

GILLIAN - CALLBACK SIDE

(GILLIAN reflects on her nemesis, MERLE, who has been very unkind to GILLIAN in her past. GILLIAN becomes intrigued with making a bit of mischief after finding out that MERLE may be engaged to SHEP.)

Merle? Her name is Merle? The only Merle I ever knew was a girl I was in college with. Merle Kittredge. She used to write poison-pen letters. I caught her writing one about me, once. That's why we had all those thunderstorms that spring. She was terrified of them.

(smiles at the recollection.)

We had one every day for a month. It was extraordinary. She was a nervous wreck by the end of the term. She was Southern, blonde, and helpless . . . and appealing. But underneath a liar, and a sneak and a beau-snatcher. So if Mr. Henderson is engaged to her that rules him out. And that's because I'm not a Southern Belle and I don't take other women's men . . . *(slyly)* . . . Though I would, if it were Merle Kittredge.