

START

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-

*Starstuff*

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?

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.

END