks to remain home, but Paul convinces her to come along.

World War I begins, and President Wilson seems headed for victory in the reelection campaign. Feeling it's better to have a friend than a foe in the White House, Catt tries to convince Paul and Burns to withdraw from the campaign. In San Francisco, an ailing Mulholland collapses and dies. Feeling that she is responsible for Mulholland's death, Paul retreats to her Quaker family's farm, until Burns arrives and convinces her to continue the fight. They return to Washington, with a bold plan to picket the White House. Senator Leighton objects to his wife's increasing involvement with the NWP, and she walks out on him.

Wartime fervor turns public opinion against the suffragettes, who are arrested on the trumped-up charge of "obstructing traffic," even though their picket line is on the sidewalk. Refusing to pay a fine for a crime they didn't commit, the women are sentenced to sixty days in an Occoquan, Virginia women's prison. Insisting that they're political prisoners, Burns demands the warden respect their rights, only to be cuffed with her arms above her cell door. In solidarity and defiance, the other suffragettes assume Burns' painful posture.

When Paul and Mrs. Leighton join the picket line, they are attacked by a mob, and subsequently imprisoned themselves. Thrown into solitary confinement for breaking a window for fresh air, Paul goes on a hunger strike. She is then denied counsel, placed in a straitjacket, and subjected to examination in the psychiatric ward. The doctor tells President Wilson that Paul shows no signs of mania or delusion, and she returns to the prison's general population, where she leads the suffragettes on a hunger strike. The warden begins force-feeding them, and a sympathetic guard sneaks Paul pen and paper.

Catt tries to get President Wilson to repay her years of loyalty by finally supporting the suffrage amendment, but he refuses. Senator Leighton visits his wife in prison, and is appalled by her condition. During their meeting, she slips him Paul's note, describing in detail their mistreatment. Word of the force-feeding leaks out, and public opinion shifts in favor of the suffragettes, now known as the "iron jawed angels." Catt seizes the moment to press President Wilson into supporting the suffrage amendment, and the women are released from prison as he comes out in its favor in a Congressional speech.

By 1920, 35 states have ratified the amendment, but one more state is needed. Tennessee becomes that state when a recalcitrant legislator casts the deciding vote after receiving a telegram from his mother (a real life event). On Aug. 26, 1920, the Susan B. Anthony Amendment becomes law, and 20 million American women win the right to vote.
Announcer: That the female mind is inferior to the male mind need not be assumed. There is something about it essentially different and that difference would constitute a political danger out to be plain to everyone. I do not wish to see the day come when the women in my state shall trail their skirts in the muck and mire of partisan politics. These flippant girls singing “votes for women” know not the disasters they invite by this reckless movement.

Scene 1

Carrie: I’ve got nothing to do with committee appointments. Let her submit a proposal to Anna.

Harriet: She’s here in Philadelphia. All she wants is a half an hour she’s a bright young girl, Swarthmore. Has a doctrine from Penn and her family has money. Carrie are you listening?

Carrie: yeah

Harriet: She wants to lobby for a constitutional amendment

Carrie: So she thinks congress is just going to suddenly roll over. Thought you said she was bright. Paul who?

Harriet: Alice Paul.

Carrie: She worked in England. You’re not dumping me any radical Harriet.

Harriet: She’s not a radical. She’s a Quaker. She came all the way down here to meet you and Anna Benice.

Scene 2

Outside the window of a store.

Alice: It’s mine

Lucy: It’s calling my name

Alice: Mean deal, must be your’s. Heads.

Inside a diner.

Alice: It’s not your style
Lucy: Nice try

Alice: Carrie Cat’s very proud of the state-by-state campaign congratulate her.

Lucy: On what? 65 years of begging and now women can vote in nine states. How many states per year is that? You congratulate her

Alice: We say “Do the math” we won’t get the letterhead or the office. You want to be two girls on a soapbox or do you want to go to Washington and play with the big lads? I want them to give us the congressional committee.

Lucy: What?

Alice: Did you swallow it whole?

Lucy: I strangled it first

**Scene 3**

In a restaurant before a speech is given

Announcer: The president of the National American Women Suffrage Association the Reverend Anna Howard Shaw

Alice: Don’t bring up suffrage in England. Shaw thinks the Brits are hooligans. Don’t start be polite

Lucy: I’m always polite. When am I not polite?

Alice: It’s the color with your hair.

After the speech is given

The passage of a constitutional amendment is not a realistic goal.

It could become one

Theoretically yes, in the future first we need more states.

Susan B. petitioned for it in 1868 and again in –

Thank you for the history lesson.

If Susan B. Anthony were alive today she’d say 1912 is the future.
Dr. Shaw and I worked side by side with Susan and Elizabeth Stanton while you were still in diapers. Miss Paul would you do me a favor and refrain from second guessing her thoughts on this topic?

“Do me a favor, don’t second guess Susan’s thoughts on cheese”

We worked side-by-side with Susan, cheek to cheek. She despised cheddar and loathed muenster.

**Scene 4**

A constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote, assuming it doesn’t die in committee will almost certainly be vetoed in the Senate. We waste time we waste money. We squander the goodwill of the democrats and worse we look like babies with no political savvy, which gives ammunition to our opponents. Have you any other thoughts Miss. Paul?

A parade, a march. The day Wilson’s arriving for his inauguration. We are guaranteed a crowd and hopefully some badly-needed publicity from the newspapers.

Mrs. Blatch tells me you two met in England

Those women give suffrage a bad name

Better then no name at all

I beg your pardon

Lucy was studying in Oxford

What I was

While I’m in sympathy with British suffragettes I don’t approve of their methodology. We don’t throw a race to make our position clear. If I send you to Washington I want your assurance that there will be no hooligan tactics.

You have it I don’t consider myself above the law under any circumstances

Then you may take over NAWSA’s committee in Washington. Have your parade Miss Paul

Thank you

You’ll have to raise your own funds of course.

**Scene 5**
Random craziness is going on

Men say: That the female mind is inferior the male mind need not be assumed that there is difference is of a kind and degree that votes for women would constitute a political danger. I do not wish to see that day come when the women in my state shall trail their skirts in the muck and mire of politics these flippant girls singing “votes for women” know not what the disasters they invite by this reckless movement

2. Building Support

Scene 1

Alice and Lucy approach the beaten down building and look inside. They wipe the dirt of the window and look inside. Then enter.

Lucy: How do you raise money to raise money?

Alice: All we need is a handful of society women. I found someone who designs parade floats.

Lucy: Floats? I thought we were going to keep it small.

Alice: Why?

Lucy: You’ve never organized a parade before. Neither have I. It’s not like giving a dinner party.

Alice: Have you ever given a dinner party?

Lucy: No

Alice: Then what are you worried about? Did you get the permit?

Lucy: I’ve been to the District Police three times---

Alice: Go over his head, to the Parks Commissioner.

Lucy: I could go under his belt.

Alice: I bet you would.

Scene 2
Women working in a factory

Alice: I think 1000 women marching means more than 10000 signature on a piece of paper

Lucy: Suffrage is not a dead issue. It’s us, it’s you. It’s living breathing women. We’re not just a petition that can be crumpled up and tossed away. And this is what marching does. Marching shows the politicians that we women are united in our demand for political—

Ruza: Show me a raise. Screw the politicians.

Laughs

Lucy: Go ahead if you think it’ll help. Now, there’s….

Alice: A hundred and forty-six women burned to death in a factory fire last month. Where’s your fire escape? Laws are made by elected officials. A fire escape can be required by law. A vote is a fire escape.

Ruza: We take Sunday off to la-di-da for you, we get fired on Monday. You have children missus? They don’t eat ballots.

Alice: Go ahead. Shout your head off. The ruling class are those who have a voice, and that voice is a vote. No one hears you.

Votes for women.

Lucy: The parade is going to happen and…. Please, please would you like one? (handing out pamphlets) The more the merrier. Anyone?

Ruza: Looks at Alice and takes papers and starts handing them out. A vote is a fire escape.

Lucy: That’s right. A vote’s a fire escape.

Ruza: (To Alice) Mrs. Wenclawska. Ruza. (Roosha)

Alice: Alice Paul

Ruza: Now give me the rest, college girl.

Scene 2

Alice: Helen Keller is in town. Arrange for me to meet her. I don’t know which hotel. She’s deaf and blind if she found it I’m sure you can.
Mabel: Hi. Mabel Vernon, I played hockey with Alice at Swarthmore.

Lucy: Lucy Burns. D.C. police will not guarantee our safety if we march on the third, because Wilson is arriving

Alice: We’re not changing the date.

Lucy: Exactly what I said I like that one and he said “Well miss might be trouble with inaugural crowds and I’m afraid I won’t be held responsible” and I said “Look mister we’re entitled to police protection.” And he said “Why don’t you stay at home?”

Ida: Miss Paul? Ida-Wells-Barnett from the Chicago delegation, I’m told you expect Negro women to march in a separate unit, in the back.

Alice: Southern suffrage groups threatened to withdraw.

Ida: Are the ladies afraid we’ll march out of step? Call their bluff.

Alice: We can’t afford to lose their support. Not with the democrats in office.

Ida: Who’s “we”? Women? Or just white women?

Lucy: Now wait a minute

Alice: We have one agenda: suffrage. Add another issue

Ida: We don’t stand that. Now what happens to Negro women when you finally get the vote? They’ll keep us out of the polling place anyway they can.

Alice: Other colored groups have agreed.

Lucy: Not perfect but practical

Ida: Dress up prejudice and call it politics? I expected more from a Quaker. I’ll march with my peers or not at all.

Alice: I understand.

Scene 3

Doris: (To Emily) Hello Ma’am. I’m Doris Stevens, National Woman Suffrage Association. We’re short on volunteers. If you have an hour to spare?

Emily: I’m sorry, I can’t.
Doris: Or if you’d like to make a pledge.

Emily: Another time perhaps.

Doris: Hello Ma’am. Doris Stevens, National Women’s Suffrage Association.

Scene 4 (will be cut)

Mabel/Doris: I could tell you were from Wyoming. That’s my favorite state. They gave women the vote from the get-go.


Alice: …by the politicians, by the newspapers. It’s very important to raise awareness….

Random people : Hello Senator Leighton, good to see you, Hi John etc.

Lucy: (Looking at a painting or something) Beautiful isn’t it? I’m sorry, I’m Lucy Burns.

Emily: Emily Leighton.

Lucy: Gosh. I’m actually part of NAWSA’s Congressional Committee. National American Woman Suffrage Association. We’re giving a parade. Have you heard about our parade?

Emily: I really don’t follow politics Ms. Burns. I haven’t the head for it.

Lucy: We’re citizens or we’re chattel. You don’t really need a degree from Harvard to figure that out.

Tom: (Entering) Would you excuse us.

Lucy: Senator Leighton, its really nice…….(John and Emily gone) to meet you.

Inez: Muller vs. Oregon, 1908. Judge rules in favor of shorter working hours for women. Then goes on record saying healthy mothers serve the public interest.

Ben: That was a victory. And as you’re a labor lawyer, are you not?

Inez: Those women were being exploited. Sure, now they’re being patronized. We’re not brood mares. Labor law with a sexual bias will come back and bite us in the ass.

Ben: The issue isn’t opportunity, it’s protection. Women need protection.
Inez: We all need protection. But when women complain, people call it hysteria… and rush to fetch the doctor.

Alice: As long as women accept protective law, they can’t expect equality. They need full citizenship.

Ben: Ben Weisman.

Alice: Alice Paul.

Inez: Inez Milholland.

Alice: I’m hungry. Have you eaten?

**Scene 5 – Dinner**

Alice: The new suffragist is single, young, independent…

Lucy: …Educated…

Alice: …And very, very, beautiful.

Lucy: She’s you.

Alice: On a horse.

Lucy: A warrior.

Alice: A herald.

Ben: Something like this?

**Scene 6 Alice and Lucy in office**

Alice: This desk was Susan B. Anthony’s. From the old headquarters. It was in storage. It’s haunted. Listen.

Lucy: Ask her how we’ll get the amendment on the floor. *(Alice “listens” to the desk)* What does she say?

Alice: She says, “Just do it.”

**Scene 7**
Lucy: When’s the last time suffrage was on the front page? “Nation aroused by open insults to women. Cause wins popular sympathy.” Another photograph of you, warrior princess…above the fold, thank you.

Inez: Alice you were right about the wings.

Doris: “Even those who are opposed to giving women the vote must now admit that the movement is no ephemeral thing.” The Evening Star blames the D.C. Police. So does the post. My feet hurt.

Alice: We got lucky.

Carrie: A hundred people in the hospital. You call that lucky, Miss Paul?

Inez: She means the extra publicity. Look….

Alice: The police were negligent. The Post is calling for an investigation. Wilson’s a gentleman from the south, I don’t see how he can deny a delegation of women… especially when they were practically molested at his doorstep.

Carrie: A delegation?

Lucy: Before the bruises fade.

Alice: Before he addresses Congress.

Carrie: He’s the president of the United States, Miss Paul. You don’t exactly go calling on him as though we were the missus next door.

Inez: Come on Carrie, Can’t a cat look at a king?

Alice: We should press our advantage.

Carrie: I think you overestimate your advantage.

**Scene 8 Wilson’s office**

Wilson: This is the first time the issue of suffrage has been brought to my attention.

Lucy: We hope that you’ll support the issue in your address to Congress, Mr. President.

Wilson: As I promised in my election campaign, Congress will focus on currency revision and tariff reform. These are issues which affect all Americans, and of course, must take priority over special interests. I can’t very well instruct Congress on the merits of an issue I’m not familiar with. I hope you’ll be patient while I educate myself.
Alice: Mr. President. How can you legislate tariff reform when not all citizens are not able to vote for it? Isn’t that why we fought the American Revolution?

Scene 9 Senators house

Emily: I was beginning to worry. You look tired.

Tom: Suffrage Amendment finally made it out of committee. Took forever to defeat it. Senators love to hear themselves talk.

Emily: Why did they vote it down?

Tom: Because, they know, that you have your hands full with the children already.

Scene 10 – newspapers being printed

Carrie: (On the phone) Alice Paul’s new, unauthorized fundraising committee. She’s calling it the Congressional Union. See who’s on the advisory board? Phoebe Harkes, Hellen Keller, Harriot Blatch. She’s handpicked our best fundraisers. And that money should’ve come here to the National, for state campaigns, not her propaganda sheet. You didn’t authorize her to publish a newspaper? Read the editorial. She’s telling women to boycott Wilson in the next election.

Scene 11

Alice: Could you type this for me?

Emily: I’m just here to make a donation.

Alice: It won’t take you long. The typewriter’s here.

Emily: I don’t know how to type.

Alice: The letters are on the keys. Thank you.

Scene 12 Alice’s office

Knock on door

Alice: Yes.

Emily (hands paper to Alice)
Alice: Oh thank-you. Nice.

Alice: Did you sign up for training? We need volunteers to lobby for the amendment.

Emily: I’m Senator Leighton’s wife. He doesn’t approve.

Alice: If everyone approved there’d be no point to it, would there?

Emily: I love my husband. I see no reason to publicly embarrass him.

Alice: Women like you are worse than anti-suffragists. You perpetuate the lie every day at breakfast.

Emily: I beg your pardon? You don’t know what you’re talking about.

**Scene 13**

Alice: (Voice over) Rarely in the history of the country has a party been more powerful than the Democratic Party is today. Those who hold power are responsible not only for what they do, but for what they do not do. If the Democrats refuse to enfranchise women then it’s incumbent upon voters to boycott President Wilson and his party in the upcoming election. President Wilson’s inaction establishes just as clear a record as does a policy of open hostility.

Carrie: Before you sit down Miss Paul. Twenty-five thousand, three-hundred forty three and eighty-eight cents is a very impressive total. Why hasn’t any of that money been forwarded to the National Treasury?

Alice: It was collected by the Congressional Union. The Union was created to fund the Committee’s efforts to lobby Washington for a federal amendment. We’re not budgeted by the National Treasury.

Carrie: I move to suspend the activities of the Congressional Committee during which time the board will investigate unauthorized expenditures.

**Scene 14**

Lucy: Did you hear that? Investigation of our finances. Good, great let them keep their Congressional Committee. We can run our own campaign. To hell with NAWSA.

Alice: I don’t want to fight other women.

Lucy: Carrie Catt is the next president of NAWSA. I don’t think she is a woman. Seriously, has anyone seen her naked? She called you a thief.
If you don’t resign, she’ll make sure you’re voted out. And then what? Are we going to fold our hands like good little girls? Do what Mama says? Hope that Wilson will pat us on the fanny when he goes by?

Look at me. No one will blame you if we split with NAWSA. They’re not giving us any other choice.

**Scene 15**

Alice: The National Women’s Party is composed entirely of women and does not align itself officially or unofficially with any existing political party. The NWP does not put forth a candidate for election. We are a single-platform party, dedicated to the passage of the following constitutional amendment: The right of citizens of the United States to vote, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state, on account of sex. We pledge unceasing opposition to any and all political candidates who refuse to support this amendment.

Reporters: Miss Catt one question!

Carrie: NAWSA does not support the National Woman’s Party.

Reporter: Miss Paul says she plans to organize…

Carrie: Miss Paul is taking a thoughtless and irresponsible stance that amounts to an endorsement of the Republican candidate!

Reporter: Think Miss Paul’s campaign will cost Wilson his reelection?

Carrie: President Wilson has kept us out of the war in Europe and NAWSA will continue to endorse him, and will women voters in the West.

**Scene 16**

Newsboy: Extra, extra, read all about it. Kaiser presses on, read all about it.

Inez: I can’t go to California. You have to find someone else.

Alice: There is no one else. You’re the woman on the horse you can make or break a rally.

Inez: Alice, I can’t tell you… I’m sorry, I’m exhausted.

Alice: Run around Europe, waste your time on peace missions and now you bail when it really matters?
Inez: Waste my time? You couldn’t say that if you’d been with me in France.

Alice: We’re not in France, we’re in the United States and people want to hear Inez Milholland.

Inez: Stuff them. Nothing’s more important than ending a war. Not suffrage, not anything. You can’t understand until you’ve seen it.

Alice: Inez, this is an election year.

Inez: And you’re wearing blinders.

Alice: I’m seeing around the corner. You hear that? It’s a military band. You want a war, here’s your war. This war’s been going on for over half a century. The women who started it are dead and buried. Here’s where it end, now is when we win. You’re tired, I’m tired. Who isn’t tired? But don’t sit down yet. If the woman on the horse drops out what message is that going to send the troops.

Inez: Oh, God, I can’t say no to you.

Alice: Then why try? Get some sleep on the train. You look awful.

Scene 16.5 At office Ben Weissman throwing rocks at window

Ben: Even God rested on Sunday. Come on; I will let you drive.

Alice: I’m busy

Ben: Well you do know how to drive, don’t you Miss Paul.

Alice: Is that a car or a quilt?

Ben: Do you want to learn?

Driving in car
Ben: Easy, watch it. Keep your head up. Ease your foot off of the clutch. Watch the road…watch the tree. Brake…brake

Stopped near a tree
Ben: My little sister picked it up just like that. You look at your feet when you dance; don’t you.

Alice: I’m a quaker. We don’t dance.

Ben: Take off your hat
She removes hat. They get out of the car and dance.

Scene 17  Tom and Emily’s home

Tom: Did you see the paper? “The National Woman’s Party is traveling west by train. They will embark on a speaking campaign, urging women voters to vote against the Democrats in this election who oppose a federal amendment. Noted contributors to this effort include: Mrs. Thomas Leighton.”

Emily: I use my housekeeping allowance, that’s all. It has nothing to do with you.

Tom: Emily, I’m a democratic Senator. You’re my wife. It’s got everything to do with me. You’ll withdraw your membership.

Emily: They count on my monthly contributions.

Tom: I’ve closed your account. You can charge at the grocers and the bills will be sent to my office.

Emily: Where are the girls?

Tom: I had Mrs. Quinn take them to my mother’s. I know how busy you are with all your suffrage activities.

Emily: I’ll go get them after breakfast…

Tom: No you will not. I don’t know a judge in this district that would give you custody right now.

Emily: You won’t take my children.

Tom: How will you stop me? Can you afford an attorney?

Emily: An attorney? To prove what, that I’m their mother? And what will the judge say. That this is your house, and your children? What am I to you? Chattel? This is how you punish me? They are not your children to take! He leaves angrily

Scene 18 Political Rally

Inez: Mr. President. How long must women wait for liberty

Wilson: I do not believe that women will vote in the national election.
Inez: We declare our faith in the principals of self-government.

Wilson: If they were to, they would not be as intelligent as I think they are.

Inez: That woman, irrespective of her race, was made first for her own happiness. With the absolute right to herself to all opportunities life...fades off

Wilson: Women should be patient and continue to work in the admirable way they have worked in the past, campaigning for suffrage state by state.

Inez: We ask of our rulers, no special favors. No special privileges. No special legislation.

Wilson: I am very glad to make my position about the suffrage quite clear to you. My private thoughts aside, I am not at liberty to urge upon congress policies which are not supported by the party for whom I am the spokesman

Inez: We ask justice. We ask equality. We ask that all the civil and political rights that belong to citizens of the United States be guaranteed to us and our daughters. Voice is fading and Inez is swaying. FOREVER. Inez faints and is rushed to the hospital.

**Scene 19**

Alice: What? What Lucy?

Lucy: Inez, collapsed. And they took her to the hospital.

Alice: But she’s all right, isn’t she? *(Lucy shakes her head)*

Lucy: She knew she had pernicious anemia.

Transition: All in a wisper: Inez...

Emily: How can death claim you? And I, remembering how the faces of many women turned toward you with expectation.

**Scene 19.5**

*Alice is back home working on the farm.*

Alice’s mom: Lucy Burns called again. *(Pause) You are being ridiculous. She was a grown woman. She knew she had pernicious anemia. Stop blaming yourself.*

Alice: My coming home has nothing to do with Inez. The campaign’s over…that’s all.
Alice’s mom: You put your hand to the plow you finish the row.

*Lucy visits Alice at her house*

Lucy: what are you doing up here?

Alice: Canning fruit


Alice: Winter fruit

Lucy: You needed to rest. OK, you had a rest. You feel bad about Inez; we all do. It’s awful, but it’s not over.

Alice: Inez was tired. She asked me to replace her.

Lucy: Nobody every made Inez Milhouland do anything

Alice: Don’t you read the Ladies Home Journal. Alice Paul is relentless. Do it for suffrage. Do it for suffrage

Lucy: That’s what we need to hear.

Alice: Then get a parrot.

Lucy: Don’t use her as an excuse. She would hate that.

Alice: She said men plan, God laughs. Do you ever wonder what we are doing, Lucy. Because it seems like he is laughing and it is so unfair. If anyone should have to die in a fight, there shouldn’t even be a fight. Isn’t it ridiculous….She’s dead and we are back where we started, which is nowhere at all. I am lost, Lucy.

Lucy: We laugh, too. Remember, London. That time that we hid in that coat closet so that we could interrupt Parliament. And you had to pee, and I said to you, hey..here’s some Lord’s boot. Go ahead…go ahead, and I thought to myself, if she’s game for that, that’s it; we are going to be friends for life. We laughed, and we can still laugh. I don’t see that there was any other way. That is what we do. We piss in a boot and we come out; guns blazing.

Lucy: I wish Alice was here. My friend, Alice, you can’t say no to her. It’s beautiful. Hey, head’s we will milk cows; tails, we will go and find Wilson’s boots. (*Coin is tossed and scene switches without showing how it lands*)

*At headquarters*
Lucy (reading from a paper): A man’s mind could never dream of something so petty and so monstrous…but listen to this…the demonstration was denounced by president of the National Women’s Suffrage Association, who pointed out that the NWP (which is us) represents only 10% of the nation’s suffragists. Is that true? I think she might have made that up.

Alice: What are you doing?

Lucy: I am heating up bricks for the girls to stand on. It’s freezing out there.

Alice: Give them double coats.

Lucy (reading from paper): the president smiled and waved to the ladies as his automobile swept onto the grounds. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rain announce the marriage of their daughter Susan to Roland Ashmore. He’s trying to mix it up.

(reading...more seriously): Captain of the British steamer, made prisoner by a German u-boat. German submarines sink 5 more ships.

Scene 20- Picket scene – put banners on, hold signs, straighten hat. Senator walks by

Carrie: Has there been any reaction from the president? (scene kind of above picketers.)

Read signs

Ruza: “Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty.

Carrie: who knew about this.

Doris: “No self respecting woman should wish or work for the success of a party that ignores her sex.” Susan B. Anthony 1877.

Alice: (reporters surround them) The National Woman’s Party will station sentinels at the White House gate from dawn until dusk every day until the Constitution of the United States is amended to ensure that every citizen regardless of sex is entitled to vote for the man...

Reporter: or woman…

Alice: Or woman, who occupies that House. Give that good boy an extra cookie.

Ruza: We demand an amendment to the constitution of the United States enfranchising women.

Senator: (walking by) They’re within their legal rights, they’ll get tired of the cold. It won’t last.
Doris: Out of darkness, leave behind the night. Forward out of error, forward into light.

Carrie: This continued picketing by the National Women’s Party, is the single greatest obstacle to the suffrage amendment. We do not support it. (transition)

Scene 21

Emily: The avenue is misty gray, and here beside the guarded gate, we hold our golden blowing flags, and wait. (transition if needed)

Tom: Looks like we’ve had enough of Kaiser Wilhelm. The United States is declaring war.

Scene 22

Ruza: “We shall fight for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments.” Wilson’s going to fight for their rights?

Lucy: He’s not gonna fight. He’s gonna stand here and tip his hat to all the American women standing at his gate.

Doris: We can’t picket a wartime president.

Ruza: Well why not?

Doris: It’s treason that’s why. Sigh Tell me to be there and I will.

Lucy: Be there, right? According to Senator Walsh we’re called “the iron jawed angels.” Is that supposed to be an insult?

Alice: Inez said there was nothing more important than ending a war.

If we push Wilson now, there’s going to be consequences, for everyone.

Lucy: We shall fight for democracy: he said it! He can’t fight for democracy abroad and deny it here at home.

Alice: No mothers on the picket line.

Lucy: And no Alice Paul on the picket line either.

Alice: No one’s on the line if I’m not. (simultaneously) Lucy: I’ll be there, don’t argue with me.

Alice: Doris how many volunteers do we have for tomorrow’s picket line?
Doris: I have to check my list.

Alice: Add my name.

Lucy: No!

Doris: I won’t. We need you here.

Alice: Doris, add my name

Scene 23

Lucy: “I believe the might of America is the sincere love of its people, for the freedom of mankind.” Woodrow Wilson, March 6, 1915

Ruza: “We shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts, for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments.

Alice: “We’ve forgotten the history of our country, if we have forgotten how to agitate when it is necessary.” Woodrow Wilson, September 8th, 1916

Doris: Kaister Wilson: Have you forgotten how you sympathized with the poor Germans Lucy: because they were not self governed? Ruza: 20,000,00 American women are not self-governed. All: Take the beam out of your own eye.

Crowds uproar: Shame on you. What are you doing? Etc

Sirens come and arrest girls as they resist.

Scene 24

Lucy: I don’t wish to make any plea before this court. I have nothing to do with the making of the laws which have put me in this position. I am not here because I obstructed traffic, but because I pointed out to President Wilson that he is obstructing democracy.

Lucy: These arrests are purely political.

Ruza: We are not guilty of any offense.

Doris and all join in: I will continue to plead for the political liberty of American women.

Judge: I find these defendants guilty as charged of obstructing traffic. $10 each, or 60 days in the Occoquan workhouse.
Lucy: To pay the fine would be admitting guilt. We haven’t broken the law.

Judge: 60 days in Occoquan

**Scene 24 Prison**

Lucy: We’re political prisoners. We haven’t eaten, we’ve been sitting here for hours. We need food.

Warden: You’ll eat when it’s time to eat, and bed down when it’s time to bed down. Now you’ll bed down.

Alice: We are not guilty of any crime, now I want these women fed and given pen a paper to write to their families, now!

Warden: Put her in solitary!

Lucy: Where are you taking her? Tell me! If you do anything to hurt that girl…What are you doing? You’re hurting me!

All the girls are thrown in a cell and Lucy is handcuffed to bars by her arms. All girls follow suit one by one. by holding their arms above their head.

Warden: If she opens her mouth again, put a buckle gag on her. All of them!

**Scene 25**

Tom: We can’t have a martyr on our hands

**Scene 26**

*Dining Hall – everyone is eating and Alice is brought in. She doesn’t eat the food given to her.*

Lucy: Hunger strike? *Push plates in middle of table*

“Will the Circle Be Unbroken.” – I was standing, by my window, on a cold and cloudy day. Then I saw that, herse come rolling, for to carry my mother away. Will the circle, be unbroken by and by Lord by and by, there’s a better home awaiting, in the sky Lord in the sky.

Doctor: Do you know where you are?

Alice: District prison hospital. The mental ward.
Doctor: You refuse to eat. Can you tell me why?

Alice: Hunger strike is a tradition. You starve yourself on someone’s doorstep until justice is done.

Doctor: Tell me about your cause.

Alice: Look into your own heart. I swear to you, mine’s no different. You want a place in the trades and professions where you can earn your bread. So do I. You want some means of self-expression, some way of satisfying your own personal ambitions. So do I. You want a voice in the government under which you live. So do I. What is there to explain.

**Scene 27**

Warden: Sit here Mrs. Leighton

Tom: She’s ill

Warden: She’s not ill, sir, she refuses to eat. Maybe you can persuade her.

Emily: (after a pause) how are the girls?

Tom: I want you to come home. I’ll speak to President Wilson. He can issue a pardon.

Emily: For what? I haven’t broken any laws.

Tom: The girls keep asking for you.

Emily: If Rebecca can’t sleep, sit beside her and pat her head. They are the only reason I am here.

Tom: I’m sorry.

Emily: I know.

Warden: That’s all the time that we have. *Takes Emily by arm. She pulls away to kiss her husband. And gives him the slip of paper from Alice.*

**Scene 28**

*Tom finds paper in his jacket. He starts reading it out loud and it modifies to Alice’s voice and is shown being published in newspapers.*

Tom-Alice: I was put in a straightjacket and taken to the psychopathic ward. I could not see my family or friends. Counsel was denied me. I saw no other prisoners and heard
nothing of them. I could see no papers. Today I was force-fed for the third time. I refused to open my mouth. My left nostril, throat, and muscles of my neck are very sore. I vomit continuously during the process.

**Scene 29**

Tom: These women are not political prisoners.

Reporters: So you’re saying force-feeding is a medical procedure? Why can’t these women see their lawyers?

Tom: The president has ordered more than one investigation.

**Scene 30 Carrie on phone**

Carrie: Let’s not waste time with pleasantries. I’ll be blunt, may I? The foreign press will pick this up. Tell the President that he can look like a fool or he can deal me in. Now, sir.

**Scene 31**

Warden: You’re being released. Let her be.

*They all leave prison.*

**Scene 32**

 Somehow put something to the effect that it went to congress.

Telephone rings. Good news. They all cheer. Ending

“On August 26th 1920, the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote became constitutional law. “
“The United States Court of Appeals declared the arrests of all 218 suffragists unconstitutional”

“Alice Paul fought for women’s rights until she died in 1977”