

## **“AN EYE FOR RARE BIRDS” by Alexander Lee-Rekers**

*ASH, full of bravado and charm, is speaking to fellow bird-watcher Rory in a public park. ASH has taken a bit of a shine to Rory since they started showing up with their heavy footsteps and beginner’s binoculars. Which is why they’ve taken this opportunity to fill them in on their story.*

**ASH:** How’d I get started? Because of an ex. They were kind of a cheapskate. They picked birding off a list of cheap dates on some blog they read, and dragged me here to sit in the cold and stare up at trees until my neck was sore. And I still saw them for another month after that! But one day, I was walking through this park to meet a friend, and something made me look up. And I saw it: a cerulean warbler. *(Pause.)* And I knew it was rare, I mean I didn’t know *how* rare at the time. But it showed up just for me. So I lost the cheapskate and kept the birds. How about you?

### **Performance Notes:**

- *This piece doesn’t seem like a pick-up ... maybe that’s what makes Ash so cool. You clearly like this person you’re speaking to, so try to communicate that with how you speak to them, rather than coming out and saying it.*
- *Spend some time thinking about that (Pause.) That’s a moment just for you to think back and enjoy that memory.*
- *As you speak to them, can you read on their face how it’s going? Are they hearing you, listening to you? Most importantly, do they get what your intention is at this moment?*