



Fit for the Moon

Adapted by Chip Colquhoun from a Mexican folk tale

Illustration by Heather Rose

The Sun and Moon had always been good friends – but that wasn't enough for the Sun. He had fallen in love with the Moon a long time ago, and now he felt it was about time they were married. Then they could move into the same part of space together – perhaps near the Sun's favourite planet, Earth.

But the Moon didn't quite feel the same way. She certainly did think the Sun was a very good

friend – and she thought he was a bit hot – but she didn't love him enough to be his wife. She wasn't sure about living together in the same part of space.

So when the Sun asked the Moon to marry him, she had a bit of a problem. She didn't want to say "Yes" – and she believed you should never marry someone if you didn't want to say "Yes". But

she also didn't want to say "No" just like that, because she didn't want to hurt the Sun's feelings; she didn't want to lose a good friend.

So the Moon tried hard to think of a way she could say no to the Sun without actually saying "No".

Then, suddenly, the thought *POPPED!* into her head – and she said...

"My friend, I will marry you – on one condition. All I ask is that you bring me something to wear that will fit me perfectly."

The Sun beamed brightly – that was exactly what he wanted to hear! Well, maybe not exactly – he hadn't been expecting the "bring me something to wear that will fit me perfectly" part – but he was certain the Moon's condition wouldn't be any trouble. Soon he would marry the woman of his dreams!

So the Sun carefully took the Moon's measurements; she was

exactly a size 8. Then he set off to find something to wear that would fit her perfectly.

The Sun knew that women liked to wear dresses, so he flew to his favourite planet – Earth – and began looking for something he could use to make a dress that was exactly size 8.

With his magic, the Sun could make a dress out of absolutely anything. On the Earth, he saw some beautiful trees in the jungle – a luscious green. He thought they were just what he needed!

He flew over the trees, waved his hands, and said...

*Change all these trees,
not a moment too late,
Into a dress that's exactly size 8!*

And, in a flash, the trees changed into a dress that was exactly size 8.

Excitedly, the Sun took the dress to the Moon to try on.

But when she did, the dress looked really baggy; the Moon kept having to grab it to stop it slipping off her shoulders.

The Sun was confused. He measured the dress, and it was exactly size 8. Then he measured the Moon again...

...and she was exactly size 6.

The Sun felt a bit silly. He must have forgotten the right size – or maybe he'd got confused because the number 8 looks a bit like the number 6?

Whatever the reason, the Sun knew he had to try again – to find something to wear that would fit the Moon perfectly. He really wanted to marry her, so he wasn't going to give up.

The Sun knew that women also liked to wear skirts, so he flew back to Earth and began looking for something he could use to make a skirt that was exactly size 6.

With his magic, the Sun could make a skirt out of absolutely anything. On the Earth, he saw the

sands of the desert – a dazzling gold. He thought they were just what he needed!

He flew over the sands, waved his hands, and said...

Change these sands

to get me out of this fix

By making a skirt

that's exactly size 6!

And, in a flash, the sands changed into a skirt that was exactly size 6.

Eagerly, the Sun took the skirt to the Moon to try on.

But when she did, the skirt looked really baggy; the Moon had to hold it up so it didn't slip past her waist.

The Sun was confused. He measured the skirt, and it was exactly size 6. Then he measured the Moon again...

...and she was exactly size 4.

The Sun felt very silly. He must have forgotten the right size – how

could he have seen the number 6 and thought it was the number 4?

Whatever the reason, the Sun knew he had to try again – to find something to wear that would fit the Moon perfectly. He was desperate to marry her – so he would give it one more go.

The Sun knew that women also liked to wear trousers, so he flew back to Earth and began looking for something he could use to make some trousers that were exactly size 4.

With his magic, the Sun could make some trousers out of absolutely anything. On the Earth, he saw some diamonds in the mountains – a vivid white. He thought they were just what he needed!

He flew over the diamonds, waved his hands, and said...

*With these diamonds,
I need wait no more –
I will make some trousers
of exactly size 4!*

And, in a flash, the diamonds changed into some trousers that were exactly size 4.

Earnestly, the Sun took the trousers to the Moon to try on.

But when she did, the trousers looked really baggy; the Moon had to hold them up so they didn't slip past her waist – and she kept tripping over the floppy ends of the legs!

The Sun was confused. He measured the trousers, and they were exactly size 4. Then he measured the Moon again...

...and she was exactly size 2.

The Sun felt deflated. He had tried and tried and tried – but it seemed he couldn't fulfil the condition that the Moon had given him.

He wasn't going to marry the woman of his dreams...

The Sun slinked away, sulking. Tears fizzled around his eyes – he had been so looking forward to marrying the Moon!

She was his best friend, and she was so beautiful, and... and... and the wedding would have been amazing!

The Sun dreamed about the wedding they wouldn't have. All of their friends would have been there. They would have eaten the most delicious party foods, and had the biggest ever cake! It made the Sun sad to think about how beautiful the Moon would have looked in a wedding dress, with the veil covering up her face until that moment where he was allowed to "kiss the bride"...

And, suddenly, an idea *POPPED!* into his head.

That was it! That was something he could get for the Moon to wear! Something that would fit her perfectly... no matter what size she was!

The Sun flew back to Earth and began looking for something he could use to make a wedding veil.

With his magic, the Sun could make a veil out of absolutely anything. On the Earth, he saw the shining seas – a vibrant blue. He thought they were just what he needed!

He flew over the seas, waved his hands, and said...

*So there's a happy end to this tale,
Change these seas
into a wedding veil!*

And, in a flash, the seas became a gorgeous, shimmering blue wedding veil.

Jubilantly, the Sun took the veil to the Moon to try on.

The veil just needed to sit on the Moon's head, with some of the fabric covering her face and the rest of it trailing out behind her.

There was no denying it: the Sun had found something for her to wear that fit her perfectly.

The Moon knew she had to marry the Sun now. And as she

thought about it, she realised that she was actually very happy to marry him: the Sun had shown that he really did care about getting things right for her, and he had been really clever. The Moon knew he would be the perfect husband.

And so that's exactly what happened: the Sun and the Moon were married, with a splendid wedding – the most splendid wedding the Milky Way had ever seen – and they both moved to live in the space around Earth. One way you can know this story is true is by looking up in the sky around Earth – both the Sun and the Moon are still there together today.

(Be careful not to look straight at the Sun, though; since marrying the Moon, he's become very hot – hot enough to hurt your eyes...!)

Another way you can know this story is true is by watching the Moon every night. You see, she never cancelled the magic that changed her size every day – and

if you measure her every night, you'll see you still get a different measurement every time.

And if you're still not convinced, here's one last piece of proof for you. Ever since their wedding, the Moon hasn't taken off her veil – she loves wearing it so much. But remember: the veil was made from the seas. And so as the Moon moves around the Earth, the seas follow after her. Take a trip to the seaside and you'll see: the waters go backwards and forwards, depending on where the Moon is in the sky.

Put all these proofs together, and you can be sure that the Sun and the Moon had a very happy end to this story.

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