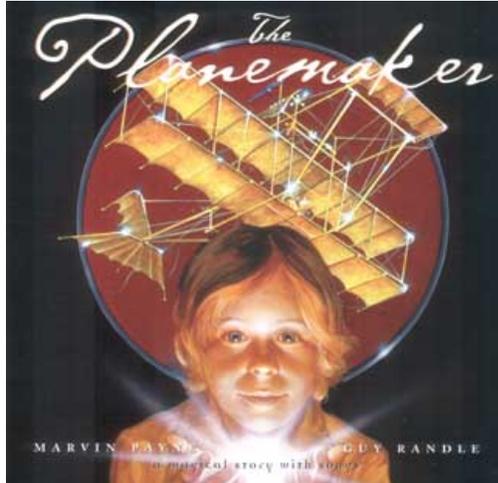


PERUSAL SCRIPT



Original Story, Music and Lyrics by

Marvin Payne and Guy Randle

Adapted for the Stage by

C. Michael Perry

LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS

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THE PLANEMAKER

Cast Of Characters

Lucas Lightbrow

Amy Fletcher

Merwin Lightbrow

Narrator 1 (female)

Narrator 2 (male)

Narrator 3 (male)

Narrator 4 (female)

Jocko Maloney

Miss Thistletoe

The Art Lady

Lucas' Mother

Yellow

Yellow 1-4

Synopsis of Scenes, Songs and Sound Effects

Scene One -- The Dream (a bedroom and school house)

ONCE I HAD A DREAM (Lucas and Narrators)

Scene Two-- The Reality (The School house)

YELLOW (Narrators and Lucas)

Scene Three -- The Great Schoolyard Disaster (The Schoolhouse and yard)

SFX -- School Bell

HEY, CRAZY BOY! (Miss T, Mother and Narrators)

Scene Four -- A New Love (The Post Office)

ALL THE SUN I NEED (Lucas & Amy)

Scene Five -- Courting, Marriage -- (The Porch)

SFX -- Wind

Scene Six -- Coping (The Farmhouse)

THE HARDEST THING (Lucas & Cast)

Scene Seven -- The New Arrival (The Farmhouse)

IF I COULD FLY (Merwin, Lucas & Narrators)

Scene Eight -- The Dream Reborn (The Farmhouse)

WHERE ARE MY HANDS? (Lucas)

Scene Nine -- The Takeoff (The Farmhouse and the barn)

SFX -- Yellow Fire (sound button)

SFX -- The New Plane (trumpets)

SFX -- The Take Off (trumpets)

HOW DO YA FLY THIS THING? (Lucas and Narrators)

Scene Ten -- The Flight -- (The world and beyond)

BRIGHT MORNING STARS (Narrators)

Scene Eleven -- The Crash -- (Near Venus and the Sun)

SFX -- Flight To The Sun

THE MORNING COMES SO SLOWLY (Lucas, Amy and Narrators)

Scene Twelve -- A New Dream (Wherever they are)

MAYBE A CHILD (Narrators, Lucas, Amy, Merwin and Cast)

The Planemaker by Marvin Payne and Guy Randle

THE PLANEMAKER

By Marvin Payne and Guy Randle
Adapted for the stage by
C. Michael Perry

PROLOGUE: *an attic in an old farmhouse where live the descendants of Lucas Lightbrow*

NARR 3: *(opening trunk and finding the diary)* I found it!
(Other NARRATORS enter, excited)

NARR 2: Where is it?

NARR 3: Right here.
(Holds up Diary)

“The Diary of Lucas Lightbrow”
(Passes it to NARRATOR 4)

NARR 4: “Age 10.”
(Passes it to NARRATOR 2)

NARR 2: “Notebook on Flying.”
(Passes it to NARRATOR 1)

NARR 1: “Hands Off!”
(Passes it back to NARRATOR 3)

NARR 4: Grampa has always told us these stories. I didn’t believe they were written down.

NARR 2: Kinda makes ‘em real.

NARR 3: Look! “Edited and with comments by Merwin Lightbrow” And heres a preface by Grampa Merwin.
In his own hand. “I leave this journal of my Grandfather, Lucas Lightbrow, to my Grandchildren who came to know the real meaning of Yellow -- that gift which is so rare that one man in a million experiences it fully. Such a man was my Grandfather, Lucas Lightbrow.”

NARR 4: *(Turning to the audience)* Do you mind if we share this with you?

NARR 2: Hey, yeah!

NARR 1: We’ve heard it so often that we can tell it real good.

NARR 3: *(holding up the journal)* And now we have all the facts.
(NARR 3 turns the page. NARRATOR 4 takes the journal. LUCAS and his YELLOW appear in another part of the stage, an echo of the narration, performing an action now that will be repeated later on, he is writing the inscription that follows)

MUSICAL # 1 -- ONCE I HAD A DREAM

NARR 4: “To Merwin -- who helped me see yellow again.

NARR 2: Gosh! Grampa was a part of it all.

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The Planemaker by Marvin Payne and Guy Randle

NARR 1: *(reading from the journal, half singing the lyric)*

ONCE I HAD A DREAM IN MIND --

(LUCAS joins in)

LUCAS & NARR 1:

A CHILDHOOD, DREAM, A WILD, GOOD DREAM.

LUCAS & NARR 3:

I DREAMED THAT I COULD FLY.

LUCAS:

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT CAME TO ME.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THERE I WAS

JUST A-CLIMBIN' IN THE SKY.

(LUCAS moves about the stage with YELLOW following, and dancing with him)

AND ALL OF THAT SUNSHINE --

ALL OF THAT SWEET ROLLIN' SUNSHINE

FILLED ME AND THRILLED ME AND STILL MADE ME FREE.

ONCE I HAD A DREAM -- I DREAMED THAT I COULD FLY.

NARR 1 & 2:

NOW, I IMAGINE THAT YOU'VE DREAMED A DREAM.

NARR 1:

REMEMBER, FRIEND AND BROTHER, TRY --

NARR 2:

TRY TO SEE YOUR YOUNGEST DAY.

LUCAS:

WHEN YOU AND I WERE OUT ALONG THE CLIFF.

WONDRIN' IF THAT YELLOW BREEZE

WOULD EVER BLOW OUR FEARS AWAY.

LUCAS AND ALL NARRATORS:

AND ALL OF THAT SUNSHINE --

ALL OF THAT SWEET ROLLIN' SUNSHINE

WILL FILL YOU/ME AND THRILL YOU/ME AND STILL MADE YOU/ME FREE.

LUCAS:

ONCE I HAD A DREAM

DREAM WITH ME -- DREAM WITH ME!

SCENE ONE -- The Dream

(The scene is split between a schoolroom and the bedroom of LUCAS LIGHTBROW. In the Schoolroom we see LUCAS LIGHTBROW in the back row, AMY FLETCHER in the front row and JOCKO MALONEY strategically situated between the two of them, other students, MISS THISTLETOG. All hold bright cardboard or plywood cutouts of their characters in front of them.

The Planemaker by Marvin Payne and Guy Randle

All narrated action should be pantomimed by the actors. This scene must be conveyed as a dream. ALL are in place as the NARRATORS enter to the old trunk which holds all of the small props for the play. YELLOW is seated in LUCAS's room)

NARR 3: *(Turning another page)* “The most important question in the world.” Did you ever sit behind a great big fat kid in school and you couldn’t see the board?

NARR 4: Well, I, Lucas Lightbrow -- sat right behind Jocko Maloney,

NARR 1: Who’s the greatest, biggest, fattest kid in school.

NARR 2: Picture the Goodyear blimp with a butch haircut and floppy ears and there’s Jocko.

NARR 1: It’s a really hot day and the teacher, Miss Thistletoe, is writing on the board this incredible list of things that are manufactured from soybeans,

NARR 3: Everybody’s sweating and penciling away like crazy to keep up, because she’s the kind of teacher who erases the board whether you have copied or not.

NARR 4: Only like I said, Lucas can’t SEE the board. So he reckons that since he sits in the very back of the room...

NARR 3: ...and since everybody’s into soybeans...

NARR 1: ...and since Miss T. is facing the board...

NARR 2: ...it might be safe to float --- just a little...

NARR 4: ...just high enough to see the board over Jocko.

NARR 1: So he floats up out of his chair about ten inches.

NARR 2: Nobody’ll see him floating only ten inches.

NARR 1: So, up he goes.

NARR 4: And there it is!

NARR 2: The wonderful soybean list!

LUCAS: Boy, the things I do to get an education.

NARR 3: Only before he knows it, the ten inches becomes ten feet ...

LUCAS: In aviation we call this propulsion.

NARR 3: ...and Lucas is gritting his teeth and hating himself for being so dumb as to fly in school again.

NARR 4: Sometimes he can soar easy as a gull.

NARR 1: Most times he just swims through the air.

NARR 2: But every now and then he just rises and hangs like a blimp and nothing can make him come down until whatever it is wears off.

NARR 3: So, he rises a couple more feet and bounces against the ceiling. He tries to make himself come down...

NARR 4: ...but he can’t.

NARR 3: He pushes off the ceiling and bobs back up again like a balloon.

NARR 2: He wishes he could change into a spitwad and just lay in on top of a light fixture with the rubber bands and dead flies until his “floaty phase” goes away.

NARR 1: Maybe he could ease out one of the windows.

NARR 4: He looks around.

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NARR 3: All the windows are painted shut.

NARR 2: The back door is closed.

NARR 1: But the door up front, under the flag, is propped open by Miss T's ruler.

NARR 4: It's his only shot!

NARR 1: So he slowly, carefully paddles like a duck toward the front corner door.

NARR 2: Jocko yawns and stretches.

NARR 3: Lucas freezes...

NARR 4: ...and tries as hard as he can to look like a cobweb.

NARR 3: Actually there is a cobweb right against his nose and it drives him nuts until Jocko finally gets back into soybeans.

NARR 4: At last he's by the flagstick.

NARR 1: He takes careful aim...

NARR 2: ...holds his breath...

NARR 3: ...pushes off against the ceiling...

NARR 4: ...and reaches the door jamb.

NARR 1: And misses...

NARR 2: ...the ruler falls...

NARR 3: ...the door slams...

NARR 4: ...everybody looks.

(YELLOW helps LUCAS wraps up in a red, white and blue blanket from off of his "bed")

NARR 2: Lucas grabs the flag and wraps up in the United States of America.

NARR 3: Miss Thistletoe is down there barking his name

MISS T: Lucas! Lucas Lightbrow! You get down right now!

NARR 3: Now, she's poking at him with her ruler!

MISS T: Lucas! Lucas!

NARR 4: So, he pulls back the stars and peeks around a corner of Nebraska.

(The lights begin to cross fade to the bedroom set where MRS. LIGHTBROW is poking at LUCAS, trying to wake him up)

NARR 1: But it's not his teacher...

NARR 2: ...it's his mother...

NARR 3: ...and she pokes him one more time.

MOTHER: Lucas! Come on now! Get down from that bunk. You're going to be late for school!

(LUCAS pulls the covers back over his head, MOTHER leaves. LUCAS starts to get up and get dressed during the following narration)

NARR 4: He likes to think about flying.

MOTHER: In fact, it's about all he thinks about. That's why he has such weird dreams -- even when he's awake. But he doesn't care. He likes to think about it.

NARR 3: The only thing is, why would he want to fly so bad ... unless he could?

SCENE TWO -- The Reality

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NARR 1: School is okay with Lucas except for two things:

LUCAS: Being there...

NARR 2: ...which takes up most of the day.

LUCAS: And homework...

NARR 3: ...which takes up the rest.

NARR 4: But there are two other things about school which Lucas really likes.

ART LADY: One is art.

LUCAS: Every Wednesday the nice art lady comes

NARR 2: And Miss Thistletoe goes out and tears the wings off flies for an hour

LUCAS: In Art I'm allowed to draw whatever I want.

ART LADY: However much he wants.

NARR 3: And exactly what he wants to draw is...

LUCAS: ...Airplanes.

(He does as ART LADY, wearing some yellow, circulates around the class)

NARR 4: So every time he fills up paper with yellow sky and breathes out planes across it like stars. And each plane shines like a star...

LUCAS: Because I love planes!

NARR 3: Boys love baseball.

NARR 4: Girls love horses.

NARR 3: And Lucas loves planes more than if My Friend Flicka won the World Series all by herself.

NARR 1: Every inch of his life is filled with planes --

NARR 2: His bedroom walls...

NARR 3: ...The covers on all his books...

NARR 4: ...the margins on all his spelling tests...

LUCAS: I have this magnificent dogfight between a Folkker Triplane and a Sopwith Camel etched forever in my wooden desktop.

NARR 3: And wild machines of wing and wire spin through his brain--

NARR 4: Machines like...:

LUCAS: ...The Lightbrow Bi-wing!

NARR 4: And...

LUCAS: ...The Lucas Lifter!

NARR 2: During Art on Wednesdays, a lot of them escape into the yellow sky.

NARR 1: The other thing Lucas likes about school is...

LUCAS: ...Amy Fletcher.

NARR 3: This is strange.

NARR 2: Because ...

LUCAS: ...Amy Fletcher...

NARR 3: ...is a girl.

NARR 4: And in the fourth grade girls are the enemy.

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LUCAS: But this girl is amazingly nice to look at. I reckon her yellow hair would melt icebergs.

NARR 2: Of course, that might be mostly because Lucas has this thing about yellow.

NARR 1: It's more than a favorite color.

LUCAS: It's my personal color.

NARR 4: To you or I -- yellow is just bananas and lemons and Amy Fletcher's hair.

NARR 3: But you might say Lucas really understands yellow.

YELLOW: He's the only one who knows that yellow is the true color of the sky.

LUCAS: If you could fly high enough, past the white clouds and blue air and black space you'd finally break through into yellow--

NARR 3: ...pure warm yellow that shines faith and healing, birth and fire

LUCAS: ...into everything it touches!

NARR 2: He never read that in a book.

NARR 3: He never learned that from Miss Thistletoe.

LUCAS: She doesn't have a speck of yellow in her whole brain.

NARR 1: My guess is that he dreamed it..

NARR 4: ...Or maybe he's remembering it

LUCAS: Think how sometimes just before the sunrise, the grey sky gets so thin and brittle that even you can see some yellow through it--and summer noons when the blue gets hot and stretched and goes transparent.

NARR 3: And of course...

LUCAS: ...the sun itself is yellow.

NARR 2: And the sun itself smiles all day through the old south windows...

NARR 3: ...on Amy Fletcher's hands, her clothes...

LUCAS: ...And catches in Amy Fletcher's hair...

NARR 2: ... like a blessing.

MUSICAL #2 -- YELLOW

NARR 4: So, he likes her a lot

NARR 1: ...even though it isn't at all cool.

NARR 2:

YELLOW IS HAZY NEW SUN COMIN' DOWN THROUGH THE TREES

LUCAS:

--YELLOW THE BREEZE.

NARR 1:

YELLOW IS FLASHING ON BRIGHT WINGS OUT OVER THE SEA.

LUCAS:

YELLOW IS FREE.

YELLOW I FIND WHEN I FLY WITH MY MIND

THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF RAINBOWS

IT'S YELLOW WHEN RAIN GOES AWAY.

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AND HERE IN YOUR EYES I BELIEVE IT'S A BRIGHT YELLOW DAY.

NARR 1:

FEELING THE SUN IN HER SMILE

LUCAS:

NO WONDER I CRY
YELLOW IS WHY.

NARR 2:

FEELING SOMEDAY, HE MIGHT FIND YOU BEYOND THE NIGHT SKY

LUCAS:

--BRIGHT YELLOW HIGH.
YELLOW I FEEL AS I SPIN LIKE A WHEEL
ON THE WIND OF A RAINBOW

LUCAS & NARRATORS:

IT'S YELLOW WHEN RAIN GOES AWAY.

LUCAS:

AND HERE IN YOUR EYES I BELIEVE IT'S A BRIGHT YELLOW DAY!

SCENE THREE -- *The Great Schoolyard DisasteR* -- Back in the school room, the students have discarded their "Dream cut-outs" and are struggling through arithmetic.

NARR 3: That's why it's so hard on Lucas when Amy makes fun of him.

NARR 4: In that way, at least, she isn't any different than the rest of the kids.

LUCAS: They all make fun of me.

JOCKO: (*teasing LUCAS*) It's like THE school activity.

NARR 1: They all know about his crazy thing with planes.

NARR 2: And they all know that any actual paper plane folded under the hands of Lucas Lightbrow...

NARR 3: ..."The Planemaker"...

NARR 4: ...will fly on the very best of days...

NARR 3: ...maybe thirty-eight inches.

LUCAS: Then it squanches it's nose into the dust.

NARR 4: Like a little paper ostrich.

NARR: So even Amy isn't giving the "Planemaker" any breaks.

LUCAS: I want my planes to fly!

NARR 1: If they could fly on sheer will power, they'd pierce the clouds.

LUCAS: But they always act like they're sorta afraid of heights.

NARR 2: ...And Lucas can't figure it out.

LUCAS: (*whispered*) Maybe my planes are getting too complicated.

(*LUCAS takes out a sheet of yellow notebook paper*)

NARR 3: So he slips a new sheet of paper out of his notebook.

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LUCAS: One fold down the middle. In with the corners.

NARR 4: ...fold twice, or you end up with that squared-off, clunky kind.

LUCAS: Then down with the wings...

NARR 1: ...not even a paper clip in the nose this time!

LUCAS: Just a straight ahead, clean and honest airplane.

NARR 2: After about a thousand hours of arithmetic, the bell finally rings.

SFX -- School bell

NARR 3: And Lucas runs out and hides behind a corner of the school house.

(The other kids go to one side of the stage to play dodge-ball and other playground games)

NARR 4: He wants to be alone with this one -- away from the kids.

NARR 2: He tweaks the nose and then gets the wings all straight and symmetrical

NARR 1: Then he tests the wind with a wet finger...

NARR 4: ...Cocks his arm...

NARR 3: ...closes his eyes...

NARR 1: ...holds his breath...

NARR 2: ...and lets fly!

(All yellows watch and YELLOW carries the plane as it "flies" around the schoolyard, soaring and floating)

NARR 3: And right now gravity must be shorting out!

NARR 1: Or maybe physics is blowing a fuse

NARR 2: Or maybe the angels in heaven are smiling down on Lucas Lightbrow.

NARR 4: One things for sure--

LUCAS: The plane's flying!!!

NARR 1: It arches over the roof and Lucas tears around after...

NARR 2: His heart pounds like the engines on a B-29.

NARR 3: Tears well up in his eyes, because there it is!

NARR 4: Floating!

NARR 3: Dropping!

NARR 4: Soaring up again!

NARR 1: With his heart riding high on the wings.

NARR 2: The plane swings easy like a bird over a tree...

NARR 3: ...then down toward the big dodge-ball game where all the kids are

LUCAS: And Amy hopscotching right along side!

NARR 4: And this is it!

NARR 1: The very gates to Amy Fletcher's heart are hanging open wide.

NARR 3: And it looks like that little darlin' airplane is going to carry him home!

NARR 4: That plane -- circling like an eagle over their unsuspecting heads.

NARR 3: So Lucas crashes into the center of the game.

LUCAS: Hey, everybody! Look at my plane!

JOCKO: Lightbrow! Buzz off!

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OTHER KID: Get out of the way!

ANOTHER KID: You always spoil everything, Lightbrow!

LUCAS: Come on, Hurry! Look at my plane!!!

NARR 1: So, they stop!

NARR 2: And it hangs like a gull in the sun.

NARR 3: And they look.

NARR 4: And it squanches into the dirt at Amy Fletcher's feet.

NARR 3: The crash kicks up a tiny puff of dust...

NARR 4: ...And Lucas watches it settle on the wings.

NARR 1: Then he looks up into the gorgeous eyes of Amy Fletcher.

NARR 2: And she's laughing her head off.

(YELLOW drifts away slightly. And will continue to withdraw through the next scene. All begin to move out of the scene)

LUCAS: Yellow laughed at me.

NARR 3: From the day of the crash, Lucas Lightbrow begins to grow up. Or seems to any way.

MOTHER: No more paper planes in the yard.

MISS T: No more dogfights on desktops.

ART LADY: He even draws motorcycles in Art, like all the other boys.

NARR 4: But even then, in his mind...

LUCAS: *(Whispered)* The wheels never touch the ground.

NARR 1: Still, as the years roll by, the yellow gets less, gets dull, untrue.

NARR 2: Don't think he loses his love for planes. He just takes it all inside himself.

NARR 3: Over the years in secret he makes a lot of planes -- first, as a kid, wooden models with tissue-paper wings;

NARR 4: Then as his hands fit the tools, and the tools fit his dreams, he starts building really amazing planes from scratch.

(YELLOW may drift back towards LUCAS)

LUCAS: They're soldered and welded out of old coat hangers and egg-beaters.

NARR 3: He stretches fine wires between the rods that trace the wings

NARR 4: And covers the frames with cloth or netting or parchment.

NARR 1: For these planes he uses, mostly, things thrown out by folks like you and me.

NARR 2: Things that were once built in to Oldsmobiles and Kelvinators by mistake.

LUCAS: Things that have really always been airplane struts and propellers.

NARR 1: Waiting in rusting heaps for a planemaker to grow up and try to find in them his lost dreams.

LUCAS: But they're all made in secret.

NARR 2: And never made to fly.

NARR 3: Still, faintly hoping that one might go crazy magic some day and break all the rules and blast off through rainbows and into the yellow sun...

NARR 4: ...he keeps putting skinny little pilots in some of the planes

LUCAS: All of them little boys.

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AMY: Like a certain little boy who crashed one day long ago in the dust at Amy Fletcher's feet.

MUSICAL #3 -- HEY, CRAZY BOY

MISS T:

HEY, CRAZY BOY

MOTHER:

HEY, PUT YOUR BROKEN TOYS AWAY.
YOU'RE TOO BIG A BOY TO PLAY.

NARR 1 & 2:

HEY, CRAZY MAN--
HEY, CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE SIGNS?
LEAVE YOUR WONDERLAND BEHIND.

NARRATORS, MISS T, MOTHER:

THESE CRAZY DREAMS WILL MAKE YOU LONELY.
MAYBE SHUFFLIN' WITH THE CROWD WILL TOO.
BUT IT SEEMS THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHOICE,

MOTHER:

CAUSE ALL THOSE RAGAMUFFIN DREAMS FALL THROUGH.

NARR 1:

HEY, CRAZY CHILD--

NARR 2:

HEY, LAY YOUR CRAZY SMILE AWAY.

NARR 1 & 2:

IT'S A BLIND AND SILENT DAY.

SCENE FOUR -- A New Love

NARR 1: Lucas finally grows up all the way

LUCAS: And I inherit the old family farm.

NARR 2: Which is good, because you can't make a living building planes that don't fly

LUCAS: Especially when they're also absolutely secret.

NARR 3: And not for sale.

NARR 4: He works the farm alone.

NARR 3: And at night he shuts himself in the shed and works on planes.

NARR 4: His hands get steady and strong.

NARR 2: His face gets hard and lean.

NARR 1: And his mind turns brown and green like the fields.

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(The Post Office is set up and customers form a line which gradually moves through the carrels to AMY FLETCHER's wicket)

NARR 2: And grey like the clouds

NARR 3: And the yellow begins to fade right out of it, until yellow for Lucas too, is just the bananas on the table

NARR 4: And the lemons on the tree...

(YELLOW is standing by AMY)

NARR 1: ...And quite suddenly, Amy Fletcher's hair again!

NARR 4: Which he finds one day in the Post Office

LUCAS: On top of Amy Fletcher's head of course.

NARR 3: Which he also finds in the Post Office, working there...

NARR 2: ...Along with the rest of her...

LUCAS: Which has really grown up nice!!

NARR 1: So, his palms start sweating and he's standing there in line and his whole head is going--

LUCAS: *(to himself)* Oh, wow! Don't remember me! Don't remember me and those stupid planes!

NARR 3: And all the time his heart is calling out:

LUCAS: Please, remember me!

NARR 4: And She does.

NARR 3: She remembers him real good!

LUCAS: Plane mail -- er -- air mail, I mean.

AMY: Planes?!?! You! *(Softer)* Your name.....? Lucas! The one with the planes!

LUCAS: Yep, the one with the planes.

(AMY and LUCAS are getting on well as narrative continues and the people in the line get peeved. As LUCAS walks away:)

The Yellow that laughed at me ... once.

NARR 3: And not only does she remember him, but right there while Lucas is fumbling in his pockets for pennies...

NARR 4: ...She starts falling in love with him, because her heart has grown as pure and yellow as her hair.

AMY: And pure hearts always seem to know when they are loved.

(They move to an area set up as a porch)

LUCAS: Yellow?

(He is looking at AMY as YELLOW makes it's way across the room to him. AMY's gaze meets LUCAS' gaze and he takes her hands, looks into her eyes and repeats)

Yellow!

AMY: It's not everyday you call me that.

MUSICAL # 4 -- ALL THE SUN I NEED

LUCAS: *(Almost not noticing)* I think I just found something...again. *(Beat)* You laughed at me, I forgot and you came back to love me.

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NARR 3: Amy is almost bewildered by Lucas, but she can feel the Yellow too, although it doesn't bear that name to her.

AMY: You're strange. Lucas.

LUCAS: A plane, my plane -- my very own flying plane.

ALL THE SUN I NEED IS IN YOUR EYES--
ALL THE STARS I NEED TO FILL MY LONELY SKIES.
IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE I LOOKED 'ROUND.
NOW, I'M LOOKIN' DOWN ON THE DAWN I'VE FOUND.

NARR 3: Well, it takes about six months of courting...

NARR 4: That's courting instead of making planes.

NARR 1:...before they get married.

NARR 2: And then many nights of gazing at each other in the yellow firelight...

NARR 3: ...That's gazing instead of making planes.

NARR 4: Lucas has hidden all the planes up in the loft in the shed.

NARR 2: Even now he's embarrassed about having planes around Amy.

NARR 1: It seems like she's filling up that whole place in his heart that used to get filled with airplanes.

LUCAS:

IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE I LOOKED 'ROUND.
NOW, I'M LOOKIN' DOWN ON THE DAWN I'VE FOUND.

LUCAS & AMY:

CAUSE ALL THE SUN I NEED IS IN YOUR EYES.
AND I NEVER KNEW, NEVER REALIZED,
SUCH AN EASY SWEET SURPRISE.

SCENE FIVE -- Courting, Marriage and ???

NARR 4: He always thought he knew how it would feel, but he was wrong...

NARR 3: ...wrong to think that planes had anything to do with flying...

NARR 2: ...wrong to think that flying had anything to do with yellow.

NARR 1: But, all that courting and gazing, and marriage, really makes them happy.

NARR 4: So happy that they overflow their love into the life of a child.

NARR 2: Which scares the happy heck out of Lucas.

NARR 3: But there's old Amy calling from the doctor's office, announcing that a little one is on the calendar.

NARR 4: Well, Lucas goes nuts.

(LUCAS and YELLOW run around the stage in pantomimed action)

NARR 1: He runs out and cleans the pigpen three times in a row.

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NARR 3: Much to the consternation of the pigs.

NARR 4: Then he repairs the front fence into something like the Berlin Wall...

NARR 1: ...And the tomcat immediately defects to the West.

NARR 2: He milks the cow.

NARR 3: He milks the goat.

NARR 4: He's chasing the goose around with an empty milk pail--

NARR 3: When, mercifully, Amy drives up in front of the farmhouse.

NARR 4: Then the whole "careful husband" routine begins.

NARR 1: He won't let her lift anything heavier than a hangnail.

NARR 2: He buys six new pillows for the bed...

NARR 1: ...so she won't roll over and bruise the baby on a hard ... blanket.

NARR 3: Amy gets bigger.

LUCAS: And as she does she seems to glow.

NARR 4: Her hair is yellower than any childhood dream and her eyes are like warm summer suns in the bright morning.

NARR 3: And Lucas loves her like blue heaven.

(The scene shifts to the hospital waiting room)

NARR 4: Well, finally the bright morning comes and Lucas has just finished gnawing off his last fingernail when the doctor finally comes in to the room with the good news about his strong, new baby boy...

LUCAS: New Yellow!

AMY: ...and the bad news about Amy Fletcher Lightbrow.

(YELLOW crumples to the floor and slinks away leaving LUCAS to sing alone)

SFX -- Wind

SCENE SIX-- *Coping -- The farmhouse.*

NARR 3: Since Lucas reckons it's impossible for him to take care of a baby all alone on a farm, his new son gets taken to the far away city by Amy's sister who'll raise him with her family until he's old enough to come home and live with his father.

NARR 4: There's another reason for the tiny boy to leave, if the first doesn't seem like quite enough. He has a soft yellow glow about him, and Lucas can't bear to be reminded of that color.

NARR 1: Time goes by, as it does no matter what happens, and Lucas gets real good at making himself get up in the morning to go out and work the fields, even though he doesn't feel like doing anything. And he also gets real good at making himself eat, even though he isn't ever hungry.

NARR 2: More time passes, time for colors to fade entirely, and the time comes for his son to come back to the farm for good, which was really a great plan, except that the kid hates it. He's been laughing in the movies and shouting in the streets with lots of brothers and sisters, and now he's out here alone in the windy country with this sad stranger who's supposed to be his father.

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NARR 1: So, it doesn't work out and Lucas takes his only son back to the city and comes home again to his empty house.

NARR 3: The house stays empty for a lot of years, except for Lucas shuffling around and sort of living in it. He and the house grow old together.

NARR 2: His skin cracks and peels like the paint on the siding

NARR 4: And his hair gets dry and grey and starts to fall out like the shingles on the roof.

NARR 2: His beard gets long and tangled like the ivy that pulls on the walls.

NARR 4: The old house rattles and moans at night, and so does lonely old Lucas.

MUSICAL # 5 -- THE HARDEST THING

LUCAS:

IT'S EASIER WHEN YOU TAKE MY SUNSHINE.

IT'S EASIER WHEN YOU BRING THE DAWN.

YOU MADE ME FEEL LIKE GIVING YOU MY LIFETIME.

SO MAKE ME, PLEASE, FORGET YOU'RE GONE.

THE HARDEST THING I'LL EVER DO

IS TRY TO MAKE IT WITHOUT YOU.

IT'S HARD TO GET. HARD TO GIVE.

AND IT'S HARD TO LIVE ON WITHOUT YOU.

SO HARD TO MAKE IT EASY AGAIN.

SO EASY DOES THE DARKNESS BEGIN.

IT'S EASY NOW, NOT WAITING AT MY WINDOW

TO THINK I HEAR YOUR VOICE AT MY DOOR.

IT'S EASY NOW, UNTIL I HEAR THE WIND BLOW,

AND KNOW YOU'LL NEVER COME ANY MORE.

THE HARDEST THING I'LL EVER DO

IS TRY TO MAKE IT WITHOUT YOU.

IT'S HARD TO GET. HARD TO GIVE.

AND IT'S HARD TO LIVE ON WITHOUT YOU.

SO HARD TO MAKE IT EASY AGAIN.

SO EASY DOES THE DARKNESS BEGIN.

(Instrumental underscore used as a sort of dance as the YELLOW tries to pull at LUCAS to enable him to reinvest himself with and in his life. The CAST could also sing the first verse along with this underscore, making it NOT an underscore, but yet still a dance between YELLOW and LUCAS.)

(COULD BE THE CAST:)

IT'S EASIER WHEN YOU TAKE MY SUNSHINE.

IT'S EASIER WHEN YOU BRING THE DAWN.

YOU MADE ME FEEL LIKE GIVING YOU MY LIFETIME.

SO MAKE ME, PLEASE, FORGET YOU'RE GONE.

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THE HARDEST THING I'LL EVER DO
IS TRY TO MAKE IT WITHOUT YOU.
IT'S HARD TO GET. HARD TO GIVE.
AND IT'S HARD TO LIVE ON WITHOUT YOU.
SO HARD TO MAKE IT EASY AGAIN.
SO EASY DOES THE DARKNESS BEGIN.)

LUCAS:

THE HARDEST THING I'LL EVER DO
IS TRY TO MAKE IT WITHOUT YOU.
SO EASY DOES THE DARKNESS BEGIN.

(But YELLOW has failed and leaves LUCAS alone.)

SCENE SEVEN -- *The New Arrival*

NARR 3: And so, many winters pass on the old man.

NARR 4: Then one afternoon in early summer the yellow telegram comes.

NARR 1: What it says is that Lucas' grandson, Little Merwin, is coming to spend the summer with Grandpa on the farm.

LUCAS: Grandson?!

NARR 2: Lucas hardly knew he had one.

NARR 3: But then he remembers and wonders real hard if grandsons are any easier than sons.

(MERWIN climbs down off the "bus" and LUCAS meets him tentatively)

NARR 4: When his grandson climbs off the bus, Lucas reckons the answer is no.

NARR 1: Little Merwin turns out to be a third grade sized kid with pokey elbows

NARR 2: Huge cloudy eyes...

NARR 3: ...and a shirt that's too big around the neck.

NARR 4: He's always been kind of a wimpy kid.

NARR 1: And it seems his folks reckon the country sunshine might do him some good.

NARR 2: The problem is, after you've been living alone for a thousand years, what do you do with a wimpy city kid with pokey elbows?

(The Farmhouse and yard is set up. LUCAS takes his place on the porch rocker with his chin in his hands)

NARR 3: Lucas might could fix the shirt but he's really worried about those eyes.

NARR 4: Which is why, on the third day, after they've been through everything Lucas knows about Cub Scouts,

NARR 3: And everything Merwin knows about Social Security --

NARR 2: Lucas is hoping so hard for Merwin to find some odd thing around the farm that might capture the kid's attention ---

LUCAS: ...anything!

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(MERWIN comes running in, excited with YELLOW behind him)

NARR 1: Merwin suddenly appears with eyes as clear as diamonds!

MERWIN: Grampa! I didn't know you had airplanes!

(LUCAS winces from an old wound)

LUCAS: Planes!

NARR 4: He'd about succeeded at forgetting the planes.

NARR 2: But Merwin, believing like all kids that any place at the top of a ladder must be magical and wonderful, had climbed up into the loft of the shed and found them all!

MERWIN: Wow, Grampa, if I'm really careful can I please take one down and play with it?

LUCAS : Yes, I suppose so.

(MERWIN flies offstage to retrieve the plane as LUCAS goes into the house to take a nap. He closes his eyes a few times but starts each time at some real or imagined noise; YELLOW could be there disturbing him, trying to get him to remember)

NARR 1: In what was supposed to have been a welcomed nap, Lucas' head fills with the buzz of engines, far off, like flies, and yellow shapeless blobs pass across the inside of his eyelids.

NARR 4: Later that afternoon...

(MERWIN enters, and sets down a mess of wire and paper and then trudges slowly into the house to confront LUCAS. MERWIN crashed his plane and doesn't want to talk about it)

NARR 3: Merwin looks a lot like Lucas did once, in that ancient school yard.

MERWIN: I'm sorry, Grampa.

LUCAS: Sorry about what?

(MERWIN points to the pile on the porch)

NARR 4: Out on the porch is this big pile of wire and cloth that used to be a plane.

MERWIN: Grampa, I took it up on that big rock out in the pasture. But I must've done something wrong, 'cause it went straight down after I threw it in the air.

NARR 3: Lucas is almost glad about the plane, but he still can't help imagining a big pile of T-shirt and tennis shoes that used to be Merwin, right along side the pile on the porch.

LUCAS: Are you okay, son? Did you hurt yourself?

MERWIN: I'm all right. What did I do wrong?

LUCAS: You didn't do anything wrong. Those planes were never meant to fly. They were just things I dreamed could fly. They were never meant to really fly.

MERWIN: But Grampa! It looked like all it needed was a little breeze to make it take off!

(Pause)

Why didn't you make planes that could fly?

NARR 2: Lucas is surprised by a sudden catch in his throat. But he tries to sound breezy and once-upon-a-timey as he tells Merwin about his silly little kid dream...

NARR 1: ... the great schoolyard crash...

LUCAS: ...and there was Amy Fletcher, Amy Fletcher Lightbrow -- your Grandmother.

NARR 2: As Lucas spins his story he leaves out the part about her yellow hair.

NARR 4: Merwin tries his best to hear it easy like a fairy tale...

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NARR 3: ...but both of them pretend not to hear the real sadness in the story.

NARR 2: The next day the kid takes out another plane...

NARR 1: ...but this time he's careful to fly it only in his mind.

NARR 2: Lucas watches -- in fascination, and he thinks, and ponders...

NARR 3: ...he was always a good one for pondering...

LUCAS: Why not take all the planes down from the loft and over to the smokehouse. It's empty and you can use it for a hangar and that way you can have a whole airport.

MERWIN: Really, Grampa? Can I?

LUCAS: Yes, Merwin.

NARR 4: So, Merwin goes out everyday to be head Honcho of Smokehouse International.

NARR 1: But one afternoon as Lucas sleeps in the cool of the house and Merwin is learning to fly in the wild yellow yonder..

MERWIN: Why build planes that can't fly? Unless...

(YELLOW whispers in MERWIN's ear. To himself)

Grampa -- you really did want to fly.

NARR 3: His thoughts rise higher and higher as he sits there among those earthbound planes.

NARR 4: He's sifting the air for the shadows of his grandfather's dreams...

MUSICAL #6 -- IF I COULD FLY

NARR 3: ...wishing he could find them...

NARR 4: ...catch them...

NARR 3: ...and make them come home.

(YELLOW dances with MERWIN and by the end of the song brings in one of the other Yellows to be MERWIN's personal Yellow as YELLOW returns to LUCAS)

14 more pages to the end