

# Fly Me To The Moon

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A short play

By Caroline Lapinski

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

REED, A ROCKET SCIENTIST

OAKLEY, A MYSTERIOUS AUTHOR

BARTENDER, A WORKS AT A BAR, HAS A SECRET TALENT

SAM, REED'S BOSS

## SCENE 1

Lights up on Reed in an antique shop looking at vases.

They pick up the vases and look at them, but they are unsure.

Oakley enters wearing all white.

OAKLEY

Well, which one?

REED

I don't know.

OAKLEY

C'mon. Just pick one.

REED

You had the eye for this type of thing.

OAKLEY

I decorated the whole house from top to bottom and you can't pick out one vase. This isn't rocket science.

REED

I'd be thrilled if this were rocket science!

OAKLEY

Okay, bad example. Just take a breath, close your eyes, and imagine you have a bouquet of pretty flowers. Which vase do you think is as pretty as the flowers?

REED

Flowers aren't pretty. They're smelly and attract bugs.

OAKLEY

Well if "flowers aren't pretty." Then what is?

REED

Uh

OAKLEY

Well?

Reed takes a breath.

REED

You.

OAKLEY

What do you mean?

REED

You! I think you're pretty.

OAKLEY

And you say you're not romantic.

REED

I wasn't, I'm not. Please! Just help me pick a vase! I don't know which one is right. You're good at this type of thing, and I'm not, I can't

Reed gets more upset. Oakley gets closer to Reed but doesn't touch them.

OAKLEY

Calm down and take a breath. Okay, imagine I'm a flower.

REED

That's ridiculous!

OAKLEY

Just humor me! Imagine I'm a flower! Which vase do you think I should go in?

Reed looks at each vase again. They are more receptive to picking one.

Oakley sees this, smiles, and distances themselves away from Reed.

REED

This one. Oakley should go in this one.

## SCENE 2

Sam's office. Sam's on the phone.

SAM

Yes, everything is on schedule for the launch. Reed knows what needs to be collected.

Reed enters

They just walked in. Of course, I'll let them know. Take care.

Hangs up the phone.

REED

Thanks for taking the time to meet with me.

SAM

Of course! Is everything okay with the launch?

REED

Yes, this launch is well planned. I wanted to meet with you because (pause) I need to make a quick last-minute adjustment to the launch.

SAM

What's wrong? I thought everything was squared away.

REED

It is! I know we don't normally send lab personnel on launches but I think I must go on the launch tomorrow.

SAM

That's uhhh wow, uhh. Reed you know I adore you but that's a huge change to make last minute and even if I wanted to send up you, there's training you gotta do, protocols to learn to be out there. It's just a standard collection launch. You can give any orders you have from the station. We have a great team going out there.

REED

I'm a scientist working for NASA! I could figure out how to wear a space suit and eat dehydrated food. At this point, I consider myself critical personnel for this launch.

SAM

Wait a minute isn't Oakley's book release tomorrow?

REED

I'm aware. I read the book already I don't need to be there.

SAM

Are you sure?

REED

What do you mean by “are you sure?”

SAM

It’s your partner’s book release! Don’t you want to be there? You don’t think Oakley would want you there?

REED

I read the manuscript cover to cover already! Trust me they’d want me on this particular launch. If you don’t let me on the launch consider me off it completely.

SAM

I’ll remove you from the project then.

Reed exits

Door slams.

### SCENE 3

A dive bar, empty except for the bartender working behind the bar.

Reed enters with the vase and sits at the bar.

BARTENDER

What can I get ya?

REED

A Dirty Shirley.

BARTENDER

Comin right up!

The bartender makes the Dirty Shirley.

Reed pulls out a book called “Fly Me To The Moon by Oakley Anderson” the bartender serves Reed their drink and looks at the book.

BARTENDER  
You waiting for someone?

REED  
No just wanted to read my book.

BARTENDERS  
Oh okay.

REED  
The library was closed.

BARTENDER  
No, it's fine. Here's your drink.

Reed stirs the drink and examines it.

REED  
No cherry?

BARTENDER  
Does this look like a country club? The best I can do is a lime.

REED  
Very well.

Reed picks up their book and continues reading.  
The bartender checks out the book.

BARTENDER  
Hey, that's Oakley Anderson's new book! How did you even get it? Oakley Anderson is my favorite author. I've read all their books a million times! How did you even get it?!

REED  
We're close (shows wedding band) This is my fourth time reading it.

BARTENDER  
You're Reed? Oakley dedicates all their books to you! Aren't you like an astronaut or some shit?

REED  
I'm not an astronaut! I'm a rocket scientist! Or was. I kinda yelled at my boss. We'll see if I still have a job tomorrow.

BARTENDER

What do NASA people fight about? I've heard the whole Pluto debate gets people fired up.

REED

There is no debate! Pluto isn't a planet!

BARTENDER

Okay, okay! Touchy subject.

REED

They wouldn't let me go to the moon.

BARTENDER

The moon huh? Damn (pause) I know exactly what you're going through.

REED

You do?

BARTENDER

Yeah when my mom wouldn't let me go to my friend's house once, I was pissed!

REED

You're comparing me not getting to go on a launch to the moon to not going to your friend's house?

BARTENDER

It was a rough day! Committed my first crime that day. I stole money from a gas station. I was eight.

REED

First crime? There were multiple? And you're not in prison?

BARTENDER

That would imply I got caught.

REED

Interesting.

BARTENDER

I guess. Do you mind if I step out for a quick smoke?

REED

Not at all.



The bartender exits. Reed sits and reads their book. Oakley enters.

OAKLEY

Wow, you're reading it again?

REED

What can I say, the writing is really good. The bartender is a fan of yours.

OAKLEY

I hope this book doesn't disappoint them. REED  
I won't! Oakley relax it's a good book.

OAKLEY

And my last but I didn't come to talk about the book.

REED

What brings you by?  
Just wanted to check in. Heard work was tough today.

REED

I've never ask them for anything, but I ask for one small thing, and it's a big freaking deal.

OAKLEY

I know. At least you can go to the book release.

REED

I have a crazy idea. Will you tell me if it's dumb?

OAKLEY

You sound like me when I'm writing.

REED

Please.

OAKLEY

Sure.

REED

What if I still went to the moon?

OAKLEY

How? Do you think they'll change their minds?

REED

No! I want to steal a rocket.

OAKLEY

Reed, you think taking mints at the front is stealing. How could you steal a rocket?

REED

I'd have help! This bartender has experience with this kind of stuff.

OAKLEY

What have they stolen?

REED

Well I know he successfully robbed a 7/11.

OAKLEY

You can't compare that to stealing from NASA!

REED

Oakley! If I could pull this-this would be for you.

BARTENDER(OFFSTAGE)

Hey Reed! Can you see if I left a lighter on the bar?

REED

Uhhh. Let me check!

Reed starts looking around for the lighter.  
Oakley exits.

REED

I know how rockets function. I could get myself to the moon if needed. I have the authorization codes and access to the equipment and the suits

Bartender enters witnessing Reed ranting to no one

I just need help with the sneaking part and not getting caught this guarantees

Reed turns around

You're back.

BARTENDER

Yup. Brought you cherries. Want another Dirty Shirley?

REED

I thought this wasn't a country club.

BARTENDER

It is now! Your partner's my favorite writer. I'm sure they're yours too.

REED

They are, they were.

BARTENDER

They were? Oh right! It's their last book. Hey do you mind me asking, why are they retiring?

REED

That's not my question to answer.

BARTENDER

Sorry, I didn't mean to pry. They just keep writing bestseller after bestseller I was surprised when I heard- I'll get started on your next drink. On me by the way!

REED

Thanks. If I give you

Reaches into their wallet and starts counting  
money.

500 dollars. Can you keep everything we do and talk about between us for the rest of the night?

BARTENDER

Damn!! Look I'm very flattered and all but you're married to a celebrity. Way too high profile.

REED

No! I don't want that! Look I'm curious about your experience with stealing stuff. Like what's the biggest thing you've ever stolen?

BARTENDER

OHHH! I got you! Let's see the biggest thing I've ever stolen.

Reed starts sipping his drink

Does a body count as a thing or

Reed does a spit take (or chokes on their drink I  
know spit takes can be messy)

REED

A body? Like a body?

BARTENDER

Oh, don't worry! I knew him!

REED

I don't know how that makes this better.

BARTENDER

His family wanted him buried, but my buddy was beyond that nonsense. He wanted to be  
put in a seed capsule so he could turn into a tree.

Reed looks at them stunned

REED

Okay so tree friend aside, you know how to steal things, big things without getting  
caught?

BARTENDER

Sure! I'd say so.

REED

What do you say to making ten grand and I'll give you a signed copy of Oakley's book  
before it launches tomorrow. I just need your help with stealing something.

BARTENDER

Ten grand and a signed Oakley Anderson?!

REED

You want it or not?

BARTENDER

What are we stealing? REED

A rocket.

BARTENDER

Like a model rocket or

REED

No a real rocket! I gotta go to the moon before tomorrow night!

BARTENDER

I can't fly a rocket.

REED

I'd be the one flying! You're just helping me steal it.

BARTENDER

Okay. I think I follow. Do you know what their security layout looks like?

REED

Yes!

BARTENDER

I'm in.

Bartender starts organizing the bar.

REED

What are you doing?

BARTENDER

Closing early. Let's go steal a rocket.

REED leaves some money for their  
tab. Bartender finishes cleaning up  
the bar and then they both exit.

#### SCENE 4

Reed and the Bartender enter wearing all black.

Reed is still carrying their vase.

BARTENDER

Do you have a code or something to get in.

REED

I have my badge.

BARTENDER

We can't use that.

REED

Why?

BARTENDER

They'll know it was you breaking in. Do you have any other way in?

REED

No.

BARTENDER

That complicates things.

REED

I thought you were good at this.

BARTENDER

I am!! What else is worth stealing around here?

REED

We're only here for the rocket!

BARTENDER

I know! We need a distraction so you can get your rocket.

REED

My boss Sam has an office. It has a bunch of different files that are confidential. It's far away from the launch bay so I don't know how we'd get back to get the rocket in time.

BARTENDER

We'll have to split up. I'll go fake steal the files and you go steal the rocket.

Bartender goes to exit.

REED

Wait!!

Reed hands the Bartender the cash and the book.

REED

Here!

BARTENDER

What's this?

REED

In case I don't see you.

BARTENDER

Oh, you could just give it to me when you come back.

REED

You should take it now.

BARTENDER

That's fine. I'll see ya around. The bar's got that jar of cherries now. Feel free to swing by for a Dirty Shirley.

The two friends take one last look at each other before going their separate ways.

## SCENE 5

The stage is split.

The Bartender starts wrecking the office and opening filing cabinets.

Meanwhile the other side resembles the rocket's interior.

A suited-up Reed is ready for their launch with their vase in hand.

The sounds of a rocket taking off start.

The bartender stops for a moment.

BARTENDER

Holy shit! He actually stole the damn rocket!

Reed begins to land the rocket.

They exit the rocket with the vase.

They look around. They made it to the moon!  
They take a second to shut off the controls and open Oakley's book.

Bartender opens the book to the first page.

Oakley enters standing in between Reed and the bartender

OAKLEY

Dear readers,

I know a lot of people skip author notes to get straight to the good stuff but I encourage you to take a moment and read this one.

My retirement came as a surprise to most people. I've gotten so many questions. "Did you make too much money?" "Did you run out of ideas?" Even if those things were true, they wouldn't stop me from writing.

My dear friends, a while back I got diagnosed with Stage Four Lung Cancer, which left me just enough time to crank out one last novel. So if you're reading this now then I've been dead about two months. I'm sorry you're just finding out now but I decided I wanted to keep this private. I wanted to focus on giving you one last story I can be proud of and you all can enjoy.

Fly Me To The Moon is dedicated to my brilliant partner Reed! Reed was my number one supporter when writing this and was so patient in answering all my questions about the moon. The more I learned about it, the more I fell in love with the idea of going there someday.

Reed picks up their vase and starts to sprinkle something that resembles a powder everywhere

Reed always claimed they weren't romantic which totally isn't true and you'll believe me when I tell you what they agreed to do.

I said I didn't want a funeral but they still wanted to do something nice for me to send me off. They decided they would find a way to sprinkle my ashes on the moon.

Reed wanted me to end up in a place that made me happy.

Reed, thanks for flying me to the moon.

Yours Truly,

Oakley Anderson

The bartender closes the book in shock. Police sirens start and the bartender flees.

Reed and Oakley are left alone on stage.



They stare at each other.

Blackout

THE END