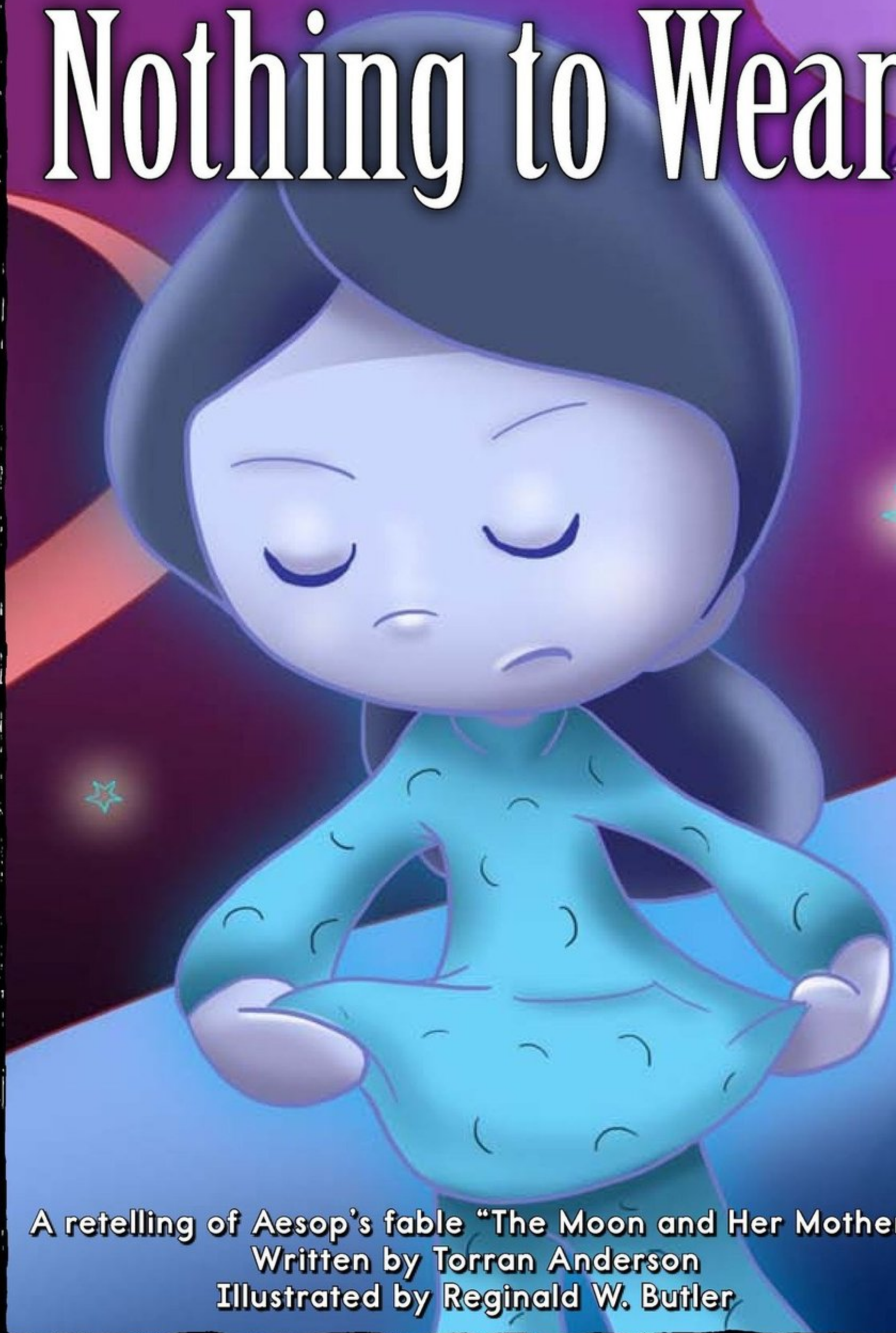


LEVELED BOOK • N

Luna Has Nothing to Wear



A retelling of Aesop's fable "The Moon and Her Mother"
Written by Torran Anderson
Illustrated by Reginald W. Butler

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Prologue

The Moon once begged her Mother to make her a gown. "How can I?" replied she; "there's no fitting your figure. At one time you're a New Moon, and at another you're a Full Moon; and between whiles you're neither one nor the other."

Luna Has Nothing to Wear is based on one of Aesop's fables, "The Moon and Her Mother." Read on to see how the writer wove this original fable into a larger story.





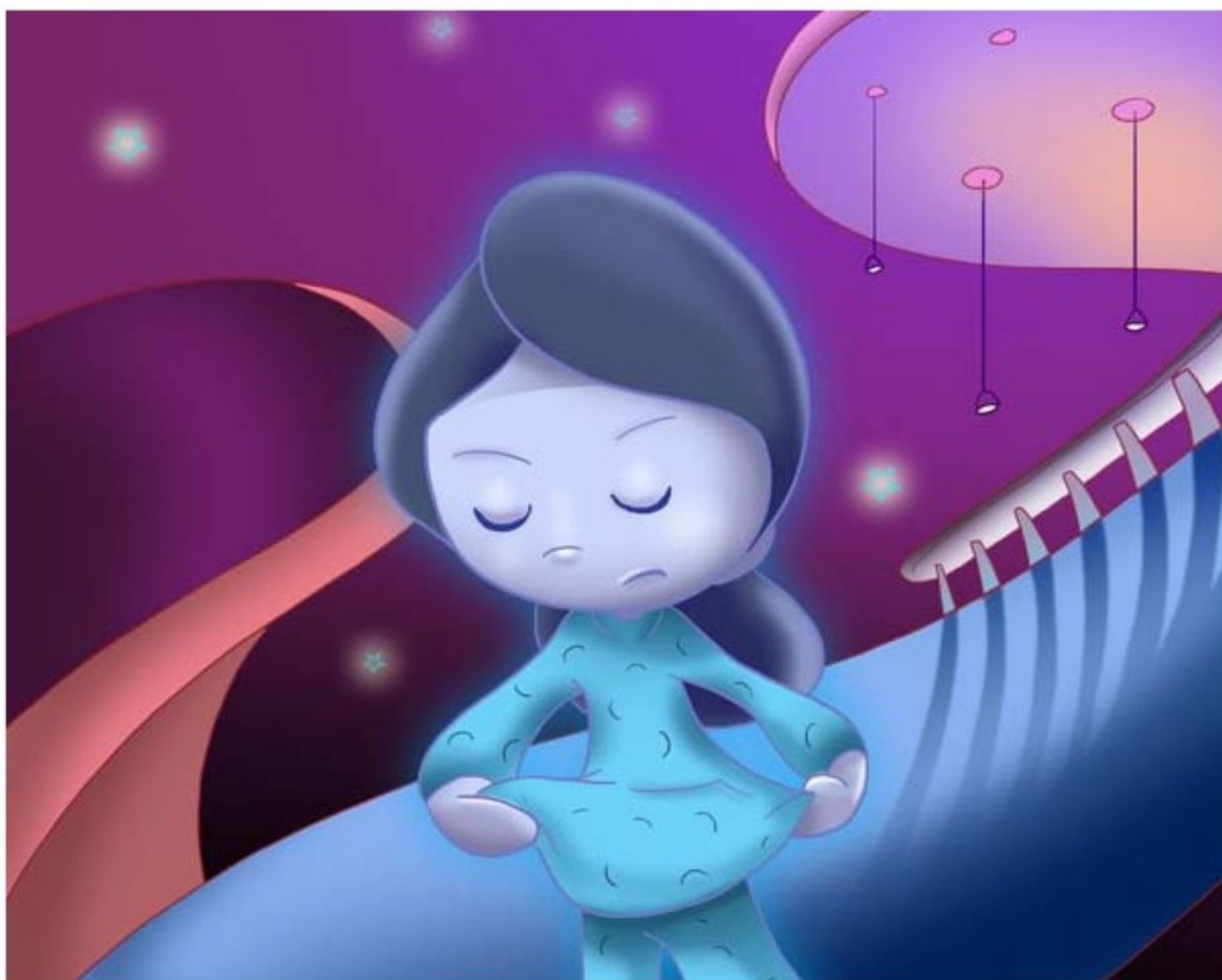
“Please make me a dress,” Luna begged. It was only three hours until the grandest ball in the **galaxy**, and Luna still had nothing to wear.

“How can I make you a dress?” her mother asked. “You are the moon—there is no **fitting** your **figure**. At one time you’re a New Moon, at another you’re a Full Moon. In between, you are all different shapes.”

“It’s not fair!” shouted Luna.

“Everyone always goes to see what the Sun is wearing. They say she really lights up the room. Saturn has those cool rings that never fall. Halley’s Comet has a long trail that flows behind her . . . so what can I wear?”

“What you always wear, dear,” her mother said.



Luna looked down at her clothes: baggy pants with an **elastic** waist and a puffy shirt. Both were made to stretch and stretch and never rip.

“They’re all going to make fun of me tonight,” Luna said. “I just hope I don’t grow big at the dance and start to glow again!”

“You’re very important,” her mother said. “Never forget that.”





That night every planet, comet, and star who was anybody was at the Galaxy Ball. Pluto wore a **tuxedo** (even though he wasn't called a planet anymore). Mars wore red, Neptune wore blue, and Jupiter's ruby necklace matched her Great Red Spot. In tiptoed Luna in her elastic pants, trying not to be noticed.

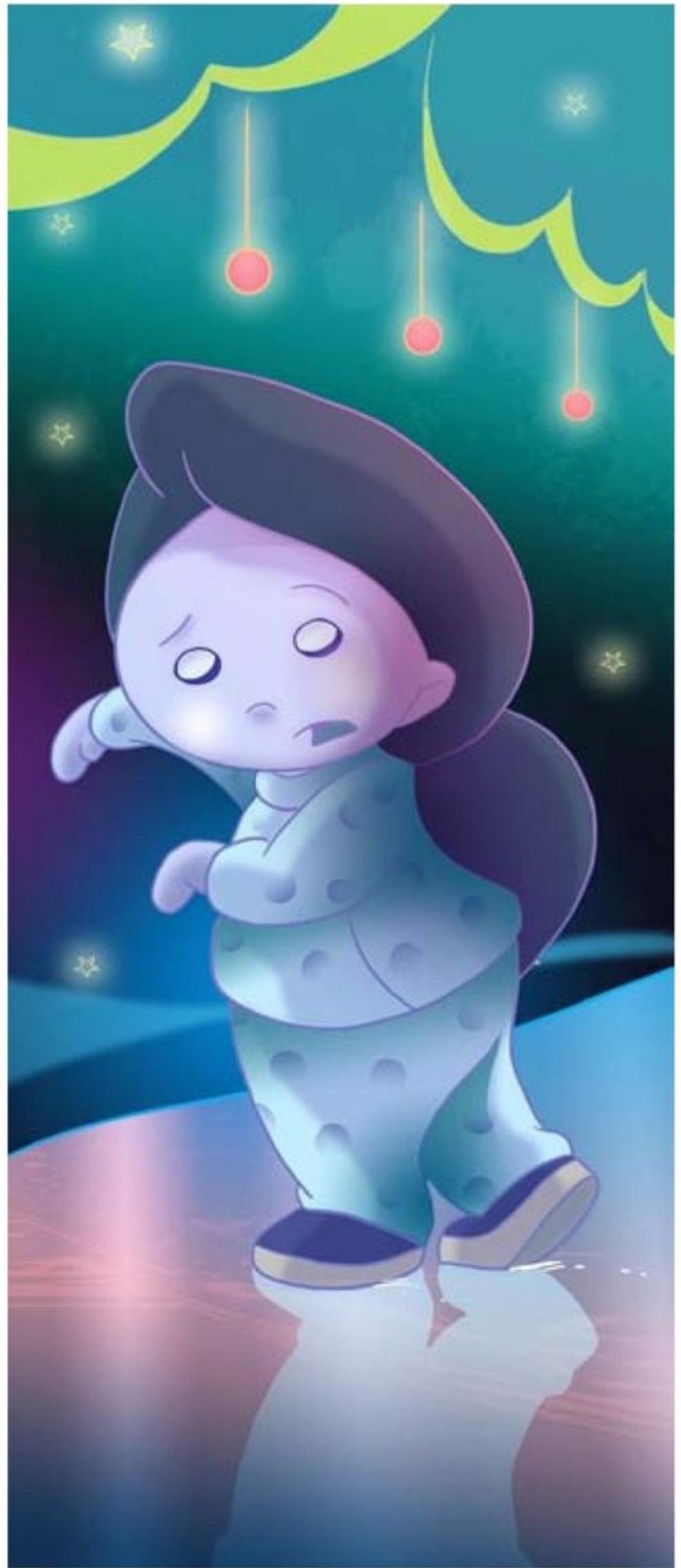


The Sun floated into the ball, and everyone turned to look. She wore a fiery dress with hot gas-flare earrings and sunspot heels. She was the center of attention, and everyone **orbited** around her. Mars and Neptune followed her everywhere and hung on her every word.

“Nice outfit, Luna,” said the Sun with a small, mean smile. “You do know it’s a dance?”

Mars and Neptune had to force themselves not to laugh.

Just as the Sun was about to walk away to pick on someone else, something terrible happened. Luna looked down at her pants and saw that they were expanding. She felt her puffy shirt push away from her; she was becoming a Full Moon.



Not now, Luna thought, right in the middle of the party!

The Sun took one look at Luna's **swelling** clothes and burst out in wild laughter.

"You can't even fit in your pants," the Sun howled, slapping Neptune on the back.





The Sun leaned back so far laughing that she fell on the trail of Halley's Comet's long dress. Halley's Comet tripped and fell onto Saturn's **dazzling** gown. Saturn spilled punch all over her nice rings and bumped into Pluto, who stepped on Mars's toes. Mars turned a darker shade of red and screamed so loud that the rest of the planets fell over.



The only one left standing was Luna. Right in the middle of the dance floor, for everyone to see, she grew bigger and bigger.

“Good job, fatso—look what you’ve done!” yelled the Sun.

“You’re the one who fell over,” Luna said.

“Come on, guys,” said the Sun, flipping back her golden hair, “let’s leave this party.” Neptune and Mars followed behind her. As soon as the Sun walked away, the ballroom **dimmed**.

“Party’s over, everybody,” said Pluto, throwing his bowtie to the ground. “We can’t even see the dance floor.”





In the middle of the darkness, Luna kept growing until she was completely round. Then it happened: a pale light shone from her body and lit up everything it touched. When the planets, comets, and stars turned and saw Luna, she just wanted to disappear. Yet Luna glowed with the most beautiful light they'd ever seen.

“Let’s dance!” yelled Earth, catching Luna’s hands and spinning her across the dance floor.

Luna didn’t feel ashamed anymore. She might not have a dress to wear, but she shared light when everything was dark. Every planet at the ball headed out to the floor and danced by the light of the moon.



Glossary

dazzling (<i>adj.</i>)	blindingly bright; amazingly impressive (p. 11)
dimmed (<i>v.</i>)	grew darker or became less bright (p. 13)
elastic (<i>adj.</i>)	able to be stretched and return to its original shape (p. 6)
figure (<i>n.</i>)	a form or shape, especially a human shape (p. 4)
fitting (<i>v.</i>)	being, measuring, or making the proper size and shape (p. 4)
galaxy (<i>n.</i>)	a large group of stars, planets, gases, and dust (p. 4)
orbited (<i>v.</i>)	revolved around another object (p. 8)
swelling (<i>adj.</i>)	becoming bigger, rounder, louder, or more numerous (p. 10)
tuxedo (<i>n.</i>)	a men's suit, often black with a bow tie, worn to a special event (p. 7)

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DRA	28