

**SCENE 3**

*(1945. MARGO'S BOOKSHOP.)*

*(MARGO runs a modest bookshop. There are a few customers in the shop. She hands a book to MAX, a young customer.)*

**MARGO**

Here it is, Max. Since when did you become such an avid reader?

**MAX**

Since you took over the bookstore. When you stopped working at the soda shop I lost three pounds. Margo, would you like to go to the movies sometime?

**MARGO**

I don't want you to spend your money on me.

**MAX**

It would be cheaper than buying all these books!

*(MAX sighs and leaves. BILLY enters.)*

**FLORENCE**

Hi, Billy.

**START** ↓

**BILLY CANE**

Margo. Sorry, it took me a while to make it in.

**MARGO**

I thought it might. How are things with Daddy?

**BILLY CANE**

He's doing better. It's strange. We both swear we can hear her call out to us sometimes.

**MARGO**

How are you doing?

**BILLY CANE**

I started writing again. And that brings me comfort.  
*(then, picking up a book from the counter)*

A thesaurus? Are you writing now?

**MARGO**

No, Max just returned it. He thought it was a book about dinosaurs.

*(then)*

Oh, and Billy, I read the story you sent me.

**BILLY CANE**

I've been wondering about that. What'd you think?

**MARGO**

*(teasing)*

Well, it started out great...but...

**BILLY CANE**

Oh.

**MARGO**

Then it got better and better!

**BILLY CANE**

It did?

**MARGO**

Billy, you've grown up and so has your writing.

*(She retrieves his stories from a shelf.)*

Now, I caught a few typos and retyped it on heavy bond. In fact, I retyped them all!

**BILLY CANE**

*(earnest)*

Thank you. Thank you.

*(then)*

Margo, I've been thinking. What if...what if I submitted some of these stories to the Asheville Southern Journal?

**MARGO**

Oh, Billy! Yes. Yes. You were always so tentative about it. What made you decide that?

**#3 BRIGHT STAR**

**BILLY CANE**

I'M READY FOR MY LIFE TO BEGIN  
I'M READY FOR IT ALL TO START  
MY HEART'S ABOUT TO BURST  
DON'T LEAD THE WAY I MUST  
FOLLOW MY OWN BRIGHT STAR

**Continue** ↓

**MARGO**

Edna, we still have that special delivery stamp I've been saving?

**EDNA**

We sure do.

**BILLY CANE**

I'm not mailing them, Margo. I'm going to hand-carry them to Asheville, and sleep like a dog on their doorstep until I get published.

**END** ↑

**FLORENCE**

*(exiting)*

Good luck, Billy.

**BILLY CANE**

MANY A LONG COLD NIGHT  
I HUDDLED DOWN IN THE DARK  
I MADE A VOW IF I EVER MADE IT OUT  
I'D FOLLOW MY OWN BRIGHT STAR

BRIGHT STAR  
KEEP SHINING FOR ME  
SHINE ON AND SEE ME THROUGH

BRIGHT STAR  
KEEP SHINING FOR ME  
AND ONE DAY I'LL SHINE FOR YOU

*(BILLY hugs MARGO, and exits the bookstore.)*

**MARGO**

For what's it's worth, I'll [miss you]...

*(But BILLY is gone.)*

*(We begin a travel montage of him heading for Asheville.)*