Saturn

Dana checked the weather for the third time in an hour. It was supposed to be clear, with only a 20% of rain. She was so excited. his was her first solo run without parents. She knew her backpack was ready to go, but she rechecked her list anyway. Paper, pens and a clipboard. Every good scientist uses those. Flashlight covered with red crepe paper (Thanks, for that type, Dad!), a few snack bars and a bottle of water. She was ready.

Pushing open the back door, she made her way down the steps and into the back yard. The night was quiet and still. It was too early for singingnbugs and too cold for the birds to be back home. She had the entire yard to herself. It was dark, but not too dark.

She made herw way to the table and chair that was set up away from the cluster of trees. Her telescope was wating for her, all set up and poined to the sly. Someone, probably Mom, has brought out a thermos of something warm,. ana took a sip, Hot chocolate - what every scientist needed. Mom also brought out a container of snacks that were Dana8s favorites She miled. This is turning into the best night ever...

The night was almost ready. Soon it would be totally dark and Dana couldn't baieve believe the time was finally here. She emptied her backpack before it got too dark and turned on her flashlight. The soft red light was just enough to see. She took a deep breath and looked through the telescope. Nothing. After making a few adjustments, she peered again. There it was....

Saturn. The big mysterious gas giant. The rings sat sideways, not straight like the way Dana had seen it in movies or read about in books. This was the real thing. Big. Beautiful. Creamy gray with darker gray rings. She wrote down a fe. notes about the color and felt like a real scientist! Her dad always said that the was a lot like Saturn: Weird and special... just like me.

She sat back in the chair, sipping her hot chocolate and looked up at the sky."I wonder what else I can see?" Smiling, she stood and began to adjust her telescope.

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