

# LUCAS DREAMING

By Stacey Lane

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# LUCAS DREAMING

*A Ten Minute Dramatic Comedy Duet*

**By Stacey Lane**

**SYNOPSIS:** Set inside the troubled mind of an insomniac, this experimental ten-minute play explores the psychological landscape of that unsettling place between awake and asleep. A tired, but restless Lucas tries to lull himself to dreamland with relaxation exercises. The personification of Lucas's racing thoughts appears. He desperately pleads for Lucas to stay awake to avoid the beasts that feast that are waiting in his dreams. Succumbing to exhaustion, Lucas leaves his subconscious self to do battle alone in his nightmare world. This surreal script allows for maximal creative interpretation and has no technical requirements. A version of this play is also available for a cast of two female actors under the title *Lucy Dreaming*.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(2 males)*

LUCAS 1 (m).....	The predominant thought process of an insomniac. <i>(46 lines)</i>
LUCAS 2 (m).....	That persistent little voice of dread in the back of his mind. <i>(46 lines)</i>

**CAST NOTE:** LUCAS 2 may be cast as a single actor or the role may be played by as many actors as the director wishes. If more than one actor is cast as LUCAS 2, LUCAS 2'S lines may be spoken in unison, divided up, or a combination thereof.

**TIME:** Four in the morning.

**SETTING:** Inside the mind of an insomniac. This can be represented with a bare stage or an abstract set.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

**PROJECTIONS:** The stage directions call for projections. However, if this is not feasible, the play may be performed without them. Sound effects, lighting, props, puppets, or masks may be substituted or the play may be produced with no technical elements.

**LIGHTING:** Only basic lights up and lights down required. However, special lighting will enhance the tone of the play.

**SOUND:** The sound of wild animals devouring their prey. May be pre-recorded or performed live by the actors.

**SPECIAL EFFECTS:** None required. However, this script presents many opportunities for optimal use of special effects, including—but not limited to—projections, flashing lights, and fog.

## AUTHOR'S NOTES

Given the experimental dream-like nature of this script, directors, designers, and actors have the utmost flexibility in their artistic choices. This play may be performed with no technical elements: no set, no props, no costumes, no sound effects, and no special lighting. On the other hand, *Lucas Dreaming* may be as multifaceted as creativity and resources allow. The set may be a bedroom or an abstract representation of the subconscious. Props might include long sheets of fabric, flashlights, alarm clocks, or visual representations of Lucas's drifting thoughts. The costumes may be pajamas or something more surreal, perhaps flowing robes that accentuate movement and lighting effects. The actors may be dressed identically or in contrast. Sound effects may be pre-recorded or created live by the actors or crew. Special effects might include projected imagery, gobos or other unusual lighting, or fog machines. You may choose to utilize movement, dance, mime, mask, or puppetry. The role of LUCAS 2 may be cast as a single person or a chorus of voices and bodies. If more than one actor is cast as LUCAS 2, LUCAS 2'S lines may be spoken in unison, divided up, or a combination thereof.

**PRODUCTION HISTORY**

Original Cast of *Lucy Dreaming*, the female version of this play, opened on August 13, 2009 at the Wishbone Theatre Collective in Chicago, Illinois. Laurie Jones directed. The cast was as follows.

LUCY 1 .....Elizabeth Colson  
LUCY 2 .....Amiee Bello  
Directed .....by Laurie Jones

Do Not Copy

*Dedication*

*To my fellow night owl, Dara Cosby*

**LUCAS 1:** Okay. If you fall asleep right now, you can get almost three and a half hours of sleep. Just clear your mind, Lucas. Deep breath. Think of nothing... Nothing at all. Oceans of nothingness.

*The lights slowly begin to dim. LUCAS 1 is still and silent.*

**LUCAS 2:** *(Offstage, quietly.)* Blackness. Waves.

*Projected images of waves gently float across the stage.*

Water.

*LUCAS 2'S voice builds in volume and intensity. The projections become dizzying swirls of color with rapid flashes of recognizable images. Sometimes the imbedded images match up with the spoken words and sometimes they do not. LUCAS 2 meanders onto the stage.*

Fish. Fins. Sharks. Blood. Death. Uncle Artie's funeral when I was five. Sickness. Solitude. Dying alone. No one finds the body until the dogs have already started to eat you.

**LUCAS 1:** Focus. Think of nothing.

*The projected images and colors become fainter, but do not disappear.*

**LUCAS 2:** You know that never works.

**LUCAS 1:** Cause you never shut up.

**LUCAS 2:** I can't help it. I don't know how to stop.

**LUCAS 1:** This is important. I have a big day tomorrow.

**LUCAS 2:** Is it still supposed to rain?

**LUCAS 1:** I'll check in the morning. Right now I just need to fall asleep.

**LUCAS 2:** It is morning.

**LUCAS 1:** I should have been passed out hours ago.

**LUCAS 2:** Maybe you should just stay up.

**LUCAS 1:** No. That's a bad idea. Then I'll really be a wreck. Okay.

Relaxation exercise.

**LUCAS 2:** Not again.

**LUCAS 1:** Will you just go away?

**LUCAS 2:** I wish I could.

**LUCAS 1:** I am floating along on a cloud.

*Projection of clouds.*

Everything is calm and peaceful.

**LUCAS 2:** The cloud is green.

*The projected clouds turn green.*

**LUCAS 1:** The cloud is green. It is very soft.

**LUCAS 2:** I wish I had a softer blanket.

*Disjointed images begin to creep into the calm cloud projections.*

**LUCAS 1:** I am perfectly relaxed. Comfortable.

**LUCAS 2:** How is it that I'm not falling through this cloud?

**LUCAS 1:** Drifting along on my cloud.

**LUCAS 2:** Are there other clouds?

**LUCAS 1:** Not a care in the world.

**LUCAS 2:** With other drifting people?

**LUCAS 1:** I am alone. I see nothing but blackness.

**LUCAS 2:** Then how do I know my cloud is green?

*The projections dissipate.*

This pillow smells funny. It needs washed. Did I brush my teeth?

**LUCAS 1 and LUCAS 2:** Did I set the alarm?

**LUCAS 2:** Did I lock the door?

**LUCAS 1:** Did I turn off the oven?

**LUCAS 2:** Did I feed the dog?

**LUCAS 1:** I must be the only person in the world still awake at this hour.

**LUCAS 2:** Face it. You're never going to fall asleep.

**LUCAS 1:** I'm getting closer. I'm having a conversation with myself.

That's a good sign, right?

**LUCAS 2:** I don't think that's ever a good sign.

**LUCAS 1:** My thoughts are getting jumbled. Reality is blurring.

**LUCAS 2:** I think if you can comprehend that your reality is blurring, it probably isn't.

**LUCAS 1:** I'm almost there.

**LUCAS 2:** You're going to leave me alone. With nothing to protect me. Nothing to draw me out.

**LUCAS 1:** I don't want to be drawn out. I want to be drawn in. It's necessary.

**LUCAS 2:** It's scary.

**LUCAS 1:** Grow up. Be a man.

**LUCAS 2:** I can't when I'm there.

**LUCAS 1:** Nightmares don't count at your age. You can recognize that they can't harm you.

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