

START

(JULIE and NETTIE kneel in prayer. The TWO HEAVENLY FRIENDS enter from right and cross to BILLY. The chorus hums through the rest of the scene from offstage.)

1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND. Get up, Billy.

BILLY. Huh?

1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND. Get up.

BILLY. *(Straightening up.)* Who are you?

2ND HEAVENLY FRIEND. Shake yourself up. Got to get goin'.

BILLY. *(Looking up at them and turning front, still sitting.)*
Goin'? Where?

1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND. Never mind where. Important thing is you can't stay here.

BILLY. *(Turning left, looks at JULIE.)* Julie!

(The lights dim, and a cloud gauze drop comes in behind BILLY and the HEAVENLY FRIENDS.)

1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND. She can't hear you.

BILLY. Who decided that?

1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND. You did. When you killed yourself.

BILLY. I see! So it's over!

1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND. It isn't as simple as that. As long as there is one person on earth who remembers you – it isn't over.

BILLY. What're you goin' to do to me?

1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND. We weren't going to do anything. We jest came down to fetch you – take you up to the jedge.

BILLY. Judge! Am I goin' before the Lord God Himself?



1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND. What hev you ever done thet you should come before Him?

BILLY. (*His anger rising.*) So that's it. Just like Jigger said – “No Supreme Court for little people – just perlice magistrates!”

1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND. Who said anythin' about...?

BILLY. I tell you, if they kick me around up there like they did on earth, I'm goin' to do somethin' about it! I'm dead and I got nothin' to lose. I'm goin' to stand up for my rights! I tell you, I'm goin' before the Lord God Himself – straight to the top! Y'hear?

1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND. Simmer down, Billy. Simmer down.

END

[MUSIC NO. 25 “THE HIGHEST JUDGE OF ALL”]

BILLY.

TAKE ME BEYOND THE PEARLY GATES,
THROUGH A BEAUTIFUL MARBLE HALL,
TAKE ME BEFORE THE HIGHEST THRONE
AND LET ME JUDGED BY THE HIGHEST JUDGE OF ALL!
LET THE LORD SHOUT AND YELL,
LET HIS EYES FLASH FLAME,
I PROMISE NOT TO QUIVER WHEN HE CALLS MY NAME;
LET HIM SEND ME TO HELL,
BUT BEFORE I GO,
I FEEL THAT I'M ENTITLED TO A HELL OF A SHOW!
WANT PINK-FACED ANGELS ON A PURPLE CLOUD,
TWANGIN' ON THEIR HARPS TILL THEIR FINGERS GET
RED.
WANT ORGAN MUSIC – LET IT ROLL OUT LOUD,
ROLLIN' LIKE A WAVE WASHIN' OVER MY HEAD!
WANT EV'RY STAR IN HEAVEN
HANGIN' IN THE ROOM,
SHININ' IN MY EYES