

SCRIPT TITLE

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13 WAYS TO SCREW UP YOUR COLLEGE INTERVIEW

LILY, 17, FEMALE

INTERVIEWER 1, 20'S, MALE or FEMALE

Interviewer 1 interviews Lily.

INTERVIEWER 1

Thanks again for coming in on such short notice.

LILY

Please, it was no trouble at all.

INTERVIEWER 1

So tell me about yourself? What subjects do you like school, do you have any hobbies? You know stuff like that.

LILY

Hobbies? I have a few, I suppose. I used to be really into swimming but... I haven't... not since... that day...

Lily simmers with emotion.

INTERVIEWER 1

Are you okay? We don't have to...

LILY

No, it's okay... I want to, I... I need to talk about it. It was a blistering summer day, Bill Blakemore, Poughkeepsie's local weatherman, said it was one of the hottest days in recorded history and advised us to stay in at all costs. But I ignored his warnings. Swimming was my life and life... doesn't stop, not even for a handsome weatherman with salt and pepper hair. I went to the pool early, got on my swimming suit, and began my morning stretches. It was during my warm-ups that I saw him...

(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)
a little boy, fiery red hair,
freckles sprinkled across his pale
white skin, teetering on the edge
on the pool. Before I could even
think to warn him, he tumbled into
the watery abyss. His body
thrashed about violently, his eyes
closed shut from the sting of
chlorine, his voice silenced from
all the water he was swallowing. I
jumped into the water and swam over
as quickly as I could but... I was
too late... he was...

Lily is overcome with emotion.

LILY (CONT'D)
That was eight years ago and...
I've never set foot in a pool
since.

INTERVIEWER 1
Lily, that was very brave of you to
share this with me. Witnessing a
death like that especially that of
such a young child-

LILY
No, he didn't die.

INTERVIEWER 1
He didn't?

LILY
No, the lifeguard pulled him out of
the water.

INTERVIEWER 1
Oh, well even seeing a near death
experience-

LILY
He was only in the water a few
seconds when the lifeguard pulled
him out.

INTERVIEWER 1
He was?

LILY
Yes.

INTERVIEWER 1
I thought you said "it was too late?"

LILY
IT WAS TOO LATE FOR ME! I couldn't save him because... I was TOO... late...

Lily is overcome with emotion. Interviewer 1 is confused.

INTERVIEWER 1
So... you saw a child fall into the pool, and then a lifeguard pulled him out... and that...?

Lily is too distraught to answer.

INTERVIEWER 1 (CONT'D)
You know what, let's just... move on.

Lily nods her head.

INTERVIEWER 1 (CONT'D)
What is it about this school that interests you? Why do you want to come here?

LILY
There are many reasons I supposed but... only one that ever really mattered. It was a crisp day in March, much like today. Amanda Barker, my best friend since the third grade, and I were leaving Mrs. Fleener's excessively boring Geometry class. Amanda asked me if I had thought about applying to college. I told her, "a little." Then she told me about *this* university, how her sister was going here, and that I should "check it out." I said, "maybe... yeah." I was flippant, disregarding my best friend's advice with two little inarticulate words... and those words... were the last I ever said to Amanda.

Lily is once again overcome with emotion.

INTERVIEWER 1

I am... so sorry. Losing a best friend like that... I can't imagine how awful that must have been for you.

LILY

It was, it really was.

INTERVIEWER 1

How old was Amanda when she passed?

LILY

Passed?

INTERVIEWER 1

Died.

LILY

She didn't die.

INTERVIEWER 1

What?

LILY

No. She's going to Yale in the fall. She's very smart.

INTERVIEWER 1

I thought you said that was the last time you ever spoke to her.

LILY

It was. We had a falling out after that.

INTERVIEWER 1

A falling out, what like a big fight or...

LILY

No, it we just went our separate ways. It was mutual.

INTERVIEWER 1

So...just to set the record straight. You saw a kid fall into pool who was almost immediately picked up by a lifeguard, and you lost touch with a friend. These are the events that have shaped your life and caused you so much emotional distress?

LILY

You weren't there! You don't know
what it's like to actually... be
there and... see it!

Beat. Interviewer 1 gives up.

INTERVIEWER 1

Well, it was great to meet you. I
have a meeting in a few minutes,
so...

LILY

Oh. Of course. Thank you for
seeing me.

INTERVIEWER 1

And uh, I know it's not my place
but... you might want to consider
some kind of... therapy.

LILY

Therapy... yes, I... went to a
therapist. Once. It was a chilly
autumn day and I had been
feeling... optimistic.

Interviewer 1 groans and slumps into his chair.

End of scene.