***Bright Star*** (2009) is a [biographical fiction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biographical_fiction) [romantic drama film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romantic_drama_film) based on the last three years of the life of poet [John Keats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Keats) and his romantic relationship with [Fanny Brawne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fanny_Brawne). It was inspired by the biography of Keats by Andrew Motion, who served as a script consultant on the film. The film's title is a reference to a sonnet by Keats named "[Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bright_star,_would_I_were_steadfast_as_thou_art)", which he wrote while he was with Brawne.

Told from Brawne’s perspective on the romance, the film not only reveals the evolution of their young love, but traces Brawne’s introduction and immersion into Keats’s world of poetry, beginning with apathy and ending with passionate involvement.

In 1818 [Hampstead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hampstead), the fashionable Fanny Brawne is introduced to poet John Keats through the [Dilke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Wentworth_Dilke) family. The Dilkes occupy one half of a double house, with [Charles Brown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Armitage_Brown) —Keats' friend, roommate, and associate in writing—occupying the other side.

Though at the time the lovers meet in 1818 Keats has already established himself in the literary world, his career does not afford him the financial means to marry. Knowing this, Brawne’s interaction with Keats is limited, so she injects herself into his life by feigning an interest in poetry.

Though Fanny's flirtatious personality contrasts with Keats' notably more aloof nature, she begins to pursue him after she has her siblings, Samuel and Toots, obtain his book of poetry "[Endymion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endymion_%28poem%29)". Despite her efforts to interact with the poet it is only after witnessing her grief for the loss of his brother Tom that Keats begins to open up to Fanny's advances, when he spends Christmas with the Brawne family. After Keats begins to give poetry lessons to Fanny it becomes apparent that their attraction is mutual, however Fanny is nevertheless troubled in regard to Keats' reluctance to pursue her, for which her mother surmises, "Mr Keats knows he cannot like you, he has no living and no income."

It is only after Fanny receives a valentine from Brown that Keats passionately confronts them and wonders if they are lovers. Brown, who sent the valentine in jest, warns Keats of Fanny, claiming that she is a mere flirt playing a game. On the other hand, Fanny, hurt by the accusations and Keats' lack of faith in her, ends their lessons and leaves.

Fanny's mother shows concern, feeling that Fanny's attachment with the poet will hinder her from being courted. Secretly, however, Fanny and Keats are engaged.

When Keats becomes ill the following winter, he spends several weeks recovering until spring, for which his friends begin a collection of funds so that he may spend the next winter in Italy where the climate is warmer. After impregnating the maid Abigail, however, Brown is unable to accompany him. Though Keats manages to find residence in London for the summer, he is taken in to live with the Brawne family following an incident in relation to his illness. It is here that, after his book sells with moderate success, Fanny's mother gives Keats her blessing to marry Fanny once he returns from Italy. The night before Keats must leave for Italy he and Fanny say their tearful goodbye in privacy, and in February—while still in Italy—Keats dies of complications from tuberculosis, just as his brother Tom did earlier in the film.