

With each breath, the realities of the cruel world seemed to fade away. The sun had set, the stars had appeared, and the gentleness of night wrapped around them. Everyone was still.

What lied before them was uncertain, but tonight offered a moment to be present and worry free. These students, each unique and from colorful backgrounds, who bonded over a shared love of seismology, had a lot to prepare for, but tonight was a chance to be free from the rest of the world. With the moon shining above, they followed the trail down into the canyon. The lighthearted adventure filled with giggling and games soon lost way to their awestruck wonder. Venus shined bright among the stars and the Milky Way. Soon enough they were laying, side by side, admiring the universe; gazing upon the canyon walls and being plunged into the vastness of space. All around was darkness, yet the atmosphere had never felt so light.

While the future was still uncertain, tonight offered them a few moments of peace.