



Edgewood College is a small liberal arts institution in Wisconsin that is known for its nationally ranked debate team. During the summer, the college hosts a competitive speech and debate camp for high school students, who come from throughout the United States. Approximately 100 students stay on campus in dorms for a month learning basic skills and researching debate topics for the upcoming year.

The students are divided into smaller groups and taught by college and graduate students with debate backgrounds and experienced high school debate coaches. The camp is sponsored and supervised by the college's speech and debate program, which uses it as a recruiting tool to draw the best students to the college each year in addition to making money for the college from the cost of attendance, and is informally led by Edgewood alum Tim Jacobs, who won the national debate tournament when he was at Edgewood and continues to judge debate competitions around the country. The camp ends with the students travelling to Illinois to compete against another group of high school speech and debate students.

Approximately halfway through the 2021 camp, Danny Kline, an 18-year-old college freshman and counselor for the camp, notices that Tim, who is in his 30s, is spending a lot of time with Caroline, a 14-year-old rising sophomore from Iowa who is in Danny's cohort. Danny sees them walking alone through the woods near campus on a Saturday afternoon. Tim asks Caroline to stay after class most days, and Caroline has begun wearing Tim's old Edgewood sweatshirt. Tim often brings Caroline a Starbucks frappuccino for early morning camp sessions. Caroline's roommate Mary notices the extra attention that Caroline receives from Tim and the fact that Caroline is not in their room for long periods of time without explanation. When Mary inquires, Caroline shrugs it off and says that she and Tim are just friends and she's spending time away from the room doing additional research for the upcoming tournament.

The last week of camp, when the students are in Illinois at the final competition, Danny, who is sharing Tim's hotel room, walks in on Tim and Caroline engaged in a sex act. Danny confronts Tim, who insists that the conduct was consensual. Danny, fearful that he could lose his job and forever fracture his relationship with Tim, says nothing further. He also thinks, but wouldn't ever say, that since Caroline is a "mature" 14 and is believed to be sexually active that she can make her own decisions.

The camp ends the following week and Caroline returns home to Iowa.