

# BOY/MOLLY

CB

## SCENE NINE

*The Neverland - On Deck*

*MOLLY turns to find the BOY on the deck behind her.*

**Molly:** Sorry, what? Um – get below, boy. If Slank sees you on deck, he'll rear up like the –

**Boy:** You were talking to your neck-thing.

**Molly:** No, I wasn't.

**Boy:** I know what I saw.

**Molly:** Well, there was . . . there was a porpoise swimming alongside the ship, and it was making those funny noises that porpoises make, and I thought I'd make some funny noises too, that's all.

**Boy:** So you were talking to a fish.

**Molly:** Porpoises are not fish. They're mammals, just like you. Or Germans.

**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 –

**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?

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**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.

**END**

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

**Boy:** Whoa.

**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.

**Boy:** *(not believing in himself yet)* You want me to destroy it??

**Molly:** Don't be ridiculous. My father is going to throw it into the world's hottest active volcano  
– Mount Jalapeño

**Boy:** Where's that?

**Molly:** Rundoon, wouldn't you know it. Problem is, King Zarboff would kill for even a thimble of starstuff!

**Boy:** Hey, I can help. See, I'm gonna be the king's new helper. So when we get to Rundoon, I'll just ask him –

**Molly:** You're not going to be his helper. You're going to be snake food! Zarboff likes to buy orphans and feed them to his snakes!

**Boy:** So Grempinkin lied.

**Molly:** King Zarboff the third is evil – he's the worst Zarboff yet.

**Boy:** Grown-ups always lie! It's all they ever do!

**Molly:** You want to help? Then help me get that trunk to my father!

**Boy:** Hey, you know what? Forget it! Why should I help anybody?? **WHAT'S ANYBODY EVER DONE FOR ME???**

*Out of nowhere. SLANK!*

**Slank:** You!

**Boy:** *(furious)* Snake food? Really?

**Slank:** *(circling the BOY like a shark about to attack)* I told you to stay in your crate, orphan sludge.

**Boy:** When exactly were you gonna tell us we were –

**Slank:** that's it. Bill! Slank is drawin' the line! I may not have been born with a silver spoon up me bum, but that don't mean I won't stir my tea with one!

**Molly:** Ew.

**Boy:** That's gross.

**Molly:** Get below, boy!

*MOLLY gets safely out of harm's way, but SLANK brutally hurls his whip and snogs the BOY.*

**Slank:** He ain't goin' below, he's goin' over!

**Boy:** Let go! Lemme go!