

BOMBER, MILLIE, AND MADGE

A bicycle bell rings off u. l. Millie hears it and moves more quickly to the front steps, grabbing her cap from a nail by the kitchen door. She sits on the r. side of the steps and gets a cigarette and matches out of her hiding place by the step and lights up as Bomber, a newsboy, rides in from alley u. l., throws a paper on Mrs. Potts' porch, parks his bike u. r. of the alley gate and taking a paper with him crosses down to the c. of the lawn, looking up at Madge Owens' window. Bomber slams the paper down on the porch, trying to attract attention. He succeeds.)

START MILLIE. Hey, Crazy, you want to knock the house down?

BOMBER. I don't hear you.

MILLIE. If you ever break a window you'll hear me!

BOMBER. (Crosses d. to c.) Go back to bed and tell your pretty sister to come out. It's no fun lookin' at you! (Millie ignores him. Bomber crosses to steps, right foot up.) I'm talkin' to you, Goon-face!

MILLIE. (Jumping up and poisoning herself for a fight. Bomber jumps back just out of reach.) You ornery bastard, take that back!

BOMBER. Listen to her! She cusses just like a man!

MILLIE. (Goes after him with doubled fists.) I'll kill you, you ornery bastard! I'll kill you! (Bomber ducks the first blow which is aimed at his head and takes the rest on his arms as he jeers.)

BOMBER. Lookit Mrs. Tar-zan! Lookit Mrs. Tar-zan!

MADGE. (Comes on to porch from front door. She is eighteen and very beautiful. She is drying her hair with a towel. She sits on the porch corner.) Who's making all this noise? (Bomber looks up seeing Madge and the fight stops.)

BOMBER. (Crosses to Madge.) Hi, Madge!

MADGE. Hi, Bomber.

BOMBER. I hope I didn't wake you, Madge, or bother you or anything. (Millie crosses u. to paper which Bomber threw on porch.)

MADGE. Of course not.

BOMBER. Hey, Madge, a bunch of us guys are chippin' in on a hot-rod—radio and everything. I get it every Friday night. (Millie crosses d., sits on chair in c. of yard, opens paper as she crosses.)

MADGE. I'm not one of those girls that jump in a hot-rod every time you boys turn a corner and honk.

MILLIE. Alan Seymour sends her flowers every time they go out.

BOMBER. (To Madge.) I can't send you flowers, Baby—but I can send you!

MILLIE. Listen to him braggin'.

BOMBER. (Squat at Madge's l. on step.) Lemme pick you up some night after Seymour brings you home.

MADGE. That wouldn't be fair to Alan, would it? We go steady.

MILLIE. (To Bomber.) Don't you know what "steady" means, stupid?

BOMBER. (Ignoring Millie.) I seen you riding around in his Cadillac like you was a Duchess. (He turns away to c. Hal enters from d. l. and gets rake from the shed.) Why do good looking girls have to be so stuck on themselves?

MADGE. (Jumps up, furious.) I'm not stuck on myself! You take that back, Bomber Gutzel!

BOMBER. (Turning back to her.) Lemme pick you up some night!

MADGE. (Walks u. to kitchen door, disgusted.) Bomber!

BOMBER. (Following her.) We'll get some cans of beer —

MILLIE. Why don't you leave her alone! (Madge crosses d. on porch to front door, Bomber following. Hal, growing interested, leans rake against trellis and ambles to c.)

BOMBER. (Grabbing Madge's arm.) Aw, c'mon, Madge! Give a guy a break!

END

HAL. (To Bomber. Crosses to c.) On your way, lover boy!

BOMBER. (Crosses l. to meet Hal.) Who're you?

HAL. (Smiling.) What's that matter? I'm bigger'n you are. (Bomber realizes this is true, and after a moment of indecision, starts off hurriedly.)

MILLIE. (Calling after Bomber.) Go peddle your papers! Ok—ok—ok—ok—ok! (Bomber crosses u. c. to bicycle and quickly rides off r. alley. Hal watches him go then turns to Millie. Madge sits on porch, feet on c. of top step.)

HAL. Hey, kid, got a smoke?

MILLIE. (Taking out cigarette.) You workin' for Mrs. Potts?

HAL. (Feeling pockets for matches.) Yeah, I'm doin' a few odd jobs around the yard.

MILLIE. (Hands him matches.) She give you breakfast?

HAL. (Embarrassed about it.) Yah.

MADGE. (Disapprovingly.) Millie!

HAL. (Turning to Madge—quick smile.) Hi.

MADGE. (Returning smile.) Hi.