

Riya Sees Nothing Jeffrey Lo 1  
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# **Riya Sees Nothing**

A Ten Minute Play by

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**SETTING:**

A lake.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS:**

Riya – Female, 21

Greg – Male, 21

Sam – Female, 13

**PLAYWRIGHT’S NOTE:**

If you need to re-type the script in any way for production purposes, please keep to the format in terms of punctuation, spacing between stage directions and lines, or placement of ellipses. I want the director, actors and designers to interpret the script as it is presented on the pages here.

**RUNNING TIME:**

Approx. 10 Minutes

**Riya Sees Nothing**

*A lake.*

*A full moon shines down, it's reflection  
full inside the water.*

*Staring into the lake, Riya.  
SAM enters. He watches RIYA.*

RIYA

Riya.  
Riya by the lake.  
Riya stares into the lake.  
...

*SAM is confused by RIYA. She  
approaches RIYA.*

SAM

Hello.

*RIYA looks at SAM.*

SAM (*cont'd*)

Didn't mean to scare you.

RIYA

You didn't.

SAM

Ok.

...  
How's your night going?

*No response.*

SAM (*cont'd*)

Do you come here often?

RIYA

No.

SAM

Right...

*Silence.*

*The silence becomes too awkward.*

SAM (*cont'd*)

I guess I better go now... before my mom starts to worry about me.

RIYA

Ok.

SAM

Ok.

... Goodbye.

RIYA

Ok.

*Pause.*

*SAM is still confused. SAM exits.*

*RIYA watches SAM leave.*

*RIYA wanted to be alone.*

RIYA

Riya closes her eyes.

Riya takes a deep breath.

Riya doesn't know what to do...

*As RIYA stands with her eyes closed,*

*GREG enters. He sees RIYA.*

RIYA (*cont'd*)

Riya doesn't know what to do...

*RIYA takes another deep breath and*

*opens her eyes. She sees GREG near her.*

*She is somehow not startled.*

GREG

Still doing that?

RIYA

...

GREG

I guess I don't know why I asked, I saw you doing it so... you're doing it.

Hello.

RIYA

Hello.

*Beat.*

GREG

It's been a long time.

RIYA

I know.

GREG

I'm sorry about that.

RIYA

Yeah...

*Beat.*

GREG

How've you been?

*RIYA looks away.*

GREG (*cont'd*)

Sorry. Another dumb question.

...

*(Beat)*

But is it a dumb question?

RIYA

How are you Greg?

GREG

Do you really want to know?

RIYA

How are you Greg?

GREG

Oh, I'm fine... The usual.  
Nothing special. Nothing terrible. You know how it is.

RIYA

I don't, actually.

GREG

Right...

*Silence.*  
*Beat.*

GREG (*cont'd*)

Been a while since we've been here.  
Or at least... since I've been here.

RIYA

We.

GREG

Huh?

RIYA

We. It's been a while since I've been here too. We.

GREG

*(Smiling:)*

Well I'm glad we can share it again.

*RIYA looks away, upset. GREG knows he made a mistake.*

*Silence.*  
*Pause.*

GREG (*cont'd*)

Thank you for meeting me.

RIYA

Yeah.

GREG

No, really. Thank you for meeting me. I can't imagine it was easy to come out here and see me so... thank you.

*RIYA moves away from GREG and sits next closer to the lake.*

RIYA

Riya sits by the lake...

*GREG watches RIYA.*

Riya listens to the water ripple.

RIYA (*cont'd*)

Why do you do tha –

GREG

Riya thinks.

RIYA  
(*Interrupting GREG:*)

*A brief silence.  
GREG contemplates his next move.*

What are you thinking about?

GREG

*Pause.  
RIYA looks at GREG.*

Us.

RIYA

*GREG smiles.  
His own smiles catches himself off guard.*

Us?

GREG

Yes. Us.

RIYA

What about us?

GREG

...  
...

RIYA

*Pause.*

You don't have to ans –

GREG

About the time we spent together.

RIYA

Lots of time.

GREG

It was lots of time...

RIYA

About the hopes we had.  
The promises we made.

GREG

Riya...

RIYA

How you left.

*Things come to a halt.*

RIYA (*cont'd*)

Riya closes her eyes.  
Riya thinks.  
Riya tries not to –

*RIYA stops herself from finishing the sentence.*

*Beat.*

RIYA (*cont'd*)

Why are you here?

GREG

Look I'm so –

RIYA

I'm not mad at you.

GREG

You're not?

RIYA

No.

GREG

You sure?

RIYA



Yes.

GREG

Then what are you...?

RIYA

The promises we made were meant to be broken.  
Our time was going to end, I'm not stupid.  
What makes me mad is the hopes we had.  
The promises we had it in our hearts to make...  
It's all gone.  
I look inside my heart, inside my soul and it's nowhere to be found.  
And what's left? Nothing.  
What's replaced what was once there? Nothing.  
Inside my heart. Inside my soul.  
I see nothing.  
Riya sees nothing.  
...  
Riya sees nothing.  
And that is hard.  
...  
Riya sees nothing.  
...  
Riya sees nothing!  
**RIYA SEES NOTHING!**  
**RIYA SEES NOTHING!**

GREG

Riya!

RIYA

**RIYA SEES NOTHING!**

*GREG runs beside RIYA and holds her.  
Trying to calm her down.*

*RIYA begins to weep, breaking down,  
whimpering over and over again "Riya  
sees nothing..."*

*It eventually dies down to silence.  
GREG continues to hold her.*

RIYA

I'm sorry.

GREG

Don't be.  
... Don't be...

*They sit together.  
They breath.  
Beat.*

*GREG slowly stops holding RIYA to give  
her space.*

GREG (*cont'd*)

You gonna tell me what happened?

*Pause.  
RIYA looks at GREG for a moment then  
looks away.*

GREG (*cont'd*)

That's why I'm here.  
...  
For you.

RIYA  
(*Not making eye contact with GREG:*)

I got real messed up.  
And it wasn't you leaving, trust me, but...  
You leaving didn't help.  
I have to admit that.

GREG

I'm sorry.

RIYA

Why? What do you have to be sorry about?  
You went off to college. We knew that was going to happen.  
We knew the expiration date.

...  
It was all fine at first. For a bit.  
But... I don't know. Things got hard.  
School got hard.  
Pressure got hard.  
Decisions got hard.  
Being in public got hard.  
Being alive...  
Is hard.

...

I didn't get out of bed one day.

Then a day became a week.

Parents didn't know what to do to help me.

I wouldn't eat. I wasn't hungry.

Wouldn't leave my room cause I couldn't stand it.

The weeks became months. And the months almost became a year but...

I had this idea.

...

The next evening I got out of bed.

My mom was so excited she didn't know what to do with herself.

She made me a huge dinner and I ate all of it.

I put on my favorite outfit and told them I'd be back.

I had somewhere to be...

...

They were so happy to see me "snap out of it..."

...

...

They found me here.

...

GREG

Here?

RINA

Well,

*(Indicating the lake:)*

There.

In there.

GREG

In the lake? What were you...?

RINA

Doctor's said just a little longer and it would've done.

I would've been done.

...

That was three months ago.

I was hospitalized after it.

Just got out four days ago.

GREG

Riya...

RIYA

Yeah.

GREG

I'm sorry that you went through all that.

RIYA

Me too.

*(Beat)*

I'm guessing you heard some of that?

GREG

Some of it. But not all of it.

RIYA

And that's why you flew all this way? That's why you're here?

GREG

That's why I'm here.

RIYA

...

Thank you for coming.

GREG

But you're doing better now?

RIYA

Doctor's seem to think so.

GREG

But you?

RIYA

I don't know...

But I'm trying. So I guess that's better.

GREG

Well...

Is there anything I can do for you? To help you?

RIYA

*(Shakes her head:)*

I don't know.

*The two sit in silence.  
They breath.*

GREG

Well I just want you to know that I'm here for you.

Ok?

Always.

And I'm going to sit here with you as long as you need.

*A brief moment.*

RIYA

Actually, Greg.

GREG

Yeah?

RIYA

Can I be alone for a moment?

GREG

Oh. Yeah. Sure. Of course.

Of course you can be alone if you...

RIYA

Thank you.

*GREG stands up.*

GREG

I'm still here for you.

Whether it's here or anywhere else.

Please know that I'm here for you.

*RIYA makes eye contact with GREG.*

RIYA

I know.

Thank you Greg.

*RIYA puts on her best smile for GREG.  
GREG sees the effort and is moved by it.  
GREG nods his head and exits.*

*RIYA watches GREG exit.  
As soon as he is out of site RIYA closes  
her eyes and buries her face into her  
knees. Curling into the smallest amount  
of space possible.*

*She begins to hyperventilate.  
After a scary moment...*

RIYA

Riya breathes...  
Riya breathes...  
Riya breathes...

*SAM enters.  
RIYA takes a deep breath.*

RIYA (*cont'd*)

Riya breathes...

SAM

Hello.  
Again.

*RIYA looks at SAM.  
No answer.*

SAM (*cont'd*)

Don't mean to bother you again but...  
My ride's not hear yet so... I came back.

*RIYA's breathing grows harder.  
RIYA is doing everything she can to not  
break down.*

SAM (*cont'd*)

Say... It's a pretty lake isn't it?

*No answer.*

SAM (*cont'd*)

I really like it...

RIYA

Riya sits down.  
Riya is confused.  
Riya is sad.

SAM

You're sad?

RIYA

...  
Yes.

SAM

I get sad sometimes...

*RIYA looks at SAM.*

SAM (*cont'd*)

I think it's ok to be sad.  
I don't see a problem with it.

RIYA

Riya doesn't know what to do...

SAM

Are you talking about yourself?

RIYA

...  
Yes.

SAM

Like you're in a book?

RIYA

Yes.

SAM

Why?

RIYA

...  
Because it makes me feel like I'm not me.

SAM

Huh.  
That's a weird thing to do.

RIYA

Yeah. Yeah it is.

SAM

Are you weird?

RIYA

...

Probably.

SAM

Yeah... probably.

You're probably weird.

*(Beat)*

But that's ok.

*SAM doesn't know why but she decides to  
hold RIYA's hand.*

SAM *(cont'd)*

...

That's good.

**Fin.**