

DADDY CANE & BILLY & MARGO

SCENE 2

(1945. BILLY'S HOME. OUTSIDE HAYES CREEK.)

(BILLY walks gently up the road to surprise his family. DADDY CANE (65) sits on a rocker on the porch. Still spry, good looking. He sits with MARGO, pretty, Billy's family friend since childhood. Daddy Cane sees him.)

DADDY CANE

Well, look how you've grown!

BILLY CANE

Daddy!

DADDY CANE

So good to see you, son.

(They hug each other.)

You win the war all by yourself?

BILLY CANE

I had a little help.

DADDY CANE

Well, I salute you.

BILLY CANE

Then you salute us all.

(They face each other, man to man.)

MARGO

Hi, Billy.

DADDY CANE

(then)

Look who I'm visiting with!

BILLY CANE

Margo! Is that you? You've grown every which-a-way.

(They hug, a friendly one.)

MARGO

I was just delivering a book your Daddy ordered.

BILLY CANE

(all in fun)

Now Daddy, have you been reading again?

DADDY CANE

(playing along)

I have, son.

BILLY CANE

Daddy, I've warned you about reading. That could make you smart.

DADDY CANE

I know, call the hillbilly police.

MARGO

Mr. Cane, Billy's been sending me his stories from overseas, and I've got a stack of them all edited.

BILLY CANE

And I got published in Stars and Stripes!

MARGO

Billy!

BILLY CANE

(to MARGO)

Did you get my latest?

MARGO

I sure did. You can come by the bookstore and pick it up.

BILLY CANE

Well, what'd you think?

MARGO

You don't have to know everything all at once.

BILLY CANE

Margo, that is so you! Mama inside? Or are you making her plow again, Daddy? **(YELLS) MAMA!**

(MARGO and DADDY CANE look quickly at each other. BILLY NOTICES HIS FATHER'S EXPRESSION.)

DADDY CANE (SIGHS)

NO WAY TO WRITE YOU, SON...