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## 'Bomb'-shells unite

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By Lindsay Van Wetten

Miniseries brings Canadian 'Girls' to be proud of



Betty and Gladys got jazzy



There's something commendable about a show that you can get lost in, week after week. Whether it's the vivacity of the characters, the sophisticated styling, or just pure escapism into an unknown world that holds your attention, *Bomb Girls* is simply intoxicating.

Wednesday's penultimate episode of the six-part miniseries centred around passion above all else. Passion in the form of patriotism, passion between forbidden lovers, passion for doing what you love despite the risks surrounding it. The innocent Kate stood her ground when Betty tried to keep her from visiting the jazz club:

"I found something I love – I don't care if I fall on my face." Some might call it naivety, others could attribute it to stubborn defiance. I call it a beautiful thing.

While the episode featured Gladys and Lorna, I was most intrigued by Kate and the way her character has grown in only five episodes. She is a breath of fresh air, especially when looking at her through the perspective of Betty, whose feelings for Kate run much deeper than "just friends." Where Betty is sarcastic, cynical and tough, Kate is wide-eyed, curious and accepting of the newfound world around her. If the smoky, sultry atmosphere of the jazz club wasn't enough to take you back to the '40s, Kate's voice when she got her chance on stage surely was. Betty, despite her initial reaction, was more than happy to see her gal in action.

I never would have pinned Lorna, the married fortysomething and all-about-business munitions factory matron, as a character to have an affair. But, the once-dutiful wife and mother continued to sneak kisses from Marco the Italian Stallion – even at Victory Munitions behind the backs of coworkers. Marco's attraction to Lorna represents the bigger picture of how WWII affected the role of women in society. Not only were women finding their way into the workplace, men were actually finding the hardworking tough girl attractive. Hello respect, nice to meet you.

Lorna was also asked to speak at the Armistice Day ceremony at the factory after receiving word that one of her sons was being honoured overseas for his efforts in the war. When her husband unexpectedly showed up for the occasion, Lorna was proud to change her speech on the fly and speak of the sacrifices Bob made for his country. Unfortunately for Lorna and Marco, this change of heart also initiated what seems to be the end of their short affair.

Gladys and her fiancé, James, continued to struggle with their relationship after finding out she had accepted a soldier's marriage proposal. As if they weren't being tested enough, Gladys also discovered the shoddy (yet cost-effective) work going into the rations being produced for soldiers at war by James and her father's company. In the end, James and Gladys were able to move past their former affairs and focus their pent-up passion on each other – saving their relationship in the nick of time.

In the episode's secondary storyline, Vera's friend at the hospital, Archie, was plagued by an illness that left him in severe pain. Although she had been saving her nightly sleeping pills to commit suicide when the time was right, Vera found a renewed sense of life as she allowed Archie to take the pills and find peace. Passion in its rawest form: an appetite for life itself.

The show closed on a light note as Gladys and James, having found their relationship "happy place," served her parents meat rations for dinner one night. The stuffy Mr. and Mrs. Witham left the table in a huff, but it was a good laugh.

What did you think of Wednesday's instalment? What would you like to see happen in next week's finale? Share your thoughts below.

*Bomb Girls* airs Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on Global.



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