EVAN JACOBS

# ECLIPSED



# What To Know About Eclipse Wishes

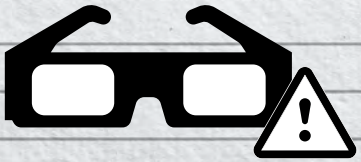
## GUIDELINES:

- WISHES CAN COME TRUE
- WORDING MATTERS
- CHANGES DON'T STOP
- "MORE" HAS NO LIMIT

## LESSONS:

- BE KIND
- POPULARITY ISN'T FRIENDSHIP
- BOARD GAMES AREN'T SO BAD
- FAMILY/FRIENDSHIP OVER ENDLESS UPGRADES

IT'S AN ECLIPSE! NEVER LOOK WITHOUT THE SPECIAL GLASSES!





Be careful what you wish for . . .



# CHAPTER 1

# LESS

It was lunchtime at Morant Middle School. Hunter sat at a table by himself. He watched everyone around him.

Being in sixth grade was tough. It was Hunter's first year at a new school. That was hard enough. All sixth graders had that in common. But others had an easier time. They had come to middle school with friends. Hunter hadn't. He had not made any new friends either.

Many students were on their devices. Hunter

didn't have a device. His parents had cell phones. Their phones were the old-fashioned flip kind. The phones were good for making calls. They just couldn't do anything else well. Even texting was difficult.

Hunter's older brother was Lamont. He was in high school. Lamont never seemed to mind not having much. Unlike Hunter, Lamont had friends. They only cared about fishing. That's all Lamont ever did with them.

*Fishing is so gross,* Hunter thought. *The slimy bait. Touching wet fish. Ugh!*

The brothers weren't close. They were opposites. Hunter tried to do well in school. He dressed as nicely as he could. None of that mattered to Lamont. His grades were always low. Lamont wore all black every day. All his clothes looked too big on him. Even his hair was messy. It stayed long and scraggly. This bothered Hunter. Regularly, Hunter would trim his own hair. Going to a barber for a cut was too expensive.

Hunter wanted friends. But he had been hurt before. Once, he had invited some boys over. They visited his family's small apartment. The boys saw Hunter's outdated gaming system. As they left, Hunter heard them making fun of him. This made him afraid to try making friends again. No one could know about his home.

Still, Hunter enjoyed time with his family. They had fun together. Sometimes, they would go to movies in the afternoon. Those cost less than evening ones. Other times, his family went on hikes. Hunter liked it when his aunts, uncles, and cousins joined them. The children were Hunter's age. All the families enjoyed the outdoors together. It cost nothing for that kind of fun.

Fridays were Hunter's favorite. He and his parents would play board games. Lamont even joined sometimes. They microwaved popcorn. His parents would make lemonade too.

As Hunter sat at lunch, he smiled a little. The thought of Fridays made him happy.

"Hey, Hunter!" someone called.

It jolted Hunter from his thoughts. He turned toward the voice. That's when he saw Chris. This annoyed Hunter. No one really liked Chris. The boy was nice but goofy. Chris was clumsy too. Everything about him was awkward.

He grinned at Hunter. "Are you going to watch the eclipse?"

Hunter had forgotten all about that. There were going to be two eclipses. Each would be only a week apart. A partial solar eclipse was first. Then there would be a minor lunar eclipse.

Most people thought this was huge. Two back-to-back eclipses had never been likely until now.

Hunter didn't know how he could forget. Students had been talking about it all day. Maybe he had too much on his mind.

He rolled his eyes at Chris. Hunter shook his head. "Nope."

"Why not?" Chris held out a pair of

eclipse-viewing glasses. "Do you want to borrow these? You need them to see today's eclipse safely. But next week, you won't. That will be only a minor one. No glasses needed. Let's just share today."

Hunter turned up his nose. "No, thanks."

Chris's dark curls bounced as he scratched his head. He looked up at Hunter. Now he appeared goofier than usual. "Are you sure? Why not?"

"Yes. I'm sure!" Hunter snapped. "It's because sharing them is for goofballs like *you*!"



## CHAPTER 2

# MORE

Chris chuckled. He was good at brushing off insults. “You know what I’ve heard? Make a wish when you look at a solar eclipse. The wish will come true.”

Hunter was frustrated now. Chris not only laughed off the last insult, he continued talking to Hunter.

Again, Hunter snapped. “Whatever! Just go away.”

Seconds later, Hunter saw Adam coming

toward them. He was one of the most popular boys at school. Adam always had a group of friends with him. They all walked up to Hunter and Chris.

Adam smirked. “Hey, Hunter. Are you and Chris best friends now?” He laughed.

Hunter huffed. “What? No, man! I’m not friends with him. Do you think I’m that lonely?”

Adam and his friends cracked up.

Hunter smiled. Chris just needed to leave him alone. Maybe Chris would get the point now.

Yet Hunter didn’t wait for Chris to leave. Hunter walked away. This would show Adam and his friends. He was no friend of Chris’s.

Getting more in life was Hunter’s goal. This meant cool friends. Adam and his friends seemed to fit that. Chris did not. Still, treating Chris poorly didn’t feel right to Hunter. Chris did not deserve it. The boy did nothing wrong.

Soon the bell rang. Hunter headed to class. His school was adding a new building. He passed the construction site on his way. It would be a building

only for science. Everything was going to be state of the art. This made Hunter think. Even his school was getting more. Maybe he could too one day.

A noise interrupted Hunter's thoughts. He realized it was the school's intercom. His principal's voice boomed. She spoke about the solar eclipse. It was starting soon.

Students and faculty flocked outside. They were all excited. Everyone put on their viewing glasses. Hunter followed them.

"Wow!" someone shouted. "Look at the sun!"

Hunter remembered what Chris had said. *Should I look at the eclipse? What if my wish comes true?*

He saw a teacher with a box of viewing glasses. The teacher placed it on a bench. Hunter went over to the box. Quickly, he grabbed a pair of glasses.

Hunter put them on. He gazed right at the sun. The eclipse was happening.

"I wish for more," Hunter whispered. "More of everything. All the time."

"Hunter!" Chris was standing right beside him. He must have walked up when Hunter wasn't looking. "Did you just—"

"Don't start with me, Chris!" Hunter yanked off the glasses. He headed to class.

Chris followed him. "You looked at the eclipse! And I heard you make a wish! I thought you didn't believe in that."

Hunter walked faster. It only made Chris speed up too. His next class was with Hunter. They had math. Chris followed Hunter into the room.

He continued. "I'm glad you got some glasses. You could've gone blind without them."

Hunter stopped. He got in Chris's face. "That doesn't sound so bad. Then I wouldn't have to see you!"

Adam was in their class too. He laughed loudly. "Boom, Chris!"

He and Hunter high-fived. They walked to their seats.

Hunter eyed Chris from across the room.

Chris stared at his desk. He tried not to look sad. Yet Hunter could see that he was. It made Hunter feel bad. Hurting Chris seemed like the only way. Otherwise, Chris would try to be his friend. That was the last thing Hunter needed. *Why didn't Chris just get the point earlier?* he wondered.

Their math teacher was Mrs. Ramos. She started handing back graded tests. Hunter was even more bummed. Math and science were his worst subjects. He dreaded seeing his grade.

Mrs. Ramos placed Hunter's test on his desk. An A- was at the top of the paper. His teacher had written "Good job" next to the grade.

Hunter was amazed.

# ECLIPSED

REAL FRIENDS, FAMILY FUN, WATCHING ECLIPSES

BEING MEAN, WANTING MORE EVERYTHING, ECLIPSE WISHES

ALL HUNTER WANTED WAS MORE—MORE FRIENDS, MORE MONEY, MORE EVERYTHING. THEN HE MAKES A WISH DURING AN ECLIPSE. SUDDENLY, HIS LIFE BEGINS CHANGING FAST AND IN UNEXPECTED WAYS. EVERYTHING FEELS BETTER UNTIL IT DOESN'T, AND HUNTER MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP THE CHAOS.

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