

Seventeen

I'll meet you any time you want
we don't have an Italian restaurant
we have a two decade gap
between listening to
a mix tape I made
outside Great Woods
(not Great Woods anymore)
waiting to crawl out of the parking lot
and now, sitting in my favorite bakery
(you like chai too)
reminiscing about mix tapes

which of my memories
do you remember?
front row at a summer stock musical
annoying the actors by singing along
waiting for me in a bar
I wouldn't be able to drink at
around the corner
from the goth club you couldn't get in to

which of your memories
do I remember?
visiting you after you started
your first real job
across the country
Muir Woods
driving with the windows down
and the smell of eucalyptus
under a full moon so bright
its light is still illuminating that night

I started growing my hair out
years ago and hadn't thought of you
for years before that
do you realize
it was short and dyed
black or red
most of the time between
now and when I last
saw you then

how we met is lost
small high school
everyone knew everyone
I remember how
we became friends though
a cast party and
a hundred rides home

we don't have an Italian restaurant
does that song remind you
of me the way it reminds me
of you
I like this
time capsule time travel
feeling like seventeen feeling
even while talking
about twenty seven
thirty seven
my nearly tween
and your niece old enough
to be in grad school
unspooling the threads
of shared memory
and coloring in the years since

the last time I saw you
how we lost touch
is lost too
I'm glad it didn't stay the last time

I'll meet you any time you want

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I'll meet you any time you want
we don't have an Italian restaurant
we have a two decade gap
between listening to
a mix tape I made
outside Great Woods
(not Great Woods anymore)
waiting to crawl out of the parking lot
and now, sitting in my favorite bakery
(you like chai too)
reminiscing about mix tapes

which of my memories
do you remember?
front row at a summer stock musical
annoying the actors by singing along
waiting for me in a bar
I wouldn't be able to drink at
around the corner
from the goth club you couldn't get in to

which of your memories
do I remember?
visiting you after you started
your first real job
across the country
Muir Woods
driving with the windows down
and the smell of eucalyptus
under a full moon so bright
it's light is still illuminating that night

I started growing my hair out
years ago and hadn't thought of you
for years before that
do you realize
it was short and dyed
black or red
most of the time between
now and when I last
saw you then

how we met is lost
small high school
everyone knew everyone
I remember how
we became friends though
a cast party and
a hundred rides home

we don't have an Italian restaurant
does that song remind you
of me the way it reminds me
of you
I like this
time capsule time travel
feeling like seventeen feeling
even while talking
about twenty seven
thirty seven
my nearly tween
and your niece old enough
to be in grad school
unspooling the threads
of shared memory
and coloring in the years since

the last time I saw you
how we lost touch
is lost too
I'm glad it didn't stay the last time

I'll meet you any time you want

V2

Seventeen

I'll meet you any time you want
we don't have an Italian restaurant
we have a two decade gap
between listening to
a mix tape I made
outside Great Woods
(when it used to be Great Woods)
waiting for our turn
to crawl out of the parking lot
and now, sitting in my favorite bakery
(you like chai too)
reminiscing about mix tapes

which of my memories
do you even remember?
front row at a summer stock musical
possibly (probably) annoying the actors
by singing along
waiting for me in a bar
I wouldn't be able to drink at
around the corner
from the goth club you couldn't get in to
in the dress shirt and tie you wore
to maybe? the ballet
(no cell phones; I had to go in to
tell my friends I was bailing -
I hadn't seen you in months)

which of your memories
do I even remember?
visiting you after you started
your first real job
across the country
muir woods
driving with the windows down
and the smell of eucalyptus
under a full moon so bright
it's light is still illuminating that night

I started growing my hair out
a few years ago
hadn't thought of you
for years before that
I wonder if you realize
it was short
dyed black or red
most of the time between
now and when I last
saw you then

how we met is lost
small high school
unmemorable
though I remember
how we became friends
a cast party and
a hundred rides home

we don't have an Italian restaurant
does that song even remind you
of me the way it reminds me
of you
I like this
time capsule time travel
feeling like seventeen feeling
even while talking
about twenty seven
thirty seven
my nearly tween
and your niece old enough
to be in grad school
unspooling the threads
of shared memory
and coloring in the years since

the last time I saw you
how we lost touch
is lost too
I'm glad it didn't stay the last time
I'll meet you any time you want