

Bonfire Pier – Based on a True Story

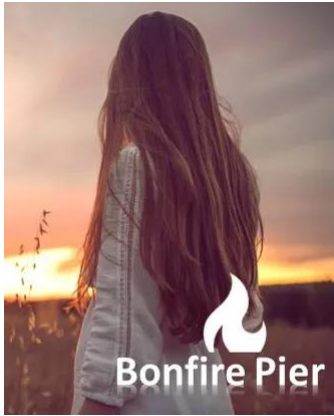
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Katy (65) looks out over the lake, remembering back to a time she wants to go back to, 1972, when she was just 15. She is trying to get ahold of the fifty friends she grew up with and plan a weeklong gathering at the lake...back home at Bonfire Pier! Where they can share their life stories and reminisce about skinny dipping, fast cars, and first kisses. Beautiful long hair, bell-bottom blue jeans, tank tops, and the best music of all time! Maybe there could be a little healing along the way as they all have held on to a deep, dark secret for all these years.

There is one dear friend that she has thought about so many times over the years, and what she finds out is more of a mystery: why is he still alone? Chase was the brave one who stepped in more than once to save Katy from the hands of his best friend, Theo, Katy's first love. Everybody was afraid of Theo; he was a tough guy, but Chase knew how to divert Theo and understood his hair-triggered temper because he saw it a lot at home.

She looked back at the day that Theo died in their arms. They were all so young...just sixteen. She looked back to that fateful day when Theo really snapped. He held her tight; she was shaking and pleading to please let her go as the train was barreling down the tracks towards them. As the fifty other kids watching it all go down think Theo is dangerously messing around, Chase knows he is serious and frantically paces and screams up to Theo that he would join them if he didn't get off the tracks. As the Train whistle gets louder and louder, Theo sees Chad run up to the tracks towards them, and right then, Theo catapults Katy into Chase's arms, throwing them both back and away from the tracks, and Theo is struck down by the train.

All the kids scatter, but Chase and Katy run to Theo's lifeless body and cradle him as he takes his last breath. Scared, Chase forces Katy to leave Theo lying there; he convinces her that if they find the body alone, they will think it was an accident. They had all been drinking and smoking, and Chase's first reaction was to get out of there.

A few weeks after Theo died, Chase found Katy sitting alone at the pier. He gently held her face with both hands and gazed into her eyes; he told her how he felt about her and that although Theo was his best friend, he had always loved her. But she still felt Theo was watching her from around every corner...she still feared him and had to turn Chad away, plus Chad had been dating her best friend Kari, who just found out she was pregnant, so she couldn't exactly fall into his arms although she did love him very much, she had to walk away but thought about the what ifs often.

When Katy finally can get ahold of those friends from back then, she invites them for a weeklong get-together at the lake house. They all come home to Bonfire Pier, and when they each first arrive, you see it in their eyes...the apprehension, guilt, and secret they've kept all these years. The secret that Theo took his own life and almost took Katy's too! The guilt and pain in their eyes and the thing that no one wants to really talk about is that none of them told their parents what they saw...none of them told Theo's mother, who suffered hearing rumors and not knowing what really happened till the day she died many years ago. But through this gathering and sharing of their life stories, they find the love that has always existed between friends and healing in the truth that finally comes home to Bonfire Pier.