

IGNITE CLIMATE SHORTS:

# SUNSPOT

by

**Clarice Adams**

Produced and Directed by Lucy Evans and Kate McAll

*Three young climate change refugees have escaped from a settlement camp and are trying to get to the city in an unaffected area. They are hardened and wearied by what they have been through.*

Characters:

Cadet - climate refugee

Chloe - climate refugee

Jay - climate refugee

Helen - voluntary teacher in resettlement camp

Terry - a kind hearted security guard

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## **OPENING CREDITS**

*SOUND: theme music plays under the opening credits*

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## **SCENE 1: MOTORWAY ROADSIDE, NIGHT, NEAR FUTURE**

*SOUND: sound of insects and walking by a road. Siren in the distance*

CADET: Come on Chloe, easy does it.

CHLOE: *(hurting)* It's ok . . . if I don't put too much weight on it.

*SOUND: siren gets louder*

JAY: I see lights. Something's coming. Quick! Get down!

*SOUND: they duck. Siren passes*

CHLOE: Did they see us?

CADET: Don't think so. It's too dark. Chloe, can you stand?

CHLOE: *(effort)* Yeah.

JAY: Why don't we stop for a bit? Let her rest. We've been walking since we left the camp.

CADET: It was your idea to leave, Jay. We've got to keep going. Come on!

*SOUND: they carry on walking*

JAY: At least it will be worth it when we reach the Uppercity.

CADET: Don't get your hopes up. How are we going to get past the guards?  
We have no papers, remember?

CHLOE: If more of them have taser batons . . . you don't want your leg  
ending up like mine. Trust me.

*SOUND: sirens in the distance*

JAY: I can see lights again, in the distance.

CADET: Oh no, more of them. We need to get off the road. We'll cross the  
field. The crops are tall, they won't see us there.

JAY: Are you sure this is even the right way?

CADET: We just keep going North West. Come on. *(leaving) (Calling) Jay!*  
Hurry up.

*SOUND: music sting (time passing)*

**SCENE 2: DAYTIME - OPEN COUNTRY - WARM CLIMATE BIRDS AND  
INSECTS**

*SOUND: insects, walking, birds*

JAY: It's too hot. We've been walking for hours.

CADET: We can't stop yet. Stay on your feet.

CHLOE: I can't even feel my feet anymore.

JAY: I'm so thirsty. Can I have a sip?

CADET: It's too soon. We'll run out.

JAY: Hey! What's that over there. . . in the next field?

CADET: Big blue metal things?

CHLOE: What are they for?

JAY: Dunno, but we could get some shelter from the sun under there, get some rest.

CADET: If Upperfolk built it, they're going to come back to it.

JAY: Ah but no one will be able to see us if we're underneath them.

CADET: How's Chloe going to get over the hedge?

CHLOE: I'll be fine Cadet. Just give me your arm.

*SOUND: effort, music sting*

**SCENE 3: In the SOLAR PANEL FIELD**

JAY: Whoah. They're massive. Look how they glisten in the sunlight.

CADET : There's thousands of them . . . they go on for miles.

JAY: Yeah! Hey! Maybe they have water in them. We could smash one, find out.

CADET: No! No more breaking Upperfolk things. Your stupid diversion earlier nearly got us caught!

JAY: Oh it was going to work!

CADET: It wasn't, alright! Your ideas are always so stupid!

CHLOE: Stop it you two! *(panting)*

CADET: Chloe, are you ok?

CHLOE: Let's just lie underneath them in the shade for a while. Okay, we should take it when we have it.

JAY: She's right. I'm going over here. *(walking away, we are with Jay)*

CADET: *(off)* Hey! Where are you going? Don't go too far, Jay.

JAY: *(calling)* I won't.

*SOUND: insect and road ambience fades out*

#### **SCENE 4: UNDER A SOLAR PANEL**

*SOUND: rummaging in bag, gets out old recording device, switches it on*

JAY: Journey log. 8 years since the Big Drought forced us to leave our home. 2 days since we left the resettlement camp. Right now we're surrounded by these big, Upperfolk things. They feel like metal and

glass. Kind of like a window. But not see-through. I don't think you're supposed to sleep under them. Not if you're Upperfolk. It's warm when you touch the surface but cold underneath. There are these little, tiny lines all over them. (sighs) I should probably get some sleep, but I just want to listen to you first.

*SOUND: presses play on machine*

HELEN: *(on tape) Energy is what propels all action in this world. But it comes in many different forms. Heat is energy that keeps you warm. Humans and some other things can store energy within them.*

JAY: Hm. Maybe these things collect energy? Upperfolk seem to need a lot of it. Could be from the ground. . . or from the sun . . .

*SOUND: presses play again*

HELEN: *A lot of technology relies on what we call 'electricity'. Electricity is energy. Making electricity is something that humans have been doing for hundreds of years, and we're always trying to find new ways of making it.*

JAY: *(getting sleepy, yawning) Sleep tight, Helen. (kiss)*

*SOUND: switches machine off, rustles in bag*

**SCENE 5: SOLAR PANEL FIELD, LATER**

*SOUND: insect and road ambience, someone bangs on the panel*

JAY: Huh? *(gets to feet)* What's happening?

CADET: This nice security guard found us.

TERRY: So you got lost on a walk?

CADET: Yes, that's right.

TERRY: Well, I can't let you trespass on the panel fields.

CHLOE: We're really, sorry we won't do it again. Look please don't report us.

TERRY: Don't worry. I'm not going to call the police on you. I'll just point you in the right direction.

JAY: Do you have any water?

TERRY: You went for a hike without water? You've really got to prepare better for cross country treks in summer you know.

*SOUND: rummaging in bag*

TERRY: Here. One each.

JAY: Huh! A whole bottle.

*SOUND: they open the bottles and drink thirstily*

CHLOE: That's so good.

TERRY: I've got more in the guard's cabin if you like.

JAY: Are you really going to let us go?

TERRY: Look, the company hired me because some bad people escaped from a nearby settlement, but you don't look like bad people to me.

CHLOE: We're not.

TERRY: And what use you'd have for a solar panel I don't know.

JAY: *Solar panel . . . is that what these things are?*

TERRY: Of course.

JAY: What are they for?

TERRY: They collect energy from the sun of course. *(expects response, doesn't get one)* Oh um, here, I've got a video on my phone that explains it.

HELEN: *(on phone video) Solar panels are a way of gathering energy from the su . . . it comes in the form of both heat and light, and just as we need heat and light in the day to keep warm and see things, we can harness the excess energy to power all sorts of things in our daily lives.*

JAY: Hey! Do you know this woman?

TERRY: No, it's just a video on the internet.

CADET: I know her voice.



CHLOE: Me too.

TERRY: She's quite well known. She used to work in a resettlement camp near here, teaching the refugee kids to read. Brave, eh? I'd be scared of being beaten up.

JAY: Why did she leave?

TERRY: I think the government cut the funding for the programme and let her go. Too expensive and not worth it. I heard she wanted to work there for free but they wouldn't let her - said it would cost too much in food and water. They didn't have any running water at the camp so they'd have to bring it in for her.

CADET: Not so good for the people who live there all the time either.

TERRY: Eh? I recon they're probably used to it.

JAY: I wonder if she misses the kids she worked with?

TERRY: Who knows? She wanted them to have a proper school and everything, to see if they'd integrate. It's all on the internet, you should look it up.

JAY: Yeah. We'll do that.

CADET: Look, I'm sorry that we've kept you. We'd better get going. If you could just point the way to the city. . .

TERRY: Ok, if you're ready to head onwards, its uh north west of here. . . That way. follow the road.

CADET: Thank you. We will.

TERRY: *(calling)* It's a long walk, mind.

*SOUND: rustling*

*SOUND: music starts*

REVERB MEMORY FROM PAST

HELEN: *I'm not going to be able to see you much longer. Things have happened in the Upperworld which mean I can't. I'm sorry.*

YOUNG JAY *Will you miss me?*

YOUNG CADET: *And me!*

YOUNG CHLOE: *And me!*

HELEN: *Of course I will. But whenever you miss me, you can pick up that machine I've given you and you can listen to all the advice I've given you.*

*People made mistakes when it came to energy. We tried to find it in ways that make the planet too hot. A long time ago, it was much cooler. I hope that one day we'll get back to that place one day.*

*SOUND: music fades out*

## **FINAL CREDITS**

*SOUND: theme music plays under the closing credits*

In Sunspot by Clarice Adams, Cadet was played by Elly Roberts, Chloe by Isobel Thom, Jay by Theo Marceau, Helen by Tegan Noble and Terry by Joe Barber. Dramaturgy was by Adam Barnard, sound design by Ian Hunter and music by John Biddle.

It was a Fierce Green and Rhiannon Media co-production, produced and directed by Lucy Evans and Kate McAll.

IGNITE Climate Shorts are supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry. They were recorded at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with a cast of their members and with technical stage management by Chris Laurich.

Visit [FierceGreenProductions.co.uk](http://FierceGreenProductions.co.uk) for more information on the project and the science behind the dramas.

*SOUND: music rises to a climax before quickly fading out.*

**END.**