

ALL A-TWITTER

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A play  
By Kenyon Brown

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## Cast of Characters

LAUREN - Female, 12 years old, sister. Bright, outgoing.  
ABBY - Female, 14 years old, sister. Sarcastic.

## Setting

Time: August. The present.  
Place: Outside, backyard. Minimal set.

## Suggested Props

Cell phones, binoculars, backpack, two (2) folding chaise  
lounges, flashlight, clipboard, compass, large sheet of white  
butcher paper, bricks, black magic markers.

Dark. Late evening. DIM LIGHTS COME UP on two chaise lounges. ABBY is lying on one chaise and texting on her cell phone. A clipboard rests on her lap. A backpack sits at her feet. A pair of binoculars is set on the other chaise. A large sheet of paper is spread on the ground, held down with bricks. LAUREN is standing, looking up at the night sky, pointing a flashlight. Both wear hooded sweatshirts.

LAUREN

It's like someone opens a door and the meteors shoot out one at a time. That's what Dad says.

ABBY

"Someone opens a door?" Totally lame.

LAUREN

I didn't say it, Dad said it.

ABBY

Is he here to see the Perseids? No. He drops us off and leaves.

LAUREN

Mom didn't want him to stay and watch with us.

Suddenly, Lauren races across the yard, looking at the sky, pointing the flashlight.

ABBY

STOP IT!

She stares at her cell phone and then looks at the house.

LAUREN

What did I do?

ABBY

Mom's tweeting me. DON'T TWEET ME!

LAUREN

What is she saying?

ABBY

LEAVE ME ALONE.

Lauren picks up the binoculars and looks through them in the direction of the house.

LAUREN  
Mom's sitting in the kitchen. She's texting.

ABBY  
FIX YOUR OWN BOYFRIEND PROBLEM.

LAUREN  
What problem?

ABBY  
It's not my fault she got in a fight with Steve.

LAUREN  
You saw them fighting?

ABBY  
When I walked inside the house, they were yelling.

LAUREN  
Is that why Steve left?

ABBY  
He doesn't like to be here when Dad drops us off.

Lauren takes cell phone out of her pocket and reads the display.

LAUREN  
Mom tweeted me. She wants to talk.

ABBY  
I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

Lauren picks up the binoculars and gazes through them, looking in the direction of the house.

LAUREN  
Abby...

ABBY  
What?

LAUREN  
Now Mom's staring at her cell phone. I think she's waiting for you to answer.

ABBY  
YOU CAN WAIT FOREVER. Just keep your eyes on the sky.

LAUREN

I thought Mom was going to watch the meteors with us.

ABBY

Why did I tell Mom about the meteors? We should've stayed over at Dad's apartment. Even if we can't see the meteors as well.

LAUREN

Why can't we see the meteors from Dad's apartment?

ABBY

Too many lights where he lives. We wouldn't see anything. I should've kept my mouth shut. And then Mom makes it sound like it's her idea.

(Imitating her Mom)

"You girls have to stay with me this weekend. We have an opportunity to witness this amazing event. We'll stay out late and do some star gazing." But is she out here? No.

(Imitating her Mom)

"I only get to see you girls every other weekend. All you ever want to do when you come over is watch TV or text." She thinks this is something "special." She always wants to do something "special," but it always turns out totally bogus. THE METEORS ARE OUT HERE, NOT IN THERE. Lauren, are you going to help tally or not?

Lauren picks up clipboard and flashlight.

LAUREN

Abby, why are we doing this?

ABBY

How many times do I have to say it's for my science project?

LAUREN

But what's it about?

ABBY

I'm counting the meteors and comparing them to last year's.

LAUREN

Why last year?

ABBY

I counted with Dad. I'm using his data.

LAUREN

His what?

ABBY

Numbers.

Lauren lies on the chaise next to Abby. Lauren looks at the sky through the binoculars.

LAUREN

I can't really see anything.

ABBY

You'll have better luck if you just use your eyes.

(Pointing at the sky)

There, Lauren!

(Facetiously)

Somebody opened the door! You better close it before all the meteors shoot out.

LAUREN

Awesome. It does look the way Dad said.

ABBY

I'm kidding.

LAUREN

It's like when Gus is meowing because he's trapped in a closet and then Mom opens the door and whoosh! Suddenly, Gus runs out and all you see is this streak of white. The Purses look like his tail.

ABBY

(Yelling)

PER-SE-IDS, DUFUS!

LAUREN

That's what I said. And you don't have to yell. Are you going to start charting the meteors?

ABBY

YOU SAID YOU WOULD. It was a total mistake to come here.

LAUREN

You count and I'll chart. Drawing is waaaaay better than counting.

She gives clipboard back to Abby, stands, and kneels next to the paper.

ABBY

Lauren, you don't even know what the letters stand for.

Lauren takes a compass out of her pocket and shows Abby.

LAUREN

Dad showed me how to use the compass. It points to the North Pole.

(Pointing)

North, east, south, west. I learned it in geography. When we were studying the globe.

ABBY

With the magic marker, draw the direction each meteor is going in.

LAUREN

So north is in front of me, south is in back of me, east is on the left...

ABBY

East is on your right. You don't even know your right from your left.

LAUREN

I do, too. Emma, my friend, her Dad is a meteorologist. He came to our class and showed us these photographs. The meteors are the dusty remains of this comet. Swift-Turtle.

ABBY

Swift- TUT-TLE, not turtle. What a dork!

LAUREN

The comet leaves this trail of debris. That's what a meteor shower actually is. Emma's Dad told us. It's like leftover stuff.

(Pointing at the sky)

There. Are you going to time the Pursids like Dad said?

ABBY

(Yelling)

PER-SE-IDS! No, I'm not going to time them. Just mark them on the chart.

LAUREN

It went...towards south?

ABBY

Lauren, take the marker and draw the line going that way.

She starts texting.

LAUREN

(Drawing a line)

Now how many? Abby? You can't watch the meteors and tweet your friends at the same time.

ABBY

I'm multitalented.

Lauren stands, picks up  
flashlight, and shines it on the  
clipboard.

LAUREN

(Counting the tally)

With that one...9, no 10. No, 9. It'd be cool if we could use  
Pilar's telescope at the lake house. We could see the meteors  
better from her bedroom.

ABBY

Our eyes are way better for what we're doing.

LAUREN

But it'd be almost totally dark at the lake. Except for the  
lights from the few houses.

ABBY

Well, we're not at the lake, are we?

LAUREN

I thought Pilar was going to ask Steve if we could stay at  
the lake house this summer.

ABBY

She's only being nice because she has to.

LAUREN

Is Steve going to be our new Dad?

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