

*Peter and the Starcatcher*

**Boy** Then how come your neck-thing glows and rings all by itself?

**Molly** (*not very convincing*) It's for swimming. I'm a good swimmer. It's a swimming medal.

**Boy** Right. Swimming. Sure. And what's starstuff?

**Molly** Decision. I'm going to trust you.

**Boy** Why? I'm just a boy.

**Molly** I know. Pity. (*remembers the boy's "sorry" manifesto, looks at the sky*) You like to look at the stars?

Well, there they are —

**Boy** There's so many . . .

**Molly** They look safe, don't they, sparkling up there like diamonds.

**Boy** I like when they shoot across the sky! *Shoom!*

**Molly** (*suddenly very like her father*) Sometimes pieces of them fall to earth — little bits that look like sand. Can you keep a secret?

**Boy** I can.

**All** WE CAN.

**Molly** Those little bits are starstuff. The trunk in Slank's cabin is full of it. (*grabs her amulet*) There's some in here too, in case I'm ever in trouble.

**Boy** (*tries to touch the amulet*) Starstuff?? Lemme see!!

**Molly** NO!! (*pulls the amulet away*) It changes people if they touch it.

**Boy** How?

**Molly** Different ways — depending on what they want to be.

**Boy** So if somebody gets their hands on this starstuff and —

**Molly** — and they're evil and greedy like Genghis Khan, or they're hungry for world domination like Caesar or Napoleon or, you know, Ayn Rand —

Act One: Scene Nine

**Boy** Who's that?

**Molly** Uch, didn't you learn anything at that orphanage?

**Boy** Was kinda busy trying not to die.

**Molly** Oh.

**Boy** So if starstuff's so dangerous, why're you after it?

**Molly** I'm a Starcatcher. We have special powers that we use in secret — to keep starstuff away from tyrants who try to rule the world.

**Boy** You mean, like Queen Victoria?

**Molly** God Save Her. And no, that's different. She doesn't need starstuff to rule the world. She's British.

**Boy** So you're a — what is it?

**Molly** Starcatcher. There's only six and a half of us on the planet.

**Boy** Six and a half?

**Molly** I'm still an apprentice.

**Boy** Okay, so prove it.

**Molly** What?

**Boy** Go on, amaze me with your special powers.

**Molly** It's not a magic show. I'm not like some magician guy.

**Boy** Well, I mean if you can't actually do anything . . .

**Molly** Fine, whatever. (*then*) To have faith is to have wings.

*MOLLY clasps the amulet tightly, closes her eyes, and floats a few inches off the deck . . . then down again.*

**Boy** Whea.

**Molly** Satisfied?

**Boy** So the cat was flying. C'mon, I wanna fly, too! Like you and the cat!

**Molly** Get serious, will you?! The starstuff has to be destroyed.