

# BOY/PETER 1 MONO

~~Ted: But that cat was –~~

~~Molly: No it wasn't.~~

~~Prentiss: Yes it was! Tubby's right! Your neck-thing was ringing and Slank's cat was totally fly~~

~~Molly: (*distracting them from the flying cat*) Hey – y'know what'd be fun? Howzabout a bedtime story!~~

~~Ted: What's that?~~

~~Molly: Oh, ha-ha, very amus – (*realizing*) omigosh – you poor things. You've never had a bedtime story?~~

~~Prentiss: This might sound kinda defensive –~~

~~Ted: Hard to have a bedtime when you don't have a bed.~~

~~Molly: Sorry. Sorry, I didn't mean to –~~

→ Boy: Tell you what. You say "sorry" so easy, like the rough patch's smoothed over, no hard feelings and everything's fixed. Well, no. There's dark . . . a mass of darkness in the world, and if you get trapped in that cave like us, it beats you down. "Sorry" can't fix it. Better to say nothing than "sorry." (*hearing his mother's song, far away*) When it's night, and I'm too scared to sleep, I look through the cracks, y'know? – between the wood nailed over the window – and I see all those little stars that I can't reach, and I think that in a hundred, or two or three hundred maybe, boys'll be free and life'll be so beautiful that nobody'll ever say "sorry" again – 'cuz nobody'll have to. I think about that a lot.

*MOLLY is moved by this glimpse into the boy's soul. So are TED and PRENTISS.*

~~Prentiss: Well, that's more than he said in the last thirteen years.~~

~~Boy: So, bedtime stories? Not a big priority, okay?~~

~~Molly: No, it's not okay. I'm giving you one. It's a gift. Least I can do. Like, um – *Sleeping Beauty*. *Sleeping Beauty's* a good one. You'll like it. There's a kiss in it. True Love's Kiss.~~

~~Ted: Yeah! (*then*) I don't know what that is.~~

~~Molly: Then I'll tell you. C'mon – back to your cabin and I'll be Mother. Now – the story of *Sleeping Beauty*. "Once upon a time" – that's how they always start – "Once upon a time, a beautiful baby was born . . ."~~

*MOLLY, Pied Piper-like, lures the BOYS off.*