

Eclipse

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The top of a cliff. Afternoon. The lights grow progressively dimmer throughout the play.

AT RISE: Danielle, mid-20s, enters wearing a backpack on her back.

DANIELLE

(Calling offstage.)

OK... Riiight... here. This is the perfect spot.

She puts down her backpack. Her friend Jen, also mid-20s, followed by her brother Ryan, who is a few years younger than the two girls, enter.

RYAN

Are you sure this time? That's what you said about the "perfect spot" before this. And the one before that too.

Jen looks nervously over the cliff.

JEN

Well, we can't exactly go any further.

DANIELLE

This is the spot. It's clear, and it's perfect.

She pulls a pair of cardboard glasses out of her backpack.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Do you realize this is the only chance we'll ever have in our lifetimes to see this eclipse?

RYAN

There's other eclipses. Weren't you babbling on the way up here that there's, like, two to five of them every year?

DANIELLE

But not THIS one. This is a TOTAL solar eclipse, which is rare. And it's even more rare that the part of the earth that can see the full eclipse at totality is right here. Don't you get how lucky we are to be able to see it?

JEN

You've always been the science geek, not me.

DANIELLE

You don't need to be a science geek to appreciate it. Think of it--the next time people in our city get to see a total solar eclipse, we'll all be dead. This is our one and only time to be able to see it.

JEN

God, you're morbid.

DANIELLE

I am not.

RYAN

Yeah you are. I didn't drag myself all the way out here with you just to listen to you talk about death and dying.

DANIELLE

You came because you love your big sister?

RYAN

Honestly? ...I came because Jen's hot.

JEN

Eww! I used to babysit you!

RYAN

That could be kinda kinky.

JEN

Gross.

(To Danielle.)

See what I put myself through for you?

DANIELLE

I know. You'll totally get to be my maid of honor someday.

JEN

Awesome. So I'll get to plan your bridal shower and spend hundreds of dollars on a dress that you pick out.

DANIELLE

You guys are acting like I asked you to, like, wade through the sewers or something. It's beautiful out here.

RYAN

I don't see why we couldn't have just seen the eclipse in your backyard or something.

DANIELLE

Because. You can't see anything in the city. All the smog and powerlines and everything obstructs the view. It had to be out here. It had to be this spot.

Please contact me at colleenn@gmail.com to see a full script.