



The Shy Moon  
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The moon rises.



To his right, a group of stars play with each other.



To his left, a group of stars chat with each other.





*It looks like they are having a lot of fun, but I am all by myself, thinks the moon.*



*What if I try talking to them?*

The moon slowly moves toward the group of stars.



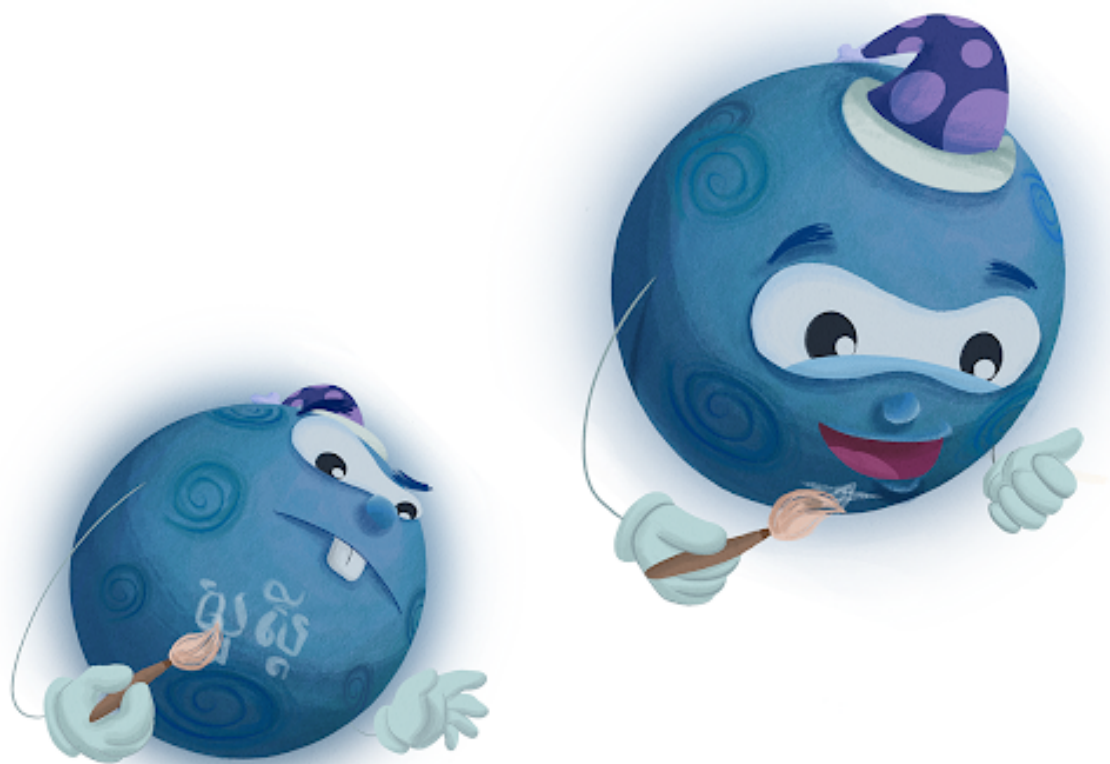
*Will they play with me? I am so different from them.*

*I should try.*



The moon moves forward again, and then pauses again. He still feels shy.





The moon takes out a paintbrush.

He writes, "Hello."

Then the moon erases the word. He starts again, and then erases.



The moon draws, and then erases. There are marks all over the his surface.



*It looks like they have been playing and not noticing me. I will just go and clean myself up.*

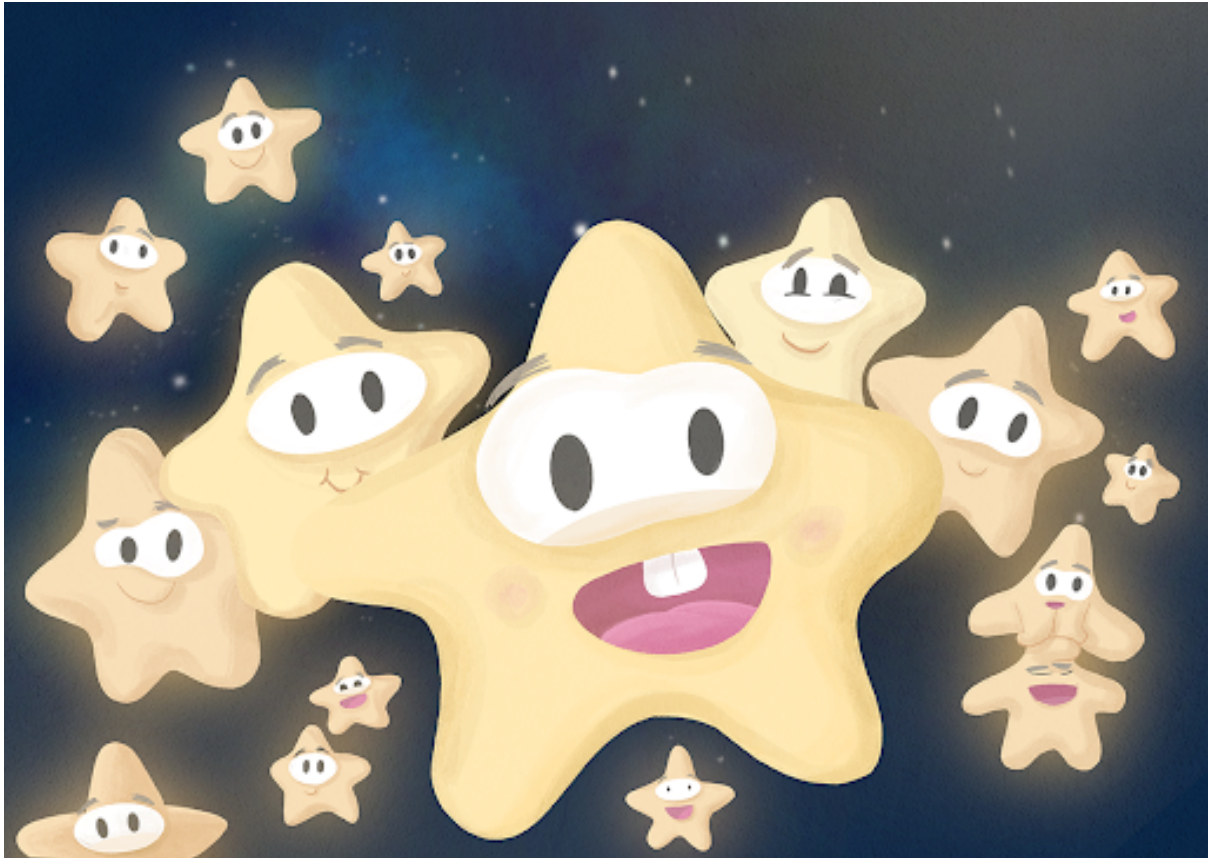


Then, the moon hears a voice behind him. "What are those marks on you?" The moon turns around and sees the stars staring at him.

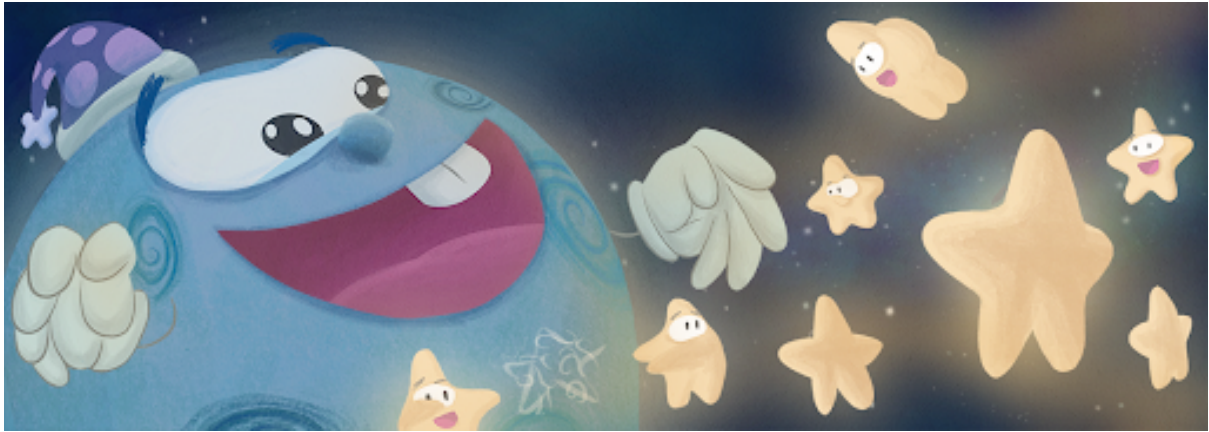




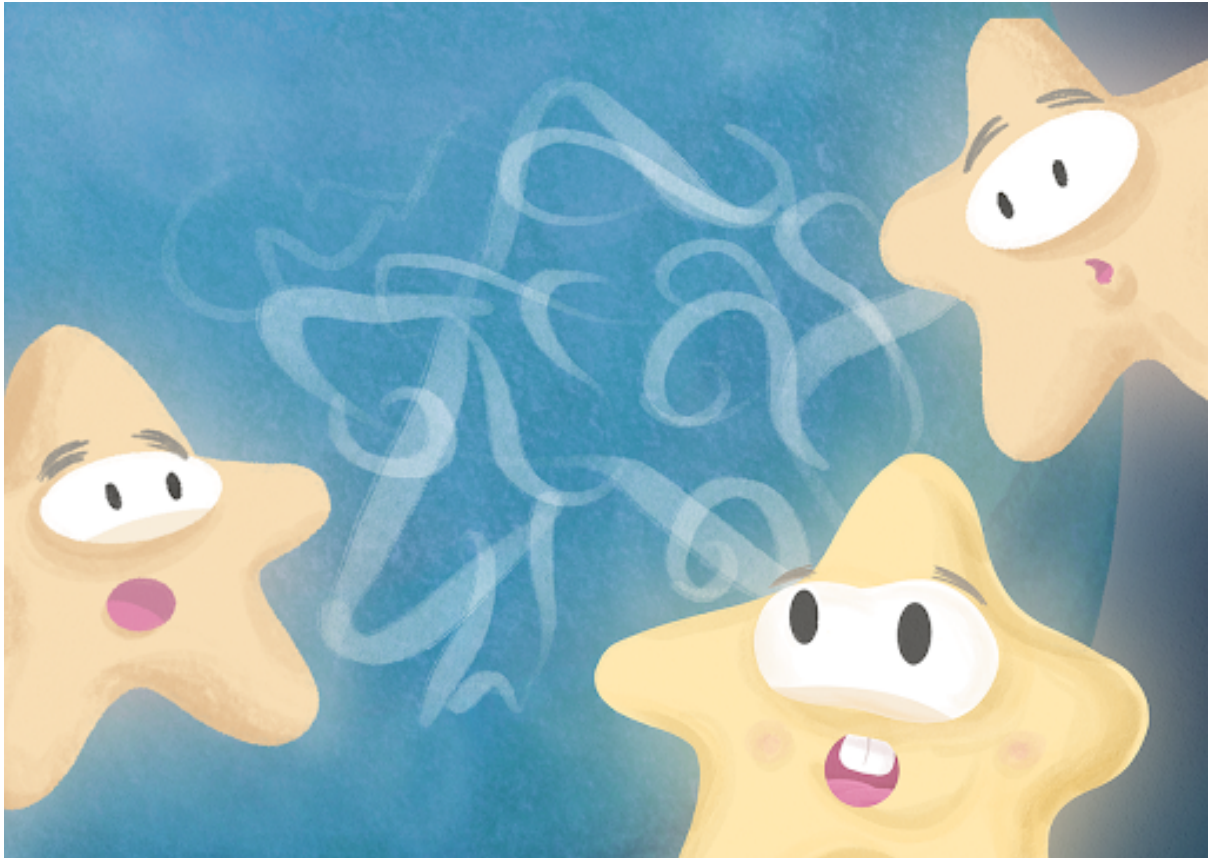
The moon smiles shyly. "Hello, can I play with you?"



The stars laugh. "Aren't we already playing?" they say.



A star asks, "What were you drawing?"  
"Take a guess," says the moon.  
I think you drew letters," the star replies.



"No, I think that is a drawing of us," says another star.

"I think it looks like a rabbit," a third star chimes in.

"Moon, please just tell us! What were you drawing?"





The moon grins. "I do not know what I drew, either."

They all laugh.



"How about we stars gather into different shapes and you guess what we are?" a star suggests.



The moon and the stars play together for the rest of the night.



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### **Original Story**

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