

**SLIGHTLY AWKWARD
ADVENTURES**

First Kiss

By Larry Tanner

My parents named me Larry after some guy from an old television show from a thousand years ago. Something about two women living with a gay guy or a guy pretending to be gay or something. I don't know. With the last name Tanner, I quickly became LT. Here are some of my stories warts and all.

First Kiss

We were all at Drake's house in the back by the pool. It was summer, and most of us were around 12 years old. We swam in the chlorinated water and just did what kids did. All the guys were in the deep end and most of the girls on the side talking and laughing. Eventually, it became a contest of who can get the most attention. Diving from the side became cannonballs. Then that morphed into jumping from a table and eventually from a ladder into the water. The girls knew the score. They paid attention to the guys they liked no matter what they did. I was one of the guys that might as well be invisible. That was except for one girl. I just never noticed how Jennifer followed me with her eyes. She sat with her friends talking to them while watching me.

At some point, the diving became a game of dare. The girls would dare the guys to do insane things from diving back into the pool to getting punched in the gut. One dare changed the mood of the pool. Kristy dared Drake to take his shorts off in the pool. Public nudity. Someone asked how they would know if he did it. So, to prove it he would have to hold the shorts up over his head which she did. This set a high bar. The next dare would either change the tone or end the game. A generic dare went out for the first guy to streak. The girls all turned toward the pool and watched their favorite guy, and they waited and waited, but no one was taking the dare. Our age was the only thing showing.

Soon the fun and games went from dares to a sort of water basketball. I took a hit to the face, and I went to the bottom. I finally found the top where everyone was panicking. I got out

of the pool and everyone gasp. In the fight to the surface and out of the pool my suit slipped and was near my knees. When I got up, I flashed all the girls. I grabbed my suit and slipped back into the pool. When I got out, I ran for a treehouse near the water. It was a shed on a platform in a tree. I sat on a bench wondering if I could ever show my face again. That was when Jennifer came in. She was about the same age as me wearing a one-piece cream-colored suit with multi-colored stripes on the top.

She came up to me and sat on a bench across from me. She didn't say a word she just came in and looked me over. Then she leaned in and kissed me on the lips. I never kissed a girl before, but I thought I would be the one doing the kissing. As she kissed me she slipped and kneed me in the crotch. I don't think it was her plan I just think shit happens. She covered her mouth and ran from the tree shed. I got up and out of the tree. Most of the games had stopped. They sent Jennifer in to see if I was all right. I decided if I couldn't replace my dignity I would do the full epic dare. I dropped my shorts and tossed them on a lounge chair then jumped in the pool. The mood went from somber to crazy. By the end, half of us were sans-suits including some of the girls. For just that moment we were not tweens we were the same children who played in the pool as toddlers in the nude with nothing unnatural about it. Then Drake's parents came home, and the party ended.