

LIL STAR'S LULLABY

Written by

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A newborn star falls from the heavens to earth, encounters
strange enemies and makes unexpected friends who help him find
the light within to guide him home.

Based on the poem, *The Rainbow Star*, by same author.

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FADE IN:

INT. STAR NURSERY - BEFORE DAWN

A pale white newborn star, LIL STAR, sleeps peacefully in his silvery crib made of stardust.

He awakens and the first thing he sees is the shimmering blue Earth from the window of his nursery.

Captivated by Earth's beauty, he climbs out of his crib. He sneaks past his dozing, golden MOTHER star.

Lil Star tiptoes, carefully creeping towards a doorway to Outer Space.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAWN

Lil Star sees the vast Universe, full of stars and planets.

His eyes widen and he smiles brightly, leaning out of the doorway.

He takes one more step and realizes he's out of the nursery completely.

He looks back, but quickly drops - falling toward the Earth!

He is excited, beaming brightly - he starts speeding up!

LIL STAR

Woo-hoo! Whoa! How fast can I go?

The giant, ancient planet SATURN awakens from all the excitement, YAWNING.

SATURN

You'll find it's safer if you go slow!

LIL STAR

Safer is boring -- faster is fun!

SATURN

(grumbling)

Hasty youth!

(trailing off)

Take time, little one...

Lil Star gets caught on the tail of a passing silver comet that swoops past Earth toward the sun.

COMET

Want 'a go faster? Catch onto my
tail!

LIL STAR

Oh, yes! Take me wherever you
sail!

Lil Star can't hang on. He falls off the comet and drops
through the clouds of Earth's atmosphere.

He streaks down like a shooting star.

INT. RED VOLCANO - DAY

Lil Star opens his eyes and finds himself in a dimly lit
cavern of a grumpy VOLCANO.

Lil Star's glow is doused in soot.

The VOLCANO begins to QUAKE and RUMBLE.

LIL STAR

Where am I? Is this a black hole?

VOLCANO

(V.O.) (booming bass)
I've been called worse. What is
your goal?

The Volcano glows red from within. From the cavern wall the
Volcano's stone face appears and smiles crookedly.

LIL STAR

(startled)
I was flying towards a crystal blue
world, then everything around me
tumbled and twirled...

VOLCANO

What a story! What is your name?
Why are you here? Is this a game?

Lil Star inspects the stone face of the Volcano more closely.
He innocently pets the Volcano and rubs off its soot.

LIL STAR

I'm Lil Star! I love games, would
you like to play?

VOLCANO
 (annoyed)
 Volcanos don't play by night or by
 day!

LIL STAR
 A Vol-ca-no? Well, what can that
 be?

The Volcano's stone face grimaces, trembles and smoke comes
 out its nose and mouth.

VOLCANO
 You'll see - A volcano is me!

The VOLCANO ERUPTS!

EXT. SKY ABOVE VOLCANO - DAY

Lil Star is sent flying up into the sky, pushed up by a
 fountain of lava that makes sparks on his soot covered
 bottom. Lil Star falls into the nearby ocean.

INT. UNDERSEA PALACE - DAY

Lil Star tries to swim but sinks deep into the darkness. The
 soot is washed away from him and soon his beaming white light
 is the only glow in the dark.

Lil Star turns around and shines his light against a wall of
 golden sparkling scales.

An enormous golden eye blinks and a gargantuan fish, QUEEN
 GOLDILOX, is revealed.

QUEEN GOLDILOX
 (booming soprano)
 Who dares to enter my watery
 palace?

LIL STAR
 (cowers)
 Sorry, Madam, I mean you no malice.

QUEEN GOLDILOX
 (squints)
 You are much too bright, why is
 this so?

LIL STAR
 I'm not sure why. I just always
 glow!

QUEEN GOLDDILOX
 (getting closer)
 I'm the sea queen, you must tell me
 all!

LIL STAR
 (to himself)
 My luck gets worse each time I
 fall.

QUEEN GOLDDILOX
 If you want to escape, make haste!
 My tongue wants to know how you
 taste!

Queen Goldilox opens her mouth full of razor sharp teeth.

Lil Star's eyes widen and suddenly he can swim. He zips past Queen Goldilox and bursts out of the ocean.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - DAY

He moves so fast that he skips along the water. Queen Goldilox gives up her chase and sinks below the sea. Lil Star rushes ashore, then collapses on a desert island.

EXT. TROPICAL DESERT ISLAND - DAY

Lil Star opens his eyes to see two green parrots, MR. CACKLE and MRS. CACKLE, looking over him.

Lil Star sits up and sees he is on a sandy beach.

MR. CACKLE
 We've been waiting for you, Lil
 Star. The sun told us you've
 traveled far.

Lil Star looks up, a bit confused.

EXT. SKY ABOVE ISLAND - CLOSE-UP ON SUN - DAY

The golden SUN winks at Lil Star and beams brightly.

EXT. TROPICAL DESERT ISLAND - DAY

Lil Star smiles and stands up, dusts himself off.

LIL STAR
 Yes, I have, far up and far down.

MRS. CACKLE
 Why come here, so far from Star
 Town?

LIL STAR
 I saw your world and had to fly.
 It called to me, I don't know why.
 But now I miss my mother so - I
 need to find a way to go!

MR. CACKLE
 We'd like to help you get back
 home.

MRS. CACKLE
 We'll help you fly where comets
 roam!

Mr. & Mrs. Cackle balance Lil Star on their shoulders and
 take flight.

They carry him up to a high canopy in the trees.

MR. CACKLE
 When we need a lift up, we like to
 laugh.

MRS. CACKLE
 We chortle, chuckle - nearly split
 in half!

MR. CACKLE
 The more we laugh, the higher we
 fly...

LIL STAR
 So if I laugh, I can touch the sky?

MRS. CACKLE
 Think of something that makes you
 smile.

MR. CACKLE
 You'll start to giggle after a
 while.

Lil Star pauses to think of his travels.

LIL STAR
 It was funny to meet a royal fish.
 She wanted to make me into a dish!

MR. & MRS. CACKLE LAUGH and encourage Lil Star to continue.

LIL STAR (CONT'D)
 I met a volcano today. He was
 quite warm -- but wouldn't play!

MR. & MRS. CACKLE LAUGH HARDER AND LIL STAR GIGGLES.

LIL STAR LAUGHS HARDER and HARDER until he begins to float.

Mr. & Mrs. Cackle fly up to meet him as he ascends.

MR. CACKLE
 That's it, my boy, you've got it
 now!

MRS. CACKLE
 Fly up to Mother... you'll know
 how!

LIL STAR KEEPS LAUGHING and waves good-bye to the Cackles as
 he floats up through the clouds.

The Cackles wave Lil Star onward. MRS. CACKLE SIGHS. Mr.
 Cackle hugs her to his side with one wing.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - ABOVE MOON'S SURFACE - NIGHT

The full MOON, silver and bright, sees Lil Star float by.

LIL STAR GIGGLES LESS. He's getting drowsy, sinking a bit.

MOON
 A star, I say, what brings you by?

LIL STAR
 (stops laughing)
 Home to Mother, I must fly...

LIL STAR YAWNS, starts to fall again, his eyes are drooping.

The Moon tilts under Lil Star, catching him as he drifts
 downward.

MOON
 Rest a while in my cool crater...
 Journey home a little later.

LIL STAR
 (almost asleep)
 Your offer is most kind, indeed...
 perhaps some sleep is what I need.

MOON
Sleep and dream of beautiful
things...

EXT. OUTER SPACE - PANORAMIC SHOT - NIGHT

We see Outer Space. Galaxies and stars of every shape and size. One star sparkles very brightly in the distance.

MOON
Listen, hear how the universe
sings...

EXT. OUTER SPACE - MOON'S SURFACE - NIGHT

The SOLAR WINDS SING sweetly, like a flute, lulling Lil Star to sleep in the Moon's crater. LIL STAR SIGHS.

INT. STAR NURSERY - BEFORE DAWN

The Solar Winds become the sound of a SOFT MOTHER'S HUMMING.

Lil Star awakens to find he's cuddled safely in his Mother's golden arms. His adventure was but a dream.

He smiles and falls back to sleep, glowing a bright yellow shade of gold.

MOTHER
You're my twinkling Li'l Star...
Love and light is what you are.

FADE OUT.