

## BOY / MOLLY

**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 –