

# DREAM

---

A short drama by  
Velina Hasu Houston

This script is for evaluation only. It may not be printed, photocopied or distributed digitally under any circumstances. Possession of this file does not grant the right to perform this play or any portion of it, or to use it for classroom study.

[www.youthplays.com](http://www.youthplays.com)  
[info@youthplays.com](mailto:info@youthplays.com)  
424-703-5315

*Dream* © 2021 Velina Hasu Houston  
All rights reserved. ISBN 978-1-62088-999-2.

**Caution:** This play is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, Canada, the British Commonwealth and all other countries of the copyright union and is subject to royalty for all performances including but not limited to professional, amateur, charity and classroom whether admission is charged or presented free of charge.

**Reservation of Rights:** This play is the property of the author and all rights for its use are strictly reserved and must be licensed by the author's representative, YouthPLAYS. This prohibition of unauthorized professional and amateur stage presentations extends also to motion pictures, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video and the rights of adaptation or translation into non-English languages.

**Performance Licensing and Royalty Payments:** Amateur and stock performance rights are administered exclusively by YouthPLAYS. No amateur, stock or educational theatre groups or individuals may perform this play without securing authorization and royalty arrangements in advance from YouthPLAYS. Required royalty fees for performing this play are available online at [www.YouthPLAYS.com](http://www.YouthPLAYS.com). Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Required royalties must be paid each time this play is performed and may not be transferred to any other performance entity. All licensing requests and inquiries should be addressed to YouthPLAYS.

**Author Credit:** All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisements and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line with no other accompanying written matter. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s) and the name of the author(s) may not be abbreviated or otherwise altered from the form in which it appears in this Play.

**Publisher Attribution:** All programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

*Produced by special arrangement with YouthPLAYS ([www.youthplays.com](http://www.youthplays.com)).*

**Prohibition of Unauthorized Copying:** Any unauthorized copying of this book or excerpts from this book, whether by photocopying, scanning, video recording or any other means, is strictly prohibited by law. This book may only be copied by licensed productions with the purchase of a photocopy license, or with explicit permission from YouthPLAYS.

**Trade Marks, Public Figures & Musical Works:** This play may contain references to brand names or public figures. All references are intended only as parody or other legal means of expression. This play may also contain suggestions for the performance of a musical work (either in part or in whole). YouthPLAYS has not obtained performing rights of these works unless explicitly noted. The direction of such works is only a playwright's suggestion, and the play producer should obtain such permissions on their own. The website for the U.S. copyright office is <http://www.copyright.gov>.

## COPYRIGHT RULES TO REMEMBER

1. To produce this play, you must receive prior written permission from YouthPLAYS and pay the required royalty.
2. You must pay a royalty each time the play is performed in the presence of audience members outside of the cast and crew. Royalties are due whether or not admission is charged, whether or not the play is presented for profit, for charity or for educational purposes, or whether or not anyone associated with the production is being paid.
3. No changes, including cuts or additions, are permitted to the script without written prior permission from YouthPLAYS.
4. Do not copy this book or any part of it without written permission from YouthPLAYS.
5. Credit to the author and YouthPLAYS is required on all programs and other promotional items associated with this play's performance.

When you pay royalties, you are recognizing the hard work that went into creating the play and making a statement that a play is something of value. We think this is important, and we hope that everyone will do the right thing, thus allowing playwrights to generate income and continue to create wonderful new works for the stage.

Plays are owned by the playwrights who wrote them. Violating a playwright's copyright is a very serious matter and violates both United States and international copyright law. Infringement is punishable by actual damages and attorneys' fees, statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per incident, and even possible criminal sanctions. **Infringement is theft. Don't do it.**

Have a question about copyright? Please contact us by email at [info@youthplays.com](mailto:info@youthplays.com) or by phone at 424-703-5315. When in doubt, please ask.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

HELENA, female, biracial Japanese and Black American, 16.

LUCA, white-appearing Latinx male who identifies as white American, 16.

DUCK, female who identifies as white American, 16.

## SETTING

2020, Junction City, Kansas. A high school gymnasium.

---

*(Lights up on an empty gymnasium. Studying the vastness of the gym, HELENA enters pushing a cart full of decoration items. Outside, wind whips and the gym sighs. Helena takes this in.)*

**HELENA:** I know, I know! Another school dance, people tracking all over your floors in tight shoes and way-too-high heels, stuff taped to your walls, and a DJ playing songs folks like me never heard of. And in five days? How am I going to get you decorated for prom in five days! Especially when everybody who used to be on the committee'll probably quit because I'm in charge now.

*(The gym sighs again.)*

Yes, prom's the same thing year after year. I know. That's why the ritual of that annual dance doesn't mean anything to me.

*(Off, a door is heard closing and the indecipherable voices of a group of students walking by are heard. Helena looks in the direction of the sounds.)*

Most kids'll think I'm crazy for talking to you, but somehow I think you're part of the universe, like the moon and stars and everything else, just like Mom's stories tell me. I'll tell you one thing: if I'd known being senior class president meant I was in charge of prom decoration, I'd've hidden out in Japanese Club instead. At least there, people understand the universe stuff.

*(As she unpacks the cart, LUCA enters.)*

*(Truly surprised:)* You're staying on the committee?

**LUCA:** Someone's got to make sure the prom decorations are okay.

**HELENA:** I was sure once I announced my interpretation of the Shakespeare theme, you'd quit.

**LUCA:** It's a stupid way to think about Shakespeare.

**HELENA:** But it is a way to think about him. It's in what he wrote.

**LUCA:** Tell me the truth: Do you really want to be senior class president, or did you do it so Duck wouldn't win? 'Cause you don't seem to be that interested in decorating for prom.

**HELENA:** We just felt it was time for a change.

**LUCA:** Who's "we"?

**HELENA:** Students like me. With foreign parents. With different kinds of looks.

**LUCA:** Different from what?

**HELENA:** From people like you.

**LUCA:** I thought you didn't like it when people say stuff like "those people."

**HELENA:** I didn't say "those people."

**LUCA:** Well, I'm not "people like you," okay?

**HELENA:** Fair enough. I guess I meant people like Du – I mean Kimberly's parents – sorry, I know she's your friend, but...they contested the election! It was as if they wanted to leave me with as few days as possible to decorate for prom.

**LUCA:** What're you talking about? They're not like that.

**HELENA:** Oh, really? Well, prom's in five days, so maybe they are like that.

*(The gym sighs and Helena reacts, but Luca doesn't notice.)*

**LUCA:** And here we are, getting this old gym ready for the biggest night in our lives and the person who should be decorating it isn't.

**HELENA:** I think it's sad prom is the biggest night of your life.

**LUCA:** It's just a dance, but it's special to a lot of people. Like Duck. She's been planning it in her head for years.

**HELENA:** Luca, there've been nearly 100 proms in this gym. I'd say it's tired of the same old stuff.

**LUCA:** Gyms aren't tired or happy or whatever. They're just gyms.

**HELENA:** So, I guess you think I'm crazy like Kimberly says, huh? Ruining prom because of my twilight dream theme?

**LUCA:** Well, it is *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**HELENA:** Do you even really know what night looks like? Ever looked at all the colors and stars?

**LUCA:** Colors? It's dark, people don't want to be in it, and bad things happen. And who cares about stars? Waste of time.

**HELENA:** They're part of the universe.

*(Luca sighs. The gym does, too. In response, Helena looks around the gym – but stops when she realizes Luca is watching her.)*

**LUCA:** So... are there really African American characters – "twilight" characters – in Shakespeare, or are you making it up?

**HELENA:** Well, they're Africans, not African Americans, but Black people. Like Othello; he's a prince! And another prince, the Prince of Morocco! And, of course, the evil Aaron. What's a story without an evil Black guy, right?

**LUCA:** None of it's real! It's just stuff Shakespeare made up.

**HELENA:** He didn't make up anything! He adapted stories from history and usually from other countries.

**LUCA:** *(Stares at her for a moment and then:)* Who are you going to prom with?

**HELENA:** I suppose you're going with Kimberly.

*(Lights shift to DUCK sitting on a splendid sofa, a television's glow illuminating her as she snacks and channel-surfs. Luca enters with donuts. He smashes his body next to hers and snuggles.)*

**DUCK:** Stop!

**LUCA:** Don't be mad at me for staying on the committee. I need to soften some teachers. But Helena's doing it all wrong.

**DUCK:** I should write a letter to the principal! There's only one reason she got class president over me. No way I got the second most votes!

**LUCA:** But wasn't your great-grandfather Korean or something? Didn't you write about that in your college essay?

**DUCK:** Don't tell anybody or I'll kill you! *(A lie:)* It's not true anyway.

**LUCA:** It isn't?

**DUCK:** I don't want to talk about history, okay! Anyway, aren't you Mexican or something?

**LUCA:** My grandparents came from Argentina, but—

**DUCK:** So who are you to talk? You never say you're Mexican!

**LUCA:** I'm not. Anyway, my ancestors are all Italian and German. I'm white!

**DUCK:** I'm not having fun anymore.

**LUCA:** Sometimes life isn't fun. Here, have a donut. You know, if Helena got sick or something, you'd become president since you're vice president.

**DUCK:** Hey, you're right! She could fall off the bleachers or something when she's decorating!

**LUCA:** I don't mean that kind of something.



**DUCK:** Well, Luca, it's going to take that kind of something. I'm not saying kill her; I'm just saying she could get a little hurt, you know, hurt enough to stay home.

**LUCA:** Maybe I should just quit the committee.

**DUCK:** No, you're right. It's perfect. You stay on it, get really friendly with Helena, and act like her ideas are great. Then one day when she's trying to hang some witch-ass picture on the gym walls and you're spotting her, make something happen.

**LUCA:** What do you mean by "get really friendly" with her?

**DUCK:** Why is that the only thing you heard?

**LUCA:** Duck, it's weird, but the gym—I don't know—"feels" her.

**DUCK:** What are you talking about?

**LUCA:** What if she's a witch?

**DUCK:** Those people do not have special powers!

**LUCA:** But she looks at stuff different than we do.

**DUCK:** Why are you feeling sorry for her?!

**LUCA:** I don't know. I mean it's just a dance.

**DUCK:** Just a dance?! Luca! It's prom! You know that!

**LUCA:** Right. Prom.

**DUCK:** The biggest night of our lives! And what do we get? *Midsummer Night's Dream*? Oh no—we get "twilight dream." What is that?

**LUCA:** Do you know Othello was Black and he was a prince? I guess it's like us. We had a Black president.

**DUCK:** His mother was white.

**LUCA:** My parents voted for him.

**DUCK:** Oh, I'm so sorry. You must have been embarrassed.

**LUCA:** No—no, I wasn't. I guess your parents didn't vote for him and you weren't embarrassed?

**DUCK:** That's none of your business!

**LUCA:** If it's my business to make someone fall, then it's my business to know who your parents voted for. And who your great-grandfather was.

**DUCK:** Luca, this is about prom, not my relatives.

**LUCA:** Unless you think the way you do because of them.

**DUCK:** Whose side are you on? Do you "feel" the gym, too?!

**LUCA:** No, no, of course not.

**DUCK:** You better not!

*(They make out as lights shift to the gym. It's the next day, after school. Helena unfurls a banner with beautiful, magical images of solely Black men and women interspersed in an equally magical scene. There is a ladder in the background. Luca enters.)*

**LUCA:** Hey.

**HELENA:** Hello.

**LUCA:** Looks like things are moving along.

**HELENA:** One more night of decorating and we should be able to finish. I got the theatre students to help. They're going to make a kind of twilight with lights, stars and fairy figures.

**LUCA:** Nice of them to help.

**HELENA:** Teamwork.

**LUCA:** Yeah. Sorry I'm late. Your banner turned out nice. I see what you mean about twilight dreams.

**HELENA:** We just have to hang it where people can really see it. Maybe right there.

**LUCA:** But don't you think more people will see it if it's down here at eye level?

**HELENA:** No, I think higher is better.

**LUCA:** But I'm afraid of heights.

**HELENA:** I'm not. I'll climb the ladder.

**LUCA:** Uh, did you do something to your hair? You look more Asian-y.

**HELENA:** "Asian-y"? I flat-ironed it.

**LUCA:** Oh. Looks good.

**HELENA:** As opposed to it being more curly if I don't flat-iron it? That looks bad?

**LUCA:** Never mind! Damn [Gee], I'm just trying to say something nice!

*(A pause.)*

**HELENA:** Prom, the biggest night of your life! Puts you in a good mood, huh?

**LUCA:** *(A pause:)* You know — it's kind of — I don't know, brave doing Shakespeare this way.

**HELENA:** Really? I think it'll make everybody in school hate me.

**LUCA:** Maybe for a minute, but who cares?

*(The gym sighs more intensely, and Helena looks towards the sound.)*

Oh, you care. Well, don't.

**HELENA:** But I only have a couple of friends as it is.

**LUCA:** You got me.

**HELENA:** We're friends?

**LUCA:** Well, sure. I guess we kinda are now. Kinda seems like it.

*(Duck enters the gym in a cheerleading uniform.)*

**DUCK:** Hey there!

**LUCA:** Duck!

**HELENA:** Hello, Kimberly.

**DUCK:** What an interesting banner!

**HELENA:** I'm just about to hang it.

**LUCA:** You know, I really can handle it. Let me—

**DUCK:** Guys always think we women can't do anything. You climb that ladder yourself, Helena, and show him what's what. I'll spot you. Luca, go blow up some of those lovely green and brown and black balloons.

**LUCA:** But—

**HELENA:** *(To Luca:)* It's okay. Didn't you say you're afraid of heights?

Want to read the entire script? Order a perusal copy today!