

Waiting for the Stars

by

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SCENE 1

We are in a house. It's nice and inviting, void of pain. A table and two chairs can be seen with a vase and a single flower sitting on the table. Noah sits at the table staring at the single red flower (**Not a Rose**). Everything about the house says two people live there when in fact that is not the case. A piece of the puzzle is missing.

A clock softly ticks. It appears to be Noah's watch. He take it off, lays it on the table and stares at it.

A pile of mail is sitting across form him on the table. He reaches over and begins sifting through it.

NOAH

Bills... Insurance... Credit cards...

He pauses at what look slike another piece of mail. He opens it quickly. As he reads the ticking becomes louder.

Ava walks in from offstage. **She does not sit**

NOAH

Dead Noah, as the 5th member of the Star Watchers Club you have been invited to the first Star Watchers Club reunion. We hope to see you there. From, Zoey.

He ponders for a moment and the ticking becomes aggressive again.

AVA

Go, Noah.

He stands up and begins gathering his things to leave. As he puts on his jacket he reaches to grab his watch but then stops. He leaves out the door. A car starts outside the house. Ava puts her hand on the watch and the ticking stops.

SCENE 2

The scene opens with blankets laid

out across the ground. We are outside. Chips and drinks are scattered around, and a telescope stands firmly looking out into the audience. Rebecca, Zoey and Ava are sitting on the blankets talking to each other.

REBECCA

Okay but do you remember when I first joined, and I was so shy because it was only the two of you?

ZOEY

Yeah, but we were just happy someone showed up.

REBECCA

Then the boys arrived.

ZOEY

You mean Josh came in dragging Noah with him.

They all laugh. Ava speaks through the laughter.

AVA

Those two were such goofballs.

The laughter dies down

ZOEY

Speaking of Josh, how are you two doing?

REBECCA

To be honest, I think we've been better.

ZOEY

Is everyting okay?

REBECCA

No, yeah, it's just... His dad is really sick and... It's been hard on him...

ZOEY

I had no idea.

REBECCA

I've tried talking to him about it but... Well you know how he is.

ZOEY

Let him know we're here for him. Okay?

REBECCA

Thanks, I will.

There is silence as they look towards the setting sun.

I've missed this.

They all close their eyes and enjoy the moment. Noah arrives.

NOAH

You know it's much prettier when you have your eyes open.

REBECCA

Oh my god, is that-?

AVA

Noah?

ZOEY

You came!

Zoey stands up and hugs him excitedly. Rebecca smiles at the two of them.

NOAH

You know I have to keep up my perfect attendance.

Josh walks in with a shopping bag of food.

AVA

Almost perfect you mean. There was that one time you-

JOSH

Well look who finally decided to show up.

NOAH

Wouldn't miss it.

ZOEY

Since you were last to show up you get to take attendance.

She hands him an old journal they had used years before.

NOAH

Aren't we a little old for this?

ZOEY

It's tradition.

NOAH

Alright. Noah, present. Josh?

Here!

JOSH

Rebecca?

NOAH

Present.

REBECCA

Zoey?

NOAH

Here.

ZOEY

Ava... Absent.

NOAH

There is silence amongst the group

ZOEY

Welcome back everyone.

REBECCA

So Zoey, what do you have planned for tonight?

ZOEY

Well first off, I wanted to thank everyone for oming to the first ever Star Watchers Club reunion. As co-founder of the club I figured it would be nice for all of us to... Get together again. So, here we are. There are snacks, the telescope, and lots of blankets. It's going to be a cold night tonight.

REBECCA

Another cold night?

NOAH

This isn't going to be like that one time where we got cought in the blizzard is it?

JOSH

I hope not. We barely survived the first time.

ZOEY/REBECCA/AVA

It wasn't a blizzard.

ZOEY

It was just a light snow and you two didn't bring your coats

REBECCA

Yeah, you just said, "don't worry, we'll be fine. We've been through worse."

JOSH

Well we were right, weren't we?

The friends laugh.

NOAH

Hey, that was the same night we all stayed at your dad's house wasn't it, Zoey?

ZOEY

Yeah, and we all slept by the fireplace with a bunch of blankets.

REBECCA

All of us were late for class the next day.

NOAH

Oh yeah! Mrs. Finkle wouldn't let us take that math test.

REBECCA

Yeah what was with that? We missed our first 3 classes but were only like 2 minutes late for her class.

ZOEY

I wonder whatever happened to old Mrs. Finkle.

REBECCA

Do you guys think she still teaches at the school?

JOSH

There's no way. She was already old.

ZOEY

She wasn't that old.

AVA

She was like 65 or something.

NOAH

Last I heard she was retired.

REBECCA

How do you know that?

NOAH

She told me at Ava's funeral.

There is an uncomfortable silence.

Noah takes a deep breath.

Sorry. I'm... Er... Going to go get some more blankets from my car. I'll be right back.

Noah gets up and leaves. The rest of them look at each other with

concern.

JOSH

I'll check on him.

SCENE 3

Noah is walking back with blankets when Josh walks onstage.

JOSH

Noah! Hey, can I talk to you?

NOAH

Yeah, I'm on my way back-

JOSH

No. Noah come on. What's going on?

NOAH

It's nothing. I'm just tired from the long drive.

JOSH

That's bullshit, Noah. Tell me the truth.

Noah sits down.

NOAH

I don't know what to do Josh. It's been 3 years since Ava died. I'm not getting better and this reunion... I thought it would help but... I just want to be happy again.

Josh sits next to Noah.

JOSH

Remember when you brought up that night we stayed at Zoey's house and we slept by the fire?

Ava walks onstage and stands watching them.

NOAH

Yeah. What about it?

JOSH

Whenever I think about us, all of us, I think back to that night.

NOAH

Really?

JOSH

Yeah, it was one of the few times I remember saying to myself, I wish I could stay here forever in this

moment. You wanna know why? Because I was with my friends. Noah, I want you to remember you aren't alone. We're here for you.

AVA

I'm here too.

Ava kneels next to Noah and puts a hand on his shoulder.

NOAH

I guess... I'm just sad.

JOSH

And you know what? That's okay. We get sad. But we can't let sadness get us.

Noah laughs

JOSH

What?

NOAH

Did you get that off a fortune cookie?

JOSH

You wish. That's 100% Josh right there.

They laugh

NOAH

So... You and Rebecca?

JOSH

Yep it just kind of happened. We passed by each other on the street one day and things kind of went from there.

NOAH

We always thought you two would end up together.

JOSH

Really? Well Zoey, Becca and I thought you and Ava were secretly dating back in high school.

NOAH/AVA

What?!

JOSH

Oh, come on! You two were always together. Every time I turned around you were both whispering to each other.

NOAH

Wait no, it's not what you think. She was just trying

to help me.

JOSH

Help you?

NOAH

I told her I had a crush on Zoey and she was just giving me advice.

JOSH

Wait, Zoey? Like our Zoey?

NOAH

Yeah.

JOSH

Woah. Well, what about now?

NOAH

What do you mean?

JOSH

Do you still like her?

Ava smiles.

NOAH

Yeah... Maybe.

JOSH

Dude then tell her.

NOAH

I don't think... I don't think I'm ready for a relationship.

JOSH

Well you would know better than I would. But let me tell you. Having someone close like that is a whole lot better than being alone.

NOAH

Really?

JOSH

Yeah. You don't know this but my dad's real sick.

NOAH

I'm sorry.

JOSH

Yeah well. Becca's been strong. I know she's worried about me but it's nice to have someone like that. You know what? Time is precious Noah. You have to spend it with the people that matter to you.

Yeah.

NOAH

Josh stands up and begins to leave.

ASK HER OUT MORON!

JOSH

Noah laughs. He looks up at the sky.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, AVA?

She smiles and leaves.

SCENE 4

We are back at the campsite. Zoey is looking through the telescope at the stars now. Rebecca is nowhere to be seen. Josh walks onstage.

ZOEY

Zoey, where's Becca?

JOSH

Oh, ah she went to your truck to grab some flashlights.

NOAH

Noah walks onstage with the pile of blankets.

JOSH

Hey, Noah I'm gonna go see if Becca needs help. You mind staying here?

NOAH

Sound good.

JOSH

Alright, be back soon.

NOAH

Josh leaves. Noah sets the blankets down and sits next to Zoey.

NOAH

So, finding any stars?

ZOEY

You mean constellations?

NOAH

Yeah.

ZOEY

A few.

That's good.

NOAH

Hey, you want to know a secret?

ZOEY

Uh, sure.

NOAH

Rebecca's pregnant.

ZOEY

Woah, Really? That's awesome!

NOAH

I know right?> She just told me while you guys were talking.

ZOEY

When is she going to tell Josh?

NOAH

When he gets to the truck.

ZOEY

Wow... He's gonna be so happy.

NOAH

She figured it would cheer him up.

ZOEY

Yeah, he told me about his dad. I had no idea.

NOAH

Same here.

ZOEY

There! Here, look.

NOAH

She resumes looking at the stars.

NOAH

What is it?

ZOEY

See that star right above the tip of the tail on the little dipper?

NOAH

Yeah.

ZOEY

It showed up 3 years ago.

NOAH

Woah, Really?

ZOEY

Yeah. I like to think it's her. Looking down on us.

NOAH

You mean, Ava?

ZOEY

Yeah.

They stare at the stars.

ZOEY

I miss her.

NOAH

Me too.

ZOEY

Sometimes I feel like she's still here.

Ava walks onstage and sits next to them. All three are no looking at the star.

There are times when I think I hear her voice.

NOAH

Really. What do she say?

Ava looks at Zoey.

AVA

You still love him, don't you?

Zoey smiles.

ZOEY

Just an inside joke we had. Thank you for coming Noah. I know it must have been hard for you. I know it was for me.

NOAH

I'll admit. I debated whether I should come or not, but... I'm glad I did.

ZOEY

Me too. I've missed our old gang. You know, when Ava and I started this club, we had no idea we were going to meet our best friends. I can't remember a time when we were all together that she wasn't smiling. I like to believe she's still smiling. Watching us grow up.

NOAH

Thank you.

ZOEY

For what?

NOAH

For just... Everything. The club, our friendship and just right now.

Ava and Zoey smile.

ZOEY

You're welcome goofball.

Offstage we hear Josh give a loud cheer.

JOSH

WOOHOO!

NOAH

Guess he knows now.

Josh runs onstage followed by Rebecca.

JOSH

I'm gonna be a dad! Can you believe this?! I'm gonna be a dad!

He runs and jumps around excitedly then he runs to Becca and Hugs her tightly.

ZOEY

Congratulations you two.

Noah quickly looks up at the sky.

NOAH

I think I just saw a shooting star.

Josh and Rebecca both go over to sit by them.

REBECCA

Really?

JOSH

You know what that mean.

Ava looks at Noah.

AVA

Make a wish Noah.

[Sparkle (English Version) by Radwimps begins to play]

Somewhere in the back of his mind, Noah heard Ava speak to him. He closes his eyes and smiles as he faces the sky. Ava stands up and begins to walk away from the group. She stops to look at her friends. They are just as she remembered them now.

A light shoots across their faces. We see more lights of a meteor shower shine on them. They all stare up at the sky and watch the event together. Noah takes Zoey's hand and she leans on his shoulder. The puzzle is complete. Ava smiles one last time as she looks at her friends. She then leaves.

All is well