

BRIGHT STAR

AUDITION SIDES:

Choose two of these sides. Memorization is required. We will be not be using Southern accents

For women:

Margo:

Max just returned the Thesaurus. He thought it was a book about dinosaurs. Oh, and Billy, I read the story you sent me. It started out great, but then then it got better and better! Billy, you've grown up and so has your writing. Now, I caught a few typos and retyped it on heavy bond. In fact, I retyped all of it. You're ready for your life to start. *He leaves.* For what it's worth, I'll miss you.

Margo:

Tomorrow, I turn 21. I've known Billy Cane since I was six, and it's time he sees me in a new way. As the woman I am. Billy's back from Asheville today, and he said he was coming over here with a surprise!

Mama Murphy:

You doin' okay, Alice? I know your father is a tender man. Right now, he's searching scripture to justify what he did, but the Bible is *not* obliging. You were always too smart for this town, and Chapel Hill is a wonderful school. And you got a scholarship! How's Jimmy Ray doing?

Mama Murphy:

You watch the way you talk about our daughter. No one is taking this baby. He's our grandson. He's our only one.

Lucy:

When I was twelve, I gave my father a Raymond Chandler mystery novel. I was watching him read it, and suddenly, his face went the color of a rose. He set the book face down and called for my mother and took her into another part of the house and shut the door. I went over to the book to see what he had just read, and right there in the middle of the page was the word "brassiere." I thought, "This must never happen again." So now a few nights a week, I take a manuscript home, fix myself a Manhattan, and search for hidden erotic content. Would you like to do that with me sometime?

For men:

Billy (at his mother's gravestone):

Mama, thank you for the way you raised me. The way you spoke, your parlanche around the house – made me a curious lover of words, and you always pointed me toward the writers who used them well. I made it back home like you always said I would. But I never thought homecoming could be so cruel. You are my Mama, and I place my hand here to touch you now and forever.

Billy:

Margo, I think I'm seeing you in a new way. Since I came back from the war, many things have changed in my life.... And some things have remained constant. Family. This place, Hayes Creek. But one thing has been both constant and changing. And I wonder, "how is this possible?" I mean Us. There could be an Us if you want there to be.

Jimmy Ray:

I never married. Close, a couple of times. I know you never married. I paid attention. You did well in Asheville. I had some trips there, looked up at your building, never went in though. I always paid attention to you, Alice. If I didn't, I knew I was in trouble.

Jimmy Ray:

I don't care who sees me with you. Daddy made me have tea at the Magnolia House with Ola Conklin. He thinks it's good business. He thinks we're still living in the Old South. Well, she sneaked rum into her tea. Are you jealous?

Mayor Dobbs:

College? Four years away from home when everything you need to learn I'm teaching you here within these walls? Your grandfather taught me, and I teach you. That chain must not be broken. Son, the way it works is the business is handed down, and we marry conveniently, in order to live well. Let the Jazz Age infect someone else.

Mayor Dobbs:

Nobody knew the mayor on that train: I got on in Ryan County. I was just a businessman passing through. But not with papers in a briefcase.... Something better. Something better to relocate. Had me a baby in a suitcase. I walked toward the far end of the train where there was just me and the creature and the clatter of the tracks. I stepped out between the cars. And as we passed over the river, I flung it high into the air. I did it for you.

Daddy Murphy:

Your Mama's at the neighbors'; she'll be back. But I'm glad to have you alone. I can talk to your Mama, but not about certain things. Certainly not about things that happened twenty-three years ago. If shame could ever equal pain, I would say that I know how you feel. Because what I did that day made it the most shameful day of my life.

Daddy Cane:

Mary Lee would be awfully pleased to know that Billy is being published. She died last year at sixty-five. She had Billy late in life. That's a rarity around these parts, where everyone's married and bearing kids before they can ride a bike.

Darryl:

I gave Miss Murphy one of my humor pieces. She said she really liked it and I could I turn it into a humor piece.

Darryl:

(trying to get rid of Billy) Let me take your stories. Now wave them good-bye. Our editor, Miss Alice Murphy, is one of the keenest editors in America. But not for young tadpoles like you. Now, where did that door go? Oh --- there it is....