

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

maybe if we think and wish and hope and pray it might come true

by

Adelynn Anderson

Copyright (c) 2026

adelynn.anderson22@gmail.com

<https://newplayexchange.org/users/97627/adelynn-anderson>

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

*"You know, it seems the more we talk about it /
It only makes it worse to live without it /
But let's talk about it /
Oh, wouldn't it be nice?"*

—Wouldn't It Be Nice, The Beach Boys

characters

sebastian

14, gay, careful

daniel

14, gay, hungry

riley

18, a butch, god

setting

church camp

the summer between eighth grade and freshman year

2015, or now

a love letter, in some ways, to 13-year-old-adelynn who unironically prayed to god to not be gay. guess what lmao.

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

SCENE I

the makeshift "dorm room" of a sleepaway church camp. two boys, about fourteen, have snuck away in the middle of the day to play pokemon cards.

Eevee uses *Wild Kick*.
DANIEL

Okay. Flip a coin.
SEBASTIAN

Okay.
DANIEL

DANIEL grabs a penny from the floor and flips it expertly. he reveals it.

Heads! Got your ass.
DANIEL
(cont.)

Fine. Cyndaquil uses *Swift*.
SEBASTIAN

Okay. Down to 40.
DANIEL

he makes a mark in his notebook.

You're also down by 10. Did you mark that?
DANIEL
(cont.)

SEBASTIAN silently gets his notebook and writes it down.

Okay. Hmm. I don't have an evolution in my deck so. I guess *Wild Kick* again.
DANIEL
(cont.)

DANIEL flips the penny again. it's tails.

Shit.
DANIEL
(cont.
with passion)

Shh!!
SEBASTIAN

Oh, nobody's here, dummy.
DANIEL

SEBASTIAN stares for a second. then slowly points his finger in an "up there" motion. God Heard You.

DANIEL
(*cont.*)

Oh my god.

SEBASTIAN makes an overly exasperated gesture.

SEBASTIAN
Don't you listen to Pastor Tommy at all?

DANIEL
Oh, come on Seb. Pastor Tommy is a loser.

SEBASTIAN
He's not a loser.

DANIEL
Pastor Riley thinks he is.

SEBASTIAN
No way.

DANIEL
Yeah. She told me.

SEBASTIAN
There is no way she told you that.

DANIEL
Okay she didn't tell me but I heard her talking to Jess and she was complaining about someone and it was *definitely* him.

SEBASTIAN
Whatever. You failed your turn.

SEBASTIAN consults his card.

SEBASTIAN
(*cont.*)

Okay, there's no way this is the way you're supposed to play. It's too basic. I can't *do* anything besides the same two moves over again until one of us dies?

DANIEL
Well sometimes it doesn't work. Like you literally just saw happen to me.

SEBASTIAN
That's true. But then it's just up to luck there's no skill at all.

DANIEL
Some games are a combo of skill and luck it's not always one or the other.

SEBASTIAN
I guess. Okay. Cyndaquil uses *Rage*.

DANIEL
(grabbing his notebook)

Down to 30.

Time to use *Wild Kick* again. I effing guess.

DANIEL looks around for the penny, finds it and grabs it.

he's preparing to flip it again, but right before he does, he looks up. SEBASTIAN's eyes are scrunched closed and his head is tilted towards the ceiling. his hands are clasped tightly in his lap.

DANIEL stares at him. long enough that SEBASTIAN finally opens one eye and sees DANIEL watching him, not flipping the penny.

DANIEL
(flatly)

There's no way you're praying right now.

SEBASTIAN

I need all the help I can get.

DANIEL is silent.

It's a luck-based game?

DANIEL makes a big show of rolling his eyes. he gears up for his fanciest coin-flip yet.

the second the penny flips, SEBASTIAN lunges forward and smacks it out of the air.

it goes flying and lands somewhere under one of the twin-xl beds. they both scramble for it, kicking notebooks and cards across the floor.

DANIEL

You *freak!*

SEBASTIAN

God never listens to my prayers. I had to take—

SHOVE.

—matters into my own hands!

DANIEL reaches under the bed for the penny

DANIEL

It's heads! I can see it from here.

SEBASTIAN

No way.

SEBASTIAN punctuates this with a shove that flips DANIEL onto his back and he stretches over his body to grab for the penny. he holds it triumphantly between them, over DANIEL's face.

SEBASTIAN

I got it. Tails.

suddenly, DANIEL leans up and kisses SEBASTIAN. it lasts about a second and then SEBASTIAN pulls back, a little startled, but not surprised.

they breathe for a little bit.

DANIEL

I'm sorry.

SEBASTIAN

It's okay.

DANIEL

I just. Ever since yesterday. I wanted to try it again.

SEBASTIAN sits back and DANIEL follows him up. they're sitting kind of in each other's laps.

DANIEL
(cont.)

Um.

SEBASTIAN

That's okay. Yeah, um.
We can /try it.

the last few words are muffled by DANIEL leaning forward and kissing SEBASTIAN with as much grace as a teen boy kissing another boy at church camp would have.

SEBASTIAN kisses him back for a few seconds before pulling away again.

SEBASTIAN

They're probably looking for us right now.

DANIEL
(still dazed with adrenaline)

Huh?

SEBASTIAN

Pastor Tommy and Pastor Riley.

DANIEL

No they're not.

SEBASTIAN

We're supposed to be at Solo Reflection right now.

DANIEL
I'm reflecting.

SEBASTIAN
I *mean* when everyone else comes back to share their conversations with God or whatever, except us. Think they'll notice that?

DANIEL
(*after a beat*)
No, not really.

SEBASTIAN
Oh my gosh I was being *rhetorical*.

DANIEL
Whatever.

SEBASTIAN shifts so he's no longer sitting right on top of DANIEL.

SEBASTIAN
I just don't want them to come knocking down our door while we're. Yeah.

DANIEL
Riley wouldn't care. She's a lesbian.

SEBASTIAN
You don't *know* that you can't just say that.

DANIEL
She looks like she should be on Orange Is The New Black.

SEBASTIAN
What?

DANIEL
It's this TV show. It's on Netflix. It's about these women in jail and they're all lesbians and they all look like Riley.

SEBASTIAN
Well but you can't make assumptions about people like that.

DANIEL
Well maybe not. But you have to admit she's awesome. Even if she's not a lesbian.

SEBASTIAN
Yeah. She's really cool. Cooler than the others.

DANIEL
By a lot.

SEBASTIAN
You know, sometimes when I try to picture what God looks like, I think He looks like Pastor Riley.

DANIEL doesn't really know what to make of that. he pushes forward:

DANIEL
(softer, gentler)

She wouldn't tell anyone.

SEBASTIAN

But Pastor Tommy would.

DANIEL shrugs but doesn't argue it. he knows it's true. he re-routs:

DANIEL
My parents said this can be my last summer. That I don't have to come back if I don't want.

SEBASTIAN

Really?

beat.
Do you want to?

DANIEL
I don't know. I mean.
I like hanging out with you. But this place always stresses me out. I feel like I can't do anything without being told off. It's so annoying.
It's like they're always watching. Which is why I'd rather play Pokemon with you.

SEBASTIAN
Well. There. I mean there *is* always someone watching.

DANIEL gives him a confused look.

SEBASTIAN mouths "God."

DANIEL
Oh my god. You actually believe that?

SEBASTIAN
(genuinely confused)

Yes? You don't?

DANIEL
I don't want to.

SEBASTIAN
Why not?

DANIEL
It's like. Creepy.

SEBASTIAN
Nothing to be scared of as long as you aren't doing anything wrong. Like *swearing* .

DANIEL
Like you don't ever do anything wrong.

SEBASTIAN
(defensive)
I don't.

DANIEL
I didn't mean. Nevermind.

they sit in silence for a bit.

DANIEL
What did you think about what Tommy was saying this morning?

SEBASTIAN
About what?

DANIEL
About like.

he isn't sure what the exact right verbiage is.
Same-sex, Gay marriage or whatever.

SEBASTIAN
Oh. Uh. Well I've actually thought about this a lot. And I think he's gotta be interpreting the passage wrong.

DANIEL
Seriously?

SEBASTIAN
Yeah. Well so it only really comes up in the Bible that one time, and the historical context is really important in Leviticus and he didn't address that at all. Did you know there's a bunch of crazy stuff in there they say not to do? Like eating fish or something. I bet Pastor Tommy eats fish.

DANIEL
I bet Riley does too ay-yo

DANIEL goes in for a high-five. SEBASTIAN just glares at him until he lowers his hand.

SEBASTIAN
Anyway. I don't know. I get worried um.
I've always been really anxious about like. Um.

he takes a deep breath.
Like going to hell and stuff. I got really freaked out a few weeks ago because I lied to my mom about brushing my teeth and my Abuelita told me that lying is a sin. But I really don't want this to. Um. I really don't want to be wrong. I don't want to be a bad person.

DANIEL

I don't think you're a bad person.

SEBASTIAN

(whispered, trying not to cry)

Thank you.

I don't.. I don't think I am either.

DANIEL wants to comfort him but doesn't know exactly how. they sit in silence for a bit. then:

DANIEL

Are you gay?

SEBASTIAN

I don't know.

DANIEL

I think I am.

SEBASTIAN

Oh.

DANIEL

Yeah um. Lily had a crush on me last summer. I could tell. And she kept trying to sit next to me and stuff and I was just kind of weirded out. I didn't like that I could tell that she liked me. And then one time she came up to me when I was alone after we all went fishing and we were behind the cafeteria building and I could tell she was maybe going to try to kiss me and I felt almost kind of a little sick. And I got so freaked out I pretended I left my water bottle inside and just left. And the problem is that she's *really* pretty. So what's wrong with me?

SEBASTIAN

One time I heard my stepdad telling my mom he thought I was gay. But he doesn't know anything.

DANIEL

Yeah.

SEBASTIAN

I tried really hard not to think about it. And until this week I kinda succeeded. I don't want to do anything... I don't want Him to see it. Even though. Even though Tommy doesn't know what he's talking about. Or maybe I just want to believe that. Because.

DANIEL

Because it's scary.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah.

But I hope you come back next summer. I don't want to never see you again.

DANIEL

You wouldn't never see me again.

You don't know that. SEBASTIAN

No, I'd figure it out. One day I could come visit your school. Or maybe we could go to the same college. We could live in an apartment together. Or something. And play Pokemon every day. And I can beat you every time. DANIEL

Not *every* time. SEBASTIAN

Most of the time. DANIEL

Fine. SEBASTIAN

One day. DANIEL

One day. SEBASTIAN

they sit and think about one day.

SEBASTIAN reaches out and fixes DANIEL's hair, which was blown asunder in the great penny debacle.

Can I tell you a secret. DANIEL

Yeah. SEBASTIAN

I like kissing you.
Sorry. DANIEL

You don't have to say sorry. SEBASTIAN

Not to you. DANIEL

he looks sheepishly, forlornly, up.

mouths it: "God."

Oh. SEBASTIAN

beat.

then, SEBASTIAN grabs DANIEL's hand and pulls him to standing.

SEBASTIAN

(cont.
quietly, nauseous)

Come here.

he carefully leads him to the corner behind one of the beds. they kneel down. the sheets are haphazardly falling onto the floor. somehow, this, the corner, the bed, the shadows, partially obscures their bodies. it's enough.

SEBASTIAN

(cont.)

He can't see us here.

SEBASTIAN carefully leans forward and kisses DANIEL.

after a beat, DANIEL grabs SEBASTIAN's shirt or hair in the slightly forceful way young teenage boys, gay or straight, kiss people. SEBASTIAN goes to grab him back, and at that moment:

YOUTH PASTOR RILEY enters, quietly. they don't notice her. she is eighteen, wearing heavy boots, carhartt pants, and an old button down shirt. she is unmistakably a butch lesbian. she stands in the doorway for a moment, startled but not upset. then, she shuts the door behind her.

they fly apart. DANIEL picks up the closest Pokemon card and stares at it, inches from his face. SEBASTIAN is practically whistling and studying the ceiling. but there's no pretending.

RILEY

Hey.

DANIEL

Oh my god.

he covers his face with his stupid pokemon card.

SEBASTIAN

It's not—

RILEY

Knew I'd find you guys in here. You know, you should be at Solo Reflection right now.

SEBASTIAN

I'm so sorry, Pastor Riley. We uh finished our reflections really early and—

DANIEL

We forgot we had to meet again before lunch and we weren't hungry so we just went back here to—

SEBASTIAN

We wanted to finish our game. You know, Pokemon, it's like this—

RILEY

Yeah, I know what Pokemon is.
Either of you guys have a shiny Charizard?

SEBASTIAN

We.

they both take a moment to process that she isn't going to be mad at them.
How do you know what that is?

RILEY

Because I have one.

DANIEL

No way. You're lying.

RILEY

Lying is a sin.

DANIEL

So?

RILEY

Daniel.

but she's smiling. so is he.

DANIEL

I won't believe it until I see it.

RILEY

Well, you'll have to wait until next year. I left it at home.

RILEY crouches down and picks up a card.

SEBASTIAN

Listen, um. We weren't—

RILEY

(smoothing over his protest)

Looks like the game got pretty intense.

DANIEL

(pointing to SEBASTIAN)

His fault.

RILEY

Oh?

Me?

SEBASTIAN

DANIEL

Don't play dumb. He smacked my penny out of my hand because I was about to beat him.

RILEY

Little Sebby? Didn't think you could hurt a fly.

she ruffles his hair. he ducks out of it.

SEBASTIAN

He was provoking me.

DANIEL

What are you talking about?

SEBASTIAN

I asked God to help me win and he was making fun of me for it.

DANIEL

Yeah, duh!

RILEY

Well, Sebastian, that's not really what God is there for.

DANIEL

Ha.

SEBASTIAN

(ignoring him)

What do you think God is there for, Pastor Riley?

RILEY

Hmm. Well that's a good question.

DANIEL

(whispered to SEBASTIAN, annoyed)

I thought we were supposed to be getting out of reflections.

SEBASTIAN ignores him. RILEY sits on the floor with them.

RILEY

I think God is there for you to sit with when you've had a really hard day. And you want someone to talk to. Do you guys ever do that?

SEBASTIAN

Sometimes.

DANIEL shrugs.

RILEY

I also think God is there for you to have someone in your corner when you have to do something hard. Like take a test or tell your mom you messed up. But not to help you beat someone else at something. More to help *you* succeed than to make someone else lose.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah.

beat.

DANIEL

What about if you did something wrong.

RILEY

Like what?

DANIEL

Like. You know. Like something He doesn't like. He's just there to frown at you and wait for you to say sorry or something right?

RILEY

It depends on what the thing is. But I think God cares less about whether you're doing something "wrong" based on a list of rules than whether you're doing something that's good for you or kind to the people around you. And I'll tell you something that might get me in trouble. But that's not something for other people to decide. Including God. That's for *you* to decide.

she turns to SEBASTIAN

And *you*.

SEBASTIAN

Have you ever done something you had to get forgiveness for?

RILEY

Yes.

she doesn't elaborate. they don't ask.

I think it's more important to get forgiveness from the person you've hurt. God can take care of himself. He doesn't need you to say sorry to him.

SEBASTIAN

Wow my Catholic mom would actually explode if she heard you say that.

RILEY laughs.

RILEY

Well good thing this is a non-denominational camp.

DANIEL

Are we in trouble for skipping?

SEBASTIAN shoves him.

I mean! Uh. Finishing early. Skipping *lunch*.

RILEY

Nope. Lunch hasn't started yet.

she stands.

You're just in time to head back and share your conversation with God with the group. I hope you've found something worthy of reflection.

Riley.
SEBASTIAN

she stops in the doorway.

Don't tell anyone.
SEBASTIAN
(cont.)

Tell anyone what?
RILEY
(smiling, gently)

she closes the door. they both exhale.

You're right. She totally thinks Tommy is a loser.
SEBASTIAN

Ha! I won!
DANIEL

Yeah yeah. Let's clean these up before we go.
SEBASTIAN

they start gathering Pokemon cards into stacks.

Shouldn't we divide up which are mine and which are yours?
DANIEL

I'll do it later.
SEBASTIAN

If you steal my Ponyta I swear...
DANIEL

I don't need your stupid Ponyta.
SEBASTIAN

DANIEL shoves his shoulder. SEBASTIAN laughs at his own joke.

Man. I wish we could play Pokemon forever.
DANIEL

We can play again tomorrow.
SEBASTIAN

they finish making their stack.

Yeah. Riley will low-key cover for us now, so.
DANIEL

And we can keep playing every day after that.
SEBASTIAN
And who knows. Maybe that'll turn into forever.

I hope so.

DANIEL

Me too.

SEBASTIAN

DANIEL reaches out and takes SEBASTIAN's hand. he just holds it.

You know. I hope He's watching us right now.
I don't know.
I think He'd be smiling.

SEBASTIAN
(cont.)

DANIEL nods and pulls SEBASTIAN up.

quickly, before he can talk himself out of it, SEBASTIAN kisses DANIEL's cheek or forehead or something.

they exit.

END OF PLAY