

Millie/Doris

Millie is definitely one of the least girly of the Peaches. She's very rough around the edges. She is somewhat socially awkward, but also very endearing. This is all new to her, and she looks at every experience with a sort of child-like wonder. There's something very naïve about Millie, but she's also a bit like a bull in a China shop.

Doris Waddell is Millie's boarder and mother to Theo, a soldier overseas. She's exactly what you would expect a mother to be—kind, maternal, looking for any way possible to take care of Millie, and she happens to love baseball.

SCENE TEN

The Waddell's House

The Waddell's, interior of Theo's room. Theo's mom, Doris is leading Millie into the room as the scene begins. Millie is dressed in a nice dress, nice shoes and a hat and carries a suitcase.

DORIS

This is it. Your home away from home. I hope you'll be comfortable here—it's my son Theo's room.

MILLIE

He won't mind?

DORIS

He's away fighting in the war. I told him we were taking on a boarder, and he thought it was just peachy. *(she laughs at her pun then takes a photo out of her apron pocket and hands it to Millie.)*
This is him.

MILLIE

(She stares at the photo) He's. . .wow. . .he's. . .um. . .*(shoving the picture back at Doris)* He's very handsome. *(She hands the photo back to her.)*

DORIS

(admires the photo) He sure is. He looks just like his father did at that age. *(composing herself)*
Never mind all that. Let's talk about you. You didn't want to stay in the boarding house with your friends?

MILLIE

Oh, I don't have fri. . .I mean, we all just met, so. . .*(another pause)* I like the quiet, actually. At home it's just me and my dad. My mom passed away when I was little.

DORIS

Oh sweetie, I'm so sorry.

Millie offers a weak, awkward smile.

MILLIE

It's okay. I don't remember her much.

DORIS

Well, then it's settled. We'll be a perfect match. You without a mother and me without a daughter. I'm just so thrilled to have you here, Millie. You'll have to tell us all about baseball.
What position do you play?

MILLIE

I'm the catcher.

DORIS

Oh, I just think you girls are so wonderful to jump in and do this while the boys are overseas. And who knows? Maybe you can keep playing after they all come home safe and sound? Theo played in high school. I think he might've kept playing in college if it weren't for the war. He was good. He was really good.

MILLIE

It's awfully brave of him to serve our country.

DORIS

He wouldn't have had it any other way. He signed up as soon as he was old enough. Said it was his duty. It's always something when you learn from your own child, and Theo—he's taught me a lot about being brave.

MILLIE

I wish there was more I could do to help.

DORIS

You just take care of America's favorite pastime, young lady. That is an excellent way to serve. Helps keep everyone's spirits up. We've lost so much, nobody wants to lose baseball too. And say! Maybe you could find time to write to Theo?

MILLIE

(a quizzical, almost fearful look crosses her face.) Me? Write a letter?

DORIS

I just know he'd love to hear all about you and the game—anything from home, really. Our letters really keep the boys going over there. There's pencil and paper in the desk.

MILLIE

(she's touched by this). I'd . . . yeah. Of course. I'd be happy to write. My spelling is a little off sometimes.

DORIS

(laughs) So is Theo's, so he'll never know. *(a beat)* Why don't you take some time to get settled, and I'll call you when dinner's ready. I made chicken fried steak and thick cut potatoes. It's Theo's favorite meal, so I thought you might like it too, being a ballplayer and all.

MILLIE

You're so kind. . . Doris. . . thank you.

Doris exits, leaving Millie alone in Theo's room. There are baseball pennants on the wall and trophies, along with a photo or two of various school activities. She studies it all briefly. She sets the suitcase on the bed and sits down at the desk. Takes out a piece of paper and a pencil and begins to write a letter.

