

WHO WOULD MARRY A GIRL NAMED MILLIE? By Bob Greenspan

Scene 1: Two young people, Millie and Jason, have just been crushed in a doubles tennis game. Perspiring, they have just left the court. Millie is twenty years old, an astonishingly beautiful girl, but one who is far more concerned that she is not very bright, and yearns to be liked for herself rather than for her devastating charm.

Jason - Millie, you play tennis like an angel! It's incredible that it's your first time out.

Millie - Really? I don't think I'm much good. Near the end of the game, that girl put her racquet down and just stood there, and when I hit the ball into the swimming pool, she stuck her tongue out.

Jason - They're jealous! Can't you tell? They wish they were you - the most beautiful girl on the planet.

Millie (unconvinced) - Well, I'm a goof ball at tennis.

Jason - No! No way! But let's sit down on that bench. Under the trees.

Millie - I ought to take a shower first; I really stink.

Jason - Please don't go. When I'm with you, everything smells wonderful - the flowers, the trees, and heaven itself.

Millie - I hope heaven doesn't smell like me. I wanted to go there someday. Jason, sometimes I don't understand you.

Jason - It's that everything about you is so beautiful.

Millie - Oh, fudge. I was just born that way; I didn't make it happen. That girl over there learned how to play tennis. To do something.

Jason - Sit down, please, Millie. Right here.

Millie - (warily) Oh-oh. This sounds important. Okay. What's up?

Jason - I have to get this out. I love you, Millie, and I want to marry you!

Millie - Marry me? After four dates? I think it's four - or is it three? You're a nice boy, Jason, and you're cool, but I don't really know you well enough. Maybe, after a while...

Jason - I've never been more sure of anything in my life! And I'm loaded with bucks. My family belongs to three clubs like this one.

Millie - After that tennis game, I wouldn't want any of them.

Jason - We have four houses - all over the country. You could have any you want.

Millie - I don't want four houses. Jason, you're very sweet, but I'm afraid you're going to tell me that there are four of you.

Jason - You could drop out of that dud computer job.

Millie (her eyes brightening) - Oh!

Jason - Just let me get my family's okay, and then you can decide. All right?

Millie - I don't know...

Jason - You don't have to promise anything. Absolutely no obligation! Nothing to buy. But you'll know that my family is on board.

Millie - Well, I guess it's all right.

Jason - (kisses her) Oh, you smell so good.

Millie - Yuck! I'm going to the shower.

Scene 2: Jason discusses things with his mother:

Mom - Millie? Did you say her name is Millie?

Jason - Yeah, Mom. Isn't that a pretty name?

Mom - Pretty poison, you mean! I will never consent to allow any woman, particularly some designing woman who thinks she's going to be my daughter-in-law, to enter this house with the name of Millie!

Jason - But, Mom...

Mom - And that's final! It's not open for discussion, Jason. There will be no Millie here, while I'm alive. The name spells betrayal, treason, disloyalty, terrorism, and all the four riders of the apocalypse bundled together!

Jason - But my Millie is so sweet, Mom, if you...

Mom - All the more reason to avoid her. Their kisses are like honey, but wormwood and gall will follow thereon.

Jason - Who was this Millie monster, this evil person? What did she do to make you so angry?

Mom - Well, I guess you have a right to know, since that girl you're so gaga about is barred from this house, and since your dad is gone - rest his soul - I'll tell you. Long, long ago, when I was in college, I was going with this guy. He was different than your dad -who was wonderful too, in a different way - and the both of us were looking forward to getting married. Well, my so-called best friend and roommate - Ugh, I can hardly get it out - Millie Hayes, thought it would be fun if she faked a blind date for both of us. She told my boyfriend, Art, and me, separately, that there was somebody so marvelous we had to go on a date, even if we were already practically engaged .So each of us, unbeknownst to the other, agreed to meet this wonderful person at a local bar, wearing a carnation. And when we both showed up and stood there, staring at each other's carnation, speechless, you can imagine how angry and ashamed we both were - at least I was; Art seemed to think the whole thing was funny. But I was mortified. I couldn't marry him after that; it seemed as if we weren't really satisfied with each other after all, if we were looking for other people. So, that was the end of it.

Jason - You didn't work it out with him after that?

Mom - No. I couldn't do that. We broke up, and I haven't heard anything about him since. I guess he got married; I didn't want to know. Now, that's why no Millie is welcome here.

### Scene 3 - a Strategy Session

Jason - (to Millie) So, that's the whole story.

Millie - I feel sorry for your mom; she took it too seriously. And her boyfriend thought it was funny. I think I would too.

Jason - Well, what do we do now? Would you think about changing your name?

Millie - Changing my name?

Jason - From Millie to something else.

Millie - (laughs gaily) - Oh, no. People think I'm dumb already; what would it be like if I didn't turn around when they called my name! Besides, I don't think your mom would go for it anyway.

Jason - So, what are we going to do?

Millie - Let's go to the swimming pool.

Jason - I mean about our marriage.

Millie - It looks like we can't. But we can still be friends; go out now and then. Cuddle.

Jason - No, I want to marry you. I'm not giving up. In fact, I have an idea. A long shot...

Scene 4: Jason's apartment a week later:

Millie - What time did she say she was coming?

Jason - Just about now.

Millie - I still can't believe that you found her? You're amazing!

Jason - It wasn't any big deal. I found her name in Anywho. She still uses her maiden name, Mildred Hayes. But that she lives in Baltimore, right up the metro - now, that's the amazing part.

Millie - I hope they can make up again, after all these years.

(Bell rings; Jason goes to door).

Millie2 - Hello! I'm Millie.

Millie - So am I.

Millie2 - Oh, you're the Millie she almost burnt at the stake! You don't seem all that scary. And you're...

Jason - Jason. Mrs. Saffron's son. Thanks for coming.

Millie2 - Oh, I wanted to. I can't imagine that Joyce has such a big, grown boy. I told you on the phone that I never did marry and have children. I thought I tried, but maybe I really didn't.

Millie - I think the same thing would happen to me.

Jason - What?

Millie2 (puts her arm around Millie) - You see, we're soul sisters. But I was never a knock out like you. And look at me now!!! Well, I'm ready. I hope she won't come at me with a knife.

Millie (to Jason) - Does she use a knife?

Jason - (Irritably) No. She's not violent at all.

Millie2 - She never was. But I'd risk it anyway. I never felt right about what happened. I've always wanted to make amends, and this may be my only opportunity to do it.

Jason - Do you want a drink, or something?

Millie2 – Yes, I would, good sir. A double vodka on the rocks. Then I'll be ready for your mother. (to Millie) How about my namesake? Don't you want something too?

Millie – Not when someone mentions a knife.

Jason – She does not use a knife, Millie. I told you. But let's not discuss it. One vodka for Mildred Hayes. Then, we go.

#### Scene 5: A room in Mrs. Saffron's home

Jason enters the room first.

Jason - Hi, Mom!

Mom - I'm here just as you asked me to be. Is there a problem with your bookmaker?

Jason - No, nothing like that; someone's here who really wants to see you.

(He opens the door and Millie2 comes in).

Millie2 - Hello, Joyce.

Mom (incredulous) Millie! No...

Millie2 - Yes, it's me, Millie Hayes. Your old roommate. I came to apologize for being so stupid.

Mom looks around faintly, and sinks on a nearby couch.

Mom (weakly) - I think you should go, Millie. We have nothing to say.

Millie2 - But I have something to say, Joyce. I promise I won't stay long. I want you to know how sorry I've been for spoiling our friendship by cooking up that idiotic blind date. I should have known what a sensitive person you are, and how you might react to it.

Mom Yes, you should have. known.

Millie2 - But I'm not the only one who likes practical jokes. You short sheeted my bed lots of times.

Mom (a faint smile) That isn't the same.

Millie2 - And when you told Ed Goodwin that I had a moustache and that he wouldn't be interested.

Mom - I knew you wouldn't like him and he was such a leech.

Millie2 - And during a mixer with all those boys, meeting them for the first time, you tied my shoelaces together?

Mom - I did, didn't I!

Millie2 - Joyce, I'd give my right arm if I could turn the clock back and stop that stupid blind date from ever happening. But, you know, I've been talking to Art, now and then, over the years.

Mom - Really? You have?

Millie2 - Yes, he's a widower now, and he'd like to talk to you. If you want to.

Mom - Honest?

Millie2 - I told him I was coming to see you, and he said he would wait all day by the phone if you wanted to speak to him.

Mom - I would like that very much.

Millie2 - Here's his number. Oh, by the way, there's a very sweet girl who wants to marry Jason. Where's Millie?

Jason - Oh, crap. We never let her in.

(Opens the door)

There she is; talking to the butler. Millie, come in!

Millie2 - You'll love her, Joyce.

Millie (entering) - Hi! I'm Millie. If that's all right. You don't have to use a knife. I'll just go.

Mom – (perplexed) I'm very glad to meet you. Please come in and make yourself at home. Jason, ask Soames to fix something for you and my old friend Mildred. And for your nice friend too. I have to make a call.

Six months later:

Millie: Six months later, there was a wedding. Mrs. Saffron and Art got married at her house in Virginia. It was really nice. I was one of the bridesmaids. Something went wrong, there was a

dog, we were playing with... but it got straightened out. But Jason and I decided to forget the whole marriage idea. I spent a lot of time talking to Millie - I mean the other Millie, not me. We're really good friends now. We went to the races a lot in Baltimore, and had some good talks, and we figured I wasn't ready for marriage. So, I'm single again, and on my own - I like it that way.

THE END.