

“Labeled”

Logline: A college student plans a Spring Break road trip from Seattle to San Diego with their group of friends to explore their shifting gender identity when an in-the-closet football player asks to join the trip to build the courage to come out.

Our story begins with RIVER, a college junior who is relatively quiet and thoughtful, looking up at two bathroom signs on their UW Seattle campus. They read a poem about labels in their poetry class, and CASPAR offers feedback. Soon after, River and PIPER, a talkative and optimistic girl who's River's best friend since high school, leave class and talk about their upcoming Spring Break. While River is opposed to Piper's idea of a road trip, they explain they also just want to take time to be alone and deal with their gender dysphoria. River and Piper go to lunch to meet their friends VIRGINIA (kinda the mom friend but is a badass; has a crush on Piper) and LEE (a photography student with a chaotic neutral personality; has feelings for Virginia). They revisit the idea of the road trip, and their friend IZLTA¹ comes to their table and she encourages the group to take their road trip down the west coast to be extras in her film. River is *still* unsure about it all until Caspar privately asks if he and River could get together some night “for ice cream and talking about...stuff” and River's gay little heart explodes and they agree. That night, River and Caspar are enjoying a night wandering around the campus and eating ice cream when Caspar reveals the reason behind his request to talk to River: he admits that he's incredibly in-the-closet and doesn't know how to examine or deal with it safely since his teammates and friends from the football team aren't the most accepting people in the world and even his parents don't know. Figuring that River is a good and trustworthy person, he asks to join the road trip, and River eagerly accepts his request. The next day, after the group is

¹ River, Piper, Virginia, and Lee are a primary friend group, and they're close acquaintances with the Izlta friend group, consisting of her, her boyfriend Andy, and Caspar. River and Piper are familiar/friendly with Caspar, since he's in their poetry class.

informed by River that they agreed to let Caspar join the trip, the other three have a secret meeting with Caspar as a sort of interview to make sure he's honest and has no secret intentions to hurt River. Caspar explains his intentions honestly and earnestly, winning the trust of the group. Now a group of 5, they all go to Iztla's and ANDY's pre-Spring Break party that night to get to know Caspar a bit better.

The next day marks the start to the gang's trip, and Iztla lends them her car to drive down to San Diego so they can leave it at her vacation home and all fly back together. The gang first stops Portland where they meet two locals and go to a gay bar and a rooftop party, where each group member proceeds to have just a shitty time, especially Caspar, who gets harassed by someone at the party for not being out of the closet. The gang stops next in San Francisco where Virginia asks the gang to help set up a surprise date for her and Piper. The group sets up a reservation at a fancy restaurant and tell Piper to meet them all there, not knowing she'll be meeting Virginia there for a date. On her way to the restaurant, Piper is confronted and harassed by two burly men who corner her in an alley near the restaurant. The group finds Piper and fight off the men, getting her back to safety in their hotel. As Piper is having a severe breakdown from the attack, Lee decides to suppress his feelings for Virginia and talk to Piper to calm her down by telling her about the secret date and how much Virginia cares about her. After being inspired by Lee's courage, Caspar tells River of his feelings for them and they begin dating (low key, though). Meanwhile, Andy and Iztla have a rough time working on the film, creating tension. On their last day in SF, the gang goes to Drag On! where River convinces Caspar to try on a red velvet dress, and Caspar purchases the dress in secret. Later, the gang decides to camp on the beach down Big Sur and have a fun night recreating a scene from Iztla's student film. During this scene, River and Caspar perform a scripted kiss between the two characters and reveal to the rest of the group that they're dating. The group goes to a drag bar

in Los Angeles so River can perform in the drag show. After River, the announcer introduces the next queen, and River watches in shock from the audience as Caspar emerges on the stage in the red velvet dress from Drag On! and slay a lip sync performance. River excitedly records the whole thing on their phone and posts it to their private instagram account. The next night, Caspar discovers the posted video and is enraged that River would post this without his permission. During this encounter, Caspar's gentle giant demeanor is replaced with shouting/language that frightens River. Failing to gain Caspar's forgiveness, River watches Caspar pack his things and take a bus back to SF to stay at Andy's house.

The gang is saddened by Caspar's departure, and they try to continue the last leg of their trip only for Iztla's car to break down, stranding them at a roadside motel. Meanwhile at Chez Andy, Andy has an unexpected heartfelt talk with Caspar, talking about his troubles with Iztla and how he thinks just being friends with her would be best. Caspar seizes this moment to come out to Andy and tell him about his relationship(ish) with River. Andy accepts Caspar wholeheartedly, and the two decide to catch a Red Eye flight back to LA. Once back in LA, Andy and Caspar find the gang at a speakeasy where River plays piano and performs "If I Were a Boy," and spots Caspar in the audience as the song ends. They talk outside and apologize, and get back together. The group makes it to San Diego and they arrive at Iztla's summer home where she and Andy agree to be friends. During the filming of a big party scene, River and Caspar kiss on camera, showing for the world that Caspar is proud and safe with who he is. Everyone flies back to Seattle where River supports Caspar as he comes out to his parents via Skype, Virginia and Piper have a real date, and Virginia thanks Lee for supporting her and Piper, prompting Lee to explain that he's found peace by being on his own and surrounded by friends who love him. The film ends with the gang looking up at a beautiful montage of photos Lee took during the trip.