

Will (narration): My mom recently sent me these photos from this camp I did when I was twelve called Teen Marine Adventure, which was a total blast—the camp was basically a series of field trips exploring water and things related to water in New York. The camp was also the beginning of my first real crush on a girl whose first name, for years, was the only thing I could remember about her: Caroline. I wanted to find Caroline, so I could catch up with someone who I remember being very close friends with, but also to travel back to a time that I have extremely fond memories of.

Will: Have you ever had a crush on someone at a camp you did?

Kit: Uhh yeah definitely.

Will (narration): This is my friend Kit, we're at the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, a place we visited during the camp six years ago

Kit: A crush for me is kind of... is someone I actually really don't know, at all, I just kind of like look at them and I think they're going to be a certain way—so when I was at summer at Brown I had a crush on this guy named David, who was, um, he played guitar on the streets of Providence to like make money during the time he was there... Yeah Will is gagging because he sounds like such a dick and he probably is but he was like really attractive.

Will: Because I feel like I've met people, maybe like a few months after that I went to camp with, and it would be strange, so I wonder what it would be like doing it like six years later

Kit: It's like that cool stage though where you are bonded by something—it's like when you go to college and you like automatically like have established a connection. I feel like it would almost be like that, you have already established a connection so you guys can just kind of start talking more freely... Or it could just be fucking awkward.

Ellen: So, my name is ellen mccarthy and I work at Battery Park City Parks Conservancy.

Will (narration): Ellen was the counselor of Teen Marine Adventure

Will: I was amazed that, um, I was able to contact you, but even more so, I was amazed that you remembered who I was.

Ellen: Yes because you know I... the program is pretty small. I think there, I was trying to count the number of people in your group that year, and I think there were like seventeen. So Teen Marine Adventure, I'm trying to think of what year it was started. Maybe 2003?

Will: There was a girl that I had a crush on in this camp and--

Ellen: --That's funny because I have a list of all these people in the camp. Want me to read the names of the girls?

Will: Yeah sure

Ellen: One is um, one is named Oriana, and another is Catherine, another Catherine, Krista, Caroline... that's that, yeah, Caroline, yeah I think she lived in the neighborhood

Will: do you remember who she was?

Ellen: I'm pretty sure she was from Battery Park City, and at the time she was twelve years old.

Emma: The first time I ever smoked pot was with Caroline... (fades out) and I remember being in a cab with her, and her telling, asking the cab driver, she started to smoke in the cab, and her asking the cab driver, like can I smoke in here...

Will (narration): This is my friend Emma from NYU. I found Caroline on Facebook and discovered that Emma and Caroline were friends in high school.

Emma: ...Obviously the answer was no, but she would be the kind of person who would try and smoke anyway.

Will: I don't know how to proceed from here, and that's why I guess I'm sort of talking to you

Emma: What were you expecting her to be like?

Will: Well, when I was having this conversation with Kit, I don't think I was expecting anything. I was more hoping that like, she wouldn't be shitty.

Emma: She's not shitty. At all. Shes really cool, She's really funny, She has a really biting sense of humor that like either you accept or like find really offensive.

Will: Why don't you read the message out that you've crafted right now.

Emma: Hey bb. So this is a really weird question but do you know who Will Tavlin is from some camp in Battery Park? Boom.

Will: It's sent?

Emma: Yeah, we'll just have to wait.

Will: Oh my god, it's happening. I'm reaching out.

Caroline: Is this you?

Will: Yes.

Caroline: Oh my god, I remember you. That's me looking super awkward and I'm wearing um, blue tie dye pants... (fades out)

Will (narration): This is Caroline, she responded to Emma's text—one thing lead to another and we set up a meeting between the three of us. We're looking at photos of us from the camp.

Caroline: ...I was like, that's really freaking cool because I loved this camp. Like, it was a really fun summer. And I remember that everybody was super nice and being very disappointed when I couldn't go back the next summer because i think that they canceled it. And then I was trying to figure out who you were, and now I think that we were besties.

Will: I had a crush on you when I did this camp.

Caroline: Thats awesome.

Will: So for you, this must be one of the strangest things to ever happen to you

Caroline: I think it's awesome. I think its awesome. Both of you were like, I know this sounds really fucking weird. Emma wasn't too nice she was like, I know he sounds really fucking weird but he's really cool, I swear. No, I think this is adorable. I loved this camp too and now it's all like coming back to me. Like we hung out a lot, I think I remember you thinking that you maybe had a crush on me? But like I was not entirely opposed to that... What was your crush like for me?

Will: I remember... just having a lot of fun hanging out with you

Caroline: Yeah me too

Will: That was the thing I remembered.

Caroline: That was like the time in my life like where I didn't care about what I was wearing every day. I didn't care how I looked like it was just like—it was just so fun and like laid back. And I was still a kid, I was still very much a kid, but like I was also growing up and I knew that—which was exciting. I think it wasn't to the point—like I remember some parts of becoming a teenager where I don't want to do this. But that point was like... it's hard to describe. It's still very youthful—it's like being able to have true friendships that at least you didn't exactly have in elementary school.

Will: I think of all the camps I've ever done in my life and I think of all the people I've met in those camps and how I never see those people ever—there's just like so many that I've forgotten, that fade away. And I feel like that's the normal thing that's supposed to happen and I've sort of like—

Caroline: —You've fucked with the universe .

Will: Yeah, exactly

Caroline: You fucked with destiny. No I think it's cool. I think it's really cool. I'm kind of a sucker for this kind of shit you know? Like, I loved that time in my life so its nice to be able to relive that you know? I'd say this rates somewhere in between strange and exciting, which is a great combination.

Emma: Where do you guys want to go from here?

Caroline: I don't know.

Will: Facebook friends? I guess?

Caroline: yeah we'll be facebook friends. How sweet.