

GIRL 5

It's 1972. I'm unnaturally tall. And strong. But there are no rowing teams at my school. Not for boys, not for girls. Not for anyone.

COXSWAIN

It's 1972. I am unnaturally short for a twelve year old. As in. Tiny. My parents secretly worry.

GIRL 5

#dwarf.

COXSWAIN

Hey! My parents never SAY this. But at the pediatrician, my mom compares my growth curve to the average growth curve and she gets this Rosemary's Baby look on her face like... *what have you done to its eyes!?* Mom! Cut it out!

Girl 3 hands over ears.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

Dear... your voice? It... carries.

COXSWAIN

In other words. I may be tiny, but I have a big mouth.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

Shhhh....

COXSWAIN

So I decide to use it and I try out for the school play. *The Wizard of Oz*. My mom is super excited. She beeping loves *The Wizard of Oz*.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

Honey! Please. No swearing. How were auditions?

COXSWAIN

(keeping the suspense alive)

Well...

GIRL 3 AS MOM

(eager)

Yes...?

COXSWAIN
(excited)

I got cast!

GIRL 3 AS MOM
That's wonderful. So wonderful. Exciting. I can sew your costume.

COXSWAIN
Oh. Sure. Maybe...

GIRL 3 AS MOM
(a revelation)
You can use Corky.

COXSWAIN
Corky... what the beep?

GIRL 3 AS MOM
For Toto. If they want you to use your own dog -

COXSWAIN
Mom -

GIRL 3 AS MOM
I wonder if Toto was really Judy Garland's dog?

COXSWAIN
Mom -

GIRL 3 AS MOM
Doubtful. They probably had a few Totos. Studio film. Big budget. Lotsa dogs -

COXSWAIN
Mom!

GIRL 3 AS MOM
What dear?

COXSWAIN
I'm not Dorothy. I was not cast as Dorothy.

GIRL 3 AS MOM
Oh... Are you the Good Witch?

COXSWAIN
Nope.

GIRL 3 AS MOM
The Wicked Witch?

COXSWAIN
Nope.

Overlapping:

GIRL 3 AS MOM
Tin Man? Scarecrow? Cowardly Lion? Aunt Em?

COXSWAIN
Nope, nope, nope, nope -

GIRL 3 AS MOM
Uncle Henry?

COXSWAIN
No!

GIRL 3 AS MOM
Who are you?

COXSWAIN
(like it's so obvious)
Mom, I'm a Munchkin.

GIRL 3 AS MOM
A... Munchkin?

COXSWAIN
Yes. A Munchkin.

Girl 3 As Mom - starts crying.

COXSWAIN
And in this moment my life flashes before me. I am destined
to be a midget extra.

GIRL 5
Not an extra. Midget...?

COXSWAIN

Enter Olga Korbut. She's a gymnast. And she's beeping tiny.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

A tiny Soviet gymnast.

STROKE

Olga cried on TV.

COXSWAIN

It was tragic. She fell and lost the gold medal.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

She's a Soviet. ie. Russian.

STROKE

She cried when she won the gold medal.

COXSWAIN

The world cried with Olga. I cried with Olga.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

She's Russian!

GIRL 6

Russia. Eg. The enemy.

STROKE

We hate Russians.

GIRLS

Russians, Russians, Russians, Russians...

COXSWAIN

Olga isn't my beeping enemy. She's my hero. I want to be exactly like her... I want to be her. Please... Mom!

GIRL 3 AS MOM

Gymnastics...? Really?

COXSWAIN

I find a club that trains girls. Hundreds of girls. All of us want to be Olga. The training is brutal.

Coxswain does gymnastics.

COXSWAIN

I have callouses on my hands, bruises on my stomach. I hurt my back, my shoulder, my ankle but I don't care. I am going to be American Olga.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

I'm watching you. You're beating... everyone.

COXSWAIN

It's a big meet.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

Your favorite event.

COXSWAIN

Vault.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

You sprint down the runway and punch off that board.

COXSWAIN

Handspring-back-flip-twist!

GIRL 3 AS MOM

YES! YES! YES! You nail the landing.

COXSWAIN

I nail the landing.

A loud CRACK! Coxswain sinks to the ground

GIRL 3 AS MOM

Oh my god. Someone.

Silence.

COXSWAIN

I thought I'd been shot.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

I thought you'd been shot.

COXSWAIN

Severed Achilles. Two surgeries later... I'm not... and will never be... American Olga.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

What can I do?

COXSWAIN

Mom, please.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

You're depressed.

COXSWAIN

Oh. My. God. Wouldn't you be beeping depressed? I was American Olga and now I'm beeping nobody.

GIRL 4

She's small.

GIRL 3 AS MOM

Tiny.

GIRL 6

And she has a big mouth.

COXSWAIN

Big? I have a beeping huge mouth.

Stroke hands Coxswain a megaphone.

STROKE

You should be a coxswain.

COXSWAIN

Cock... what? Is this a beeping joke?

GIRL 4

The coxswain is responsible for steering the boat, and coordinating the power and rhythm of the rowers on a crew team. #Wikipedia.

COXSWAIN

So I beeping yell? That's all I do?

ROWER 6

Sometimes called a "little tyrant", the coxswain is the very tiny but powerful person that controls everything that happens in and around their boat. #Urban Dictionary.

COXSWAIN

But I don't do anything...?

STROKE

A good coxswain makes the boat move faster than that boat is physically able to move. #Truth

This is interesting to Coxswain

GIRL 7

Sister, you're in California. The oldest women's boat club in the world..

STROKE

Where I am the Stroke on the girls eight...

COXSWAIN

It's five miles from my house... Pull! Pull! Beeping Pull!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]?