

## **Little Astronaut Synopsis**

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The show opens on Hazel and Lily preparing for their first day of engineering classes. Hazel is fiercely authentic, driven, and fearlessly outward. Her dream is to become an astronaut, and she has worked relentlessly to get here. Lily is kind-hearted, quietly brilliant, and steady in her sense of self, though less certain about what her future holds. Both young women arrive with strong identities and a clear sense of purpose. Hazel wears hers loudly. Lily carries hers inward.

The show follows them in parallel as they navigate a harsh social and academic environment, a program that was not built with them in mind. Both receive unwanted attention from male peers that quickly escalates into harassment. Hazel exhausts herself fighting back against every comment and interaction, losing focus on her studies in the process. Lily retreats inward to protect herself and her work. The two become lab partners, but every interaction between them is mediated and interrupted by the men around them, and their friendship is derailed before it has a chance to begin.

As Hazel's social world fractures, a professor begins to single her out: at first with attention that feels like support, then with pressure that reveals itself as something far more dangerous. He isolates her gradually, and the tension builds. Lily watches from the edges, noticing the shift in Hazel, her emotional withdrawal, her fading drive. But Lily is paralyzed, terrified of overstepping, of pushing away the only person she feels even a flicker of genuine connection with.

What keeps both women silent is not simply fear of the professor, but the threat of the story that would be told about them if they spoke. Hazel knows that girls who report are subjected to intense scrutiny and become rumors, reduced to a narrative they can no longer control. Lily understands this too, acutely and from the outside. This shared, unspoken knowledge is the thing the institution has weaponized against them both. It is what has kept them apart. But it is also what could finally bring them together.

Little Astronaut is an unflinching and honest big-band musical about ambition, friendship, and refusing to disappear. It is a story about taking up space in a place that isn't built for you