

DOLORES:

You have a child, they can be a child. We have a child and it has to grow up faster than a flower from a seed, do you know that? I won't blame you if you don't. You have the privilege of living a life in a completely different world. I don't envy your skin, but I envy your right to be careless, to be carelessly happy and joyful. We get too happy, we're a couple of coons. We get too angry, we're a threat to society. Why would I want to bring a child into that? Why would I place that weight on their shoulders, that promised pain? "Oh, but the world's changing." I've been hearing that since I was a little girl and the only thing that's changed is the weather. *(to Betty)* As a mother, you get to smile and look forward to days at the beach, picnics, whatever it is you do. As a mother, I would spend more time worrying and waiting and wailing. What kind of life is that? That is a punishment for everyone involved. It's a challenge no one should have to overcome. God bless the people who do, who keep the cycle going. They are strong and if I could, maybe I would think differently about it and maybe we'd have a whole litter by now, but every time I hear of warfare and drafts and assassinations and lynchings and cries and the terror of simply walking outside your door, I feel more at peace than ever knowing that I'm not bringing an innocent soul into this terrible, terrible world. Because this is your world, Mr. Adams. It's not mine. No matter how many good jobs my husband gets, it's not his either. He was raised a good Christian and tries his best to see the best, and I suppose I do too most days, but the day is over and you haven't provided the best of nights. I say all that with the knowledge that your mindset and your viewpoint won't change one bit. And isn't that the greatest shame of all? The food was good, Betty. But it could have been better. *(to Gordon)* Now we can go.