

## HAROLD MILTON, SIDE TWO

**HAROLD**

I was eleven years old when the Civil War began. I joined the Union Army soon as I turned fifteen to fight for my freedom.

PAUL

You fought in the war? Dad did too.

**HAROLD**

The war ended before I had seen any real action. I think it was an answer to my mother's prayer.

PAUL

Wow. Is that why you left home?

**HAROLD**

Yes, Paul. I left home because I wanted to be somewhere new. Somewhere where I could choose to do good work because I wanted to.

PAUL

Like being a porter?

**HAROLD**

Yes, Paul. Being a porter is the best job a man like me can get. It is good work that I don't take for granted. Try to understand, Paul. I don't like being called "George" much, but it's - habit for these people to call black men by their master's name. On Pullman trains, George Pullman is the boss, so people call the porters "George."

PAUL

I'd hate it if somebody did that to me. I like my name the way it is.

**HAROLD**

It's not right, but there isn't a whole lot I can do about it. Your dad tries to help by giving us name tags with our Christian names. Most of the passengers aren't trying to be mean or insulting -

PAUL

*Furious. A little rebel.*

But they are. They're being insulting! None of 'em even said 'please' when they asked you to do all those favors for them!

**HAROLD**

Paul, it's part of my job to -

PAUL

No! It's not right. They should get a punishment. Mr. Harold Milton is a perfectly good name. Dad says you should learn people's names and treat them with respect. These people are too lazy to even read your name tag! I'm gonna show 'em. I'm gonna make them stop it!

**HAROLD**

*Wryly laughing*

Alright, you little firecracker, calm down. Your Dad is right. Maybe you're right too. But you have to learn to live to fight another day. If you go starting all these fights, I'd lose my job. One step at a time, little man.