

'BREAKAWAY'

Written by

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A prequel short to 'FALL UP'

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EXT. STRATOSPHERE / SKY - SUNRISE

OUR POV:

Pitch black. Silence.
Stars puncture space above us.
Sun breaks the warm blue curve of Earth below.
Rushing wind cuts our ears.

We're falling. FAST!

But the stillness, the majesty, overwhelms any fear.
Our eyes drown in a sea of cloud coming up at us.
CLOUD IMPACT in 3 - 2--

--We tear through soft white-out.
The sky opens out.
Across an endless SNOWY MOUNTAIN RANGE rising around a
20,000ft high COLOSSAL SLAB OF ROCK; a GLACIER at it's feet.

Freefalling.

Towards the colossal rock.
Falling feeling like flying.

Soundless grace. Heaven even.
So stunning, it doesn't seem real.

Unencumbered by fate, this freedom feels endless.
Until, we fall below the colossal rock's summit.
And sheer granite walls devour our eyes.
Showcasing our speed. Our fall.

Altimeter alarm BEEPS - 4000ft: OPEN PARACHUTE.
We pull the parachute release cord. It's stuck.
Pulling again. And again.

The glacier racing up at us at 120mph!
Alarm BEEPS quicken - 3000ft.
We pull the reserve 'chute ripcord.

- *That's fucking jammed too?!*

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP - 2000ft.
Yanking the ripcord - it rips clean off!
120mph - 1000ft left.
Out of options; snow charging up at us.
Sound dissolves to the focus of death;
GLACIER IMPACT in 3 - 2--

- *ARRRRGHFUUUUC--*

--Whiteness pulverizes through us into ethereal webs of the
brightest light not of this Earth--

INT. STONE HOUSE - ATTIC APARTMENT - DAWN

--**AVA**, 14, BOLTS AWAKE.
 Panic morphing to a rush. A smirk.
 This isn't a girl death can make cry.
 She gets up off the couch.
 To open the tiny window. Not enough air.

*A cramped studio apartment.
 A kitchenette, toilet, couch and parachute-curtained bed.
 Flying and climbing gear fighting for living space.*

Ava rummages through the apartment.
 A stranger in a strange house.
 She finds a bottle of whiskey, sniffs it; sips it;
 - *EWWW-VILE!* - she sneaks another sip.
 And moves on to the 'bedroom'.

Digging deep under the bed, she finds it;
 A PARACHUTE - her face lights up!

She carries the 'chute back out, in reverence.
 Slips her arms through its shoulder straps.
 And in the mirror, imagines freefall.

Fighting imaginary wind.
 Ready to pull the cord...

And save herself.

TITLE CARD:

BREAKAWAY

EXT. SÍTIO CLIFF - DAWN

*The edge of a 1000ft high headland.
 Overlooking a perfect moon-shaped beach,
 Guarding the fishing town of Nazaré.*

FLASH TITLE: **NAZARÉ, PORTUGAL**

CONT. -- EXT. SÍTIO PIAZZA - DAWN

*A tranquil cobblestoned 7th Century piazza;
 A church heads a square lined by shops and houses.
 Even the birds are asleep.*

SAL, 24, thrashes a bashed-up scooter up into Sítio.
HARPER, 22, hangs off the back, drunk, screaming joy.

Sal kamikaze slaloms them through the piazza.
 Impressing his date, until he buckles the wheels;
 Sending the bike one way and them the other.

They roll around laughing;

HARPER
 OWW-ARGGGH! That bites.

SAL
 No enough, huh?

HARPER
 No? Then, let me come up. I bite
 hard-

SAL
 -no, no. I say you. She is crazy-

Sal's English isn't great. Harper doesn't care.
 She rolls over, up to his face;

HARPER
 -shh, I'll be quiet.
 (kisses Sal to convince him)
 Enough.

They laugh, but Sal's unconvinced.
 He gets up to salvage the scooter.
 Harper gets up; not giving up.
 Sal kick-starts the bike;
 Until it splutters to life.
 Harper jumps on, hijacking the throttle;
 Tearing off around the Piazza...

To pull back up at Sal with a cheeky wink;

HARPER (CONT'D)
 Wanna ride?

Too cute to deny; Sal jumps on.
 Harper rides them a comical 30 meters;
 Across the piazza to a STONE HOUSE.

INT. ATTIC APARTMENT - DAWN

Sal and Harper creep upstairs;
 To find Ava 'flying' in the mirror.
 Sal turns on the light breaking Ava's fantasy.

SAL
 Harper, Ava. Ava, be normal.

Sal leaves Harper to tidy his bedroom.

HARPER
Ava? Sal's told me all about you-

AVA
(mocking Sal)
-Ava, be normal.

Ava 'flies' around the room...
Before crashing Harper onto the couch;

AVA (CONT'D)
(to Sal, re: Harper)
She's uglier than Sofia. Estupido.

HARPER
Sofia?

Sal comes back in.

In ENGLISH (as Regular) / SPANISH (in Italics);

SAL
(to Ava; re: the 'chute)
Take that off.

AVA
No.

Sal pulls Ava to her feet.
Ava fronts him, ready to fight;

HARPER
I should go.

SAL
No.
(to Ava)
Give me the 'chute.
(Ava shakes her head)
Ava?

Sal's 1000 yard stare fixes on Ava.
A grisly bear locked on its prey.
His prey stands firm;

AVA
Make me.

Sal scoffs - *pathetic* - and relaxes--
--Grabbing the 'chute's shoulder strap;
And in one motion pulls Ava towards him;
Spinning her clean out of the harness.

Like tossing a rag doll to the floor.
Harper's frozen to the couch.

Ava gets up - furious, she rushes Sal;
But, he swats her away with ease. A warning.

SAL
You know you won't win.

He's right. Ava backs off.

SAL (CONT'D)
(to Harper; re: Ava)
I say you. Crazy, no?

HARPER
It's ok, I'm gonna go.

SAL
No.
(to Ava; re: the couch)
Go to bed.

AVA
Fine.

Ava runs behind the curtain into Sal's bed.
Seeing red, Sal launches after Ava;
Harper jumps up, holding him back.

SAL
(shouting at Ava)
*You wanna go back to where I found
you?*

AVA
Why'd you come looking? No one
wanted you back.

Low blow! Harper sees Sal's hurt.
Ava freezes. Sensing it.

SAL
Out.

HARPER
Come out, Ava.

Ava does - Harper marshals her aside.
Sal heads behind the curtain to finish tidying.
Harper tries to calm Ava.

AVA
(to Sal)
I'm not scared to jump.
(no response)
I know how to jump.

SAL (O.C.)
Then put the leg straps on first.

Ava tries a guilt trip;

AVA
You said you'd teach me when we got here.

SAL
When you're old enough. You're too young to know what you-

AVA
-know what? You pull the pull thing. Any idiot can do it-

SAL
-to know what you're jumping for.

Sal comes back out with the 'chute.

AVA
Then why'd you lie to me?

SAL
Why'd you think?

Sal zips up the 'chute in a GEAR BAG.

AVA
Because you're crazy.

SAL
Because sometimes the only way to save family is to lie to them.

Sal kills the light.
And takes Harper to bed.
Leaving Ava all alone.

AVA
(to herself)
I don't wanna be saved.