

## Man and Moon

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### SYNOPSIS

A story about unlikely friends— Aaron, a transitioning man, meets Luna, a twelve-year-old girl with a deep passion for outer space, in the waiting room of a hospital's Oncology Unit. Aaron is battling breast cancer. Luna is facing the possibility of losing her mother to the same disease. Together they learn how to wait, each navigating their own changing bodies and lives as they fit within the context of space and time.

The following excerpt is from the middle of the play after Aaron and Luna have had numerous interactions.

### 10-PAGE DIALOGUE SAMPLE

Pg. 3 –12 (Pg. 35 – 44 in the full script)

### RESUME

Pg. 13

### PLAYWRIGHT BIO

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

LUNA, (12)

AARON, (28)

## SETTINGS

The waiting room of a hospital's Oncology unit, present day.

## CASTING NOTES

AARON should be played by a transman or non-binary actor.

## TEXT NOTES

'...' in dialogue can represent a pause, change in action or thought, or non-verbal communication.

[ TRANSITION ] can explore time and space, connection and isolation.

AARON

...

LUNA

Are you a boy or a girl?

AARON

...

LUNA

Because you look like both.  
And you sound like both.  
And I've never really met anyone like you.

AARON

For now I'm kind of both.

LUNA

Will it change?

AARON

Maybe.

LUNA

How will you know?

AARON

I think that a body can like... Lie.  
You know, just like a person can...  
I'm—  
Figuring it out.

LUNA

Cool.

AARON

Cool.

LUNA

You know how stars work?

AARON

You do.

LUNA

Stars all start out the same.  
 All just gases and like stuff floating in space.  
 Hydrogen, mostly.  
 But as they age, they take on different forms.  
 Some will follow the normal sequence:  
 Become a red giant and planetary nebula then eventually white dwarf.  
 But some will supernova.  
 Some will grow so massive they have no choice but to explode  
 and create something far different, fantastic!  
 A neutron star or even black hole.  
 But what makes stars different?  
 What *caused* these differences?  
 Wasn't ever anything that space did.  
 Wasn't even what the star did, it didn't even change really.  
 The star was always what it would become.  
 Even in every step that it wasn't.

AARON

...

LUNA

Stars don't choose to become.  
 They just are. Always are.

LUNA re-plugs in her earphones.

The sound is really loud again.

AARON smiles.

LUNA

...

AARON

That was the first CD I ever bought  
 What you're listening to.

LUNA

It's sunny.

AARON

Yeah it is.

THEY listen.

Something like ‘Just Like Heaven’ by the Cure.

AARON starts to dance;

HE invites LUNA to join.

When SHE does, the music become magic

Transforming the waiting room into

A full-blown dance party!

LUNA runs to the bathroom.

AARON keeps dancing until

HE loses his balance and reality sets back in.

LATER

LUNA

Periods suck.

AARON

...

LUNA

They SUCK.

Like first it’s the bleeding thing.

Like I am gushing— GUSHING — blood. But...

Everyone acts like it’s completely normal,

Nor even really cares...

As long as I have this disposable sponge catcher

catching all my blood droppings.

Then the cramps

AND the having to sit in this

WET disposable sponge catcher and feel it all

dribble and pool and squish up in between my legs

because sitting and because *gravity*—

AARON

Tampons.

LUNA

What?

	AARON
Tampons help that. They make you... Feel cleaner.	
	LUNA
You use them?	
	AARON
Used to.	
	LUNA
I've never used one.	
	AARON
Your mom can show you how to properly.	
	LUNA
Probably...	
	LUNA takes out a box of tampons.
	AARON
...	
	LUNA
...	
	AARON
I can't go in with you.	
	LUNA
...	
	AARON
...	
	LUNA
Okay.	
	LUNA grabs the box and gets up.
	SHE has a period stain on her pants.
	AARON
When you...	

AARON takes the box of tampons from LUNA.

HE opens the box, takes one out, and opens it.

HE forms a fist and points the tip of the applicator at the center.

AARON

Try to relax—

Breathe out and make sure you get the plastic part up enough,  
before you... You know?

Otherwise it will feel like it's chaffing your insides and about to fall out.

AARON finishes the demonstration and hands  
the box back to LUNA.

LUNA exits.

HE twirls the tampon by its string before tossing  
the parts into a trashcan. HE looks at the door.

As HE goes to the door, LUNA enters.

SHE waddle-squats, adjusts herself as SHE sits.

AARON

Good?

LUNA

... Good.

AARON

Good.

LUNA

Does it feel... The same? In you, as me?

AARON

Yeah.

LUNA

I didn't ask for this:  
To grow up  
And get breasts and—  
All that.

AARON

No one did.

LUNA

I don't feel different.

AARON

Because you aren't different.

LUNA

Aren't I though?  
Because of the bleeding.  
It makes me different now.

AARON

Doesn't have to.  
Doesn't have to mean anything. For me,  
It was like a monthly reminder of something  
I was never ready for.  
But eventually it just became  
Just something that would happen  
Over and over and over again.  
Now that  
Is this...

LUNA

Being a girl sucks.  
You're lucky...  
Sorta.

AARON

*You* get better at it, honest.

LUNA

You always felt different?

AARON

No, but I've always felt the *difference*.

LUNA

What does the difference feel like?



AARON

It... It felt—  
Or it *feels*... sometimes to me like—  
Like being... Like having cancer.

LUNA

How?

AARON

It... I wouldn't have even known that I was different or whatever—  
If somebody hadn't told me that what I feel isn't normal. Or,  
If people just didn't like... Notice. Or look at you weird.  
It's just interesting what matters—  
What people choose to give weight.

LUNA

Gravity gives everything weight.  
So everything matters...  
Everything IS MATTER.

AARON

And stars just are.

LUNA

Yeah... But not.

AARON

I thought you said?

LUNA

Well, like they still change from one to next.

AARON

How long does that take to change from one to next?

LUNA

A *long* time. Like billions and billions and billions  
of years.

AARON

I guess if it were to feel like anything  
then it would feel like that.  
Like I'm a transitioning star period.  
That billions and billions and billions  
of years.  
My whole life.

Do you think I'll get cancer?

LUNA

No.

AARON

How do you know?

LUNA

I don't. I just really hope you don't.

AARON

What does it feel like?

LUNA

Like anything.  
Growing is gradual.

AARON

Then why is it scary?

LUNA

Because we can't stop growing.

AARON

"Never any solutions, only what works in an instant."

LUNA

Sure?

AARON

Pretty.

LUNA

You don't usually like talking about it so much.

AARON

I don't... But I still *think* about it.  
Can't help it exists.  
I wish we didn't grow.  
Isn't fair.

LUNA

I know.

AARON

LUNA

It is better to talk about better things.

AARON

Right.

LUNA

For instance space.

AARON

Space is all good.

LUNA

Space is all good.

What does your mom look like?

AARON

It's been a while since I've seen her.

LUNA

How long is a while?

AARON

A while.

LUNA

Well is she old or young?

AARON

Either way she'd still look older than the last time I saw her likely.

LUNA

...

AARON

I don't know Luna. That's it. I don't think about it more than that.

AARON starts to put in earphones—

LUNA

WHAT'S WRONG?

AARON

Nothing, Luna.

LUNA

I wish you'd say more. I say lots of things. And I ask yo—

AARON

You *force*—

LUNA

...

AARON

You know that feeling that happens when you realize how alone you are?

Not sudden not THERE AND GONE alone I mean *realize*...

Like when you—

You somehow—

You manage to go an entire day without speaking.

Until you go some place finally after

all this time of shifting silences—

Noises of living,

Soundtrack moments,

And then you hear your voice...

But suddenly it feels the thing furthest from your self?

LUNA

Not really...

AARON

That's okay. That's what's wrong.

LUNA

...

AARON

I'm—

LUNA puts on headphones.

THEY sit in silence.

The machine calls

'Aaron... Aaron... Aaron...'

[ TRANSITION ]