

'FALL UP'

by

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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.
A sunrise-tinged panorama of cumulonimbus skyscrapers.
A breathtaking Midtown-New-York-made-of-clouds.
Our fall levels into flight.
Twisting. Turning. Diving.

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

Gravity dips us through the cloud base.
To an endless, perfect, still ocean.
Clouds dissipate to a mirror-image-sky.

We float.

Through a void of infinite blue.
Breathless stasis.

The sun burns through our musing.
As the sky closes back in.
We're flying. Across an ocean runway.
A coastline approaching. Too fast.
Its steep SAND-BANKED MOUNTAIN WALL a tsunami of rock
barreling towards us.
CERTAIN DEATH in 3 - 2--

We fly UP the mountain wall!
Rock rushing beneath us.
Wind screeching our ears.
Flying up, the world flips us around.

Into FREEFALL!

Plummeting towards a SNOWY MOUNTAIN RANGE rising around a
20,000ft high COLOSSAL SLAB OF ROCK; a GLACIER at it's feet.
Sheer granite walls swallow our eyes.

- *What's that dot? Coming up at us?*

Altimeter alarm BEEPS - 4000ft: OPEN PARACHUTE.
 We pull the parachute release cord. It's stuck.
 Pulling again. And again.
 Alarm BEEPS quicken - 3000ft.
 We pull the reserve 'chute ripcord.
 - *That's fucking jammed too?!*
 BEEP, BEEP, BEEP - 2000ft.

- *Is that dot-- THAT'S A PERSON?!*
 - *Who's--Falling up at us?*

Yanking the ripcord - it rips clean off!
 120mph - 1000ft left.
 The person is a **MAN**, clawing air.
 Locked on to collide--pulverize us, in 3 - 2--
 - *ARRRRGHFUUUUC--*

CUT TO BLACK:

TITLE CARD:

INVINCIBLE

INT. APARTMENT, DUBAI MARINA (D.M.) - NIGHT

*Two bedrooms. 18th floor.
 A balcony view of other skyscrapers.
 Basic furnishings. But, full of life.*

The living room filling with bodies.
 Smiling. Laughing. Dancing.
 Parachute 'clouds' hang from every ceiling.

GABE, 28, dances around with a strobe light.
 It's Gabe's birthday. Tonight, he's 'the Man'!
 And not just 'cause of his awesome rainbow unicorn onesie and
 his signature flip-flops.
 Gabe is infectious joy. Everyone loves Gabe.

This clique of onesie'd humans know how to let loose.
 How to live and love for the moment.
 'Cause almost everyone's a flyer, or lunatic.

Gabe hands-off the strobe; dancing off into his bedroom.

INT. GABE & AVA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gabe finds his CREW, crowding a dresser, with **AVA**, 24;
 An all-or-nothing-Latin-firework, in a dragon onesie.
 Gabe and Ava were born to hold onto each other.
 Their love colors them both.

Gabe hugs, kisses Ava, as she's about to show their CREW;
A 6 x 2ft banner of FLIGHT ROUTES, MAPS, PHOTOS, and NOTES.
A mad web of flying dreams, titled: 'FLY FREE PROJECT'.

THE CREW:

Ava's best friend; **QING**, 48: wild-eyed female Chinese pilot.

LUNA: Italian flying instructor.

FABI: Brazilian flying instructor. Luna's love.

DIDIER: French flyer, cameraman.

JAAKO: Norwegian BASE jumper.

And **STEVIE**: Gabe's young husky dog.

Gabe's kiss makes Ava forgets the others - Luna tugs on Ava;

LUNA

Come on Ava, stop gluing to him-

AVA

(rolls open the FLY FREE banner)

-ok, ok, ok. The plan, our plan is
 to fly seven of the world's
 toughest jumps. We start in Norway.
 Then Socotra, Russia, Antartica,
 Gabe's Trango mountain in Pakistan,
 Hong Kong and we finish in China.

DIDIER

Antartica?! Who's sponsoring this?

GABE

We've been saving.

QING

How much?

AVA

Right now? We can get to the
 airport.

They all laugh - with Ava and Gabe, not at them.

Ava looks to Gabe, adoring him.

The others scour the banner; eyes devouring details.

GABE

I'm telling you, all we need-

JAAKO

-dudie, this is like, whatever
 drink company's jizzy wet dream.

QING

Jaako right. Sell souls.

GABE

But, then it's not pure is it?
 (re: picture of Gabe on the mountain
 in **JUMP 5: PAKISTAN**)
 We worked our arses off for one
 summer back home to climb that. No
 deals. No interviews. Living free.

JAAKO

When d'you jump that?

GABE

Climbed it. Couldn't jump it.
 Weather forced us down. But, it's
 phenomenal. I can't wait to show-

DIDIER

(re; **JUMP 1: NORWAY**)
 -WHOA-WHOA-ATTENDEZ! You wanna land
 on ice? Without using a parachute?

AVA

I can do it. I've calculated-

GABE

-we can. We will. We just level out
 low, glide'n'slide in. The ice is
 frictionless.

FABI

Meu Deus, no way?!

JAAKO

That's gold standard shit, bro.

QING

Qing concern. No 'chute?

AVA

Well, Gabe said we'll wear 'chutes,
 in case of an abort. But really,
 it's practice for my final jump.

LUNA

There's a more 'final' jump?

Ava looks to Gabe; he nods - *Tell them.*

AVA

(re; **JUMP 7: CHINA - 'FALL UP'**)
 The 'Bird Conquers World Jump'. As
 Gabe calls it. This one's without a
 'chute. A 1500ft exit point.
 (hand mimes her 'Fall Up' jump:)
 (MORE)

AVA (CONT'D)

I dive down. Hit terminal velocity.
Level out. Skim across the lake.
Pull up, flying up the other cliff
face. Until I hit inertia just as I
peak the summit. And step off onto
the cliff to land. Like a bird.

Collective disbelief - bar, Gabe and Ava.

LUNA

Just...

AVA

Fly.

LUNA

Like a bird?

(Ava nods; certain)

I know our naked BASE jumps were
risky, but that's not risky, that's-

FABI

-this is insane, Ava-

AVA

-but no harness burns this time.

Ava, Luna, Fabi and Jaako laugh; old memories.

DIDIER

Ava, if your calculations are wrong
by even one inch, you'll-

GABE

-she'll nail it. She will.

Gabe's adoring smile makes Ava feel whole.

SAL, 34, a Latin devil in his eyes, barges in;

SAL

What're you-- Oh. The 'Hate Life'
list. All no's. Come on guys, let's-

JAAKO

-they're not all no, no, though.

SAL

(pointing at the **JUMPS: from 1 - 5**)
Probably paralysis - die getting
there - ok, doable - die broke
trying - die climbing.

(re: **JUMP 6 & 7: HONG KONG & CHINA**)

And, HA, 100% DIE - and death wish
granted. Fun suicide holiday.

GABE

The whole point of the trip are the last two jumps. Fly through a city to 'wake people up'. And then show them they can dream the impossible.

QING

Sal's dream. Is suicide.

SAL

Banzai? Sure. At least I admit it.

DIDIER

What's banzai? Kung-fu-falling?

JAAKO

Dumber. He's gonna throw a 'chute out of a plane. Then jump after it.

DIDIER

HA! For Sal, this is perfect, no?

LUNA

Don't kill our dreams, Sal.

SAL

(re: their apartment)

This is the dream. You live in skydiving nirvana and we have a party to blow up. What are you killing? Not the dance floor, huh?

QING

Dancing dreaming. Good point.

Qing leads the Crew back into the living room.

SAL

Thank you Ms. Qing Yong. Some sense from us oldies.

Ava tapes the FLY FREE banner up on the wall. Proud. Gabe gives Stevie some love...Then Ava.

GABE

You've got it wrong, Sal. A life worth living needs something-

SAL

-needs something worth losing, I know. The curse of my life. Sadly. Now, stop doting'n'start dancing.

Ava glues to Gabe's side as they follow Sal out to party.

LATER.. -- INT. KITCHEN / BALCONY - NIGHT

*Every room's packed with partying bodies.
Even Stevie mooches about with ear defenders on.*

NOYA, 30, smoking hot, chats up Sal as he makes cocktails.

SAL

No, I hate jumping. But, I have to.

NOYA

Then why teach it?

SAL

I'm saving up. To open a jump school in Brasil. Where there's not much to jump off.

NOYA

I've never jumped.

SAL

It's fun. I've had clients jump once, land and go get a divorce.

Noya looks to **MANNI**, talking with Gabe and Ava.
Sal's eyes follow hers.

NOYA

I don't need to jump to do that.
(cozying up to Sal)
Why don't you take me up?
(getting between Sal and his drinks)
Being strapped to you, surrendering
my will to your hands? Now that,
sounds like fun.

Sal rubs his knuckles into the counter.
Like a meat grinder.
Noya motions to his bedroom.
Sal slips her advances, diving into his bedroom.
Only to reemerge, strapping on his parachute.
Noya watches Sal charge the dance floor for the balcony.

JAAKO

(shouting over the crowd)
AVA?! STU, BALCONY!

Ava detaches from Gabe - running to the balcony;
Intercepting Sal, before he jumps!

AVA

Calma Stu, calma. Where you going?
(cradle Sal's face in her hands)

SAL
Huh?...Erm...We need ice.

AVA
There's loads. In the freezer.

Sal looks to the kitchen. Noya's watching.

AVA (CONT'D)
Manni's wife, again?
(Sal nods)
Ok, calma. I've got it.

Ava takes Sal back to the kitchen.
And drags Noya onto the dance floor.

LATER.. -- INT. LIVING ROOM / BALCONY - NIGHT

The apex of the party.
Unity. Synergy. Love. Everywhere.

Ava's dancing with Luna, Fabi, Jaako and Qing.
All lost in music. In bliss.
Ava spots Gabe, chatting on the balcony, watching.
She winks at him - He fakes being knocked back;
As Ava surrenders to the rhythm.
Gabe can't take his eyes off her - *WOW!*
Drawn to her magnet - *Deep breath.*
He walks in, onto the dance floor, up to Ava;

AVA
(dancing with Gabe)
Where have you been?

GABE
(into Ava's ear)
You do know that...

AVA
You love me?

GABE
That...There are plenty of mistakes
in the world...But, no accidents.
(gets down on one knee)
I love you. Will you marry me?

Ava FREEZES...Bug-eyed!
Everyone around them slows, to see if this is real?
As Gabe pulls a RING BOX from his pocket;

AVA
YES!

THE CROWD GOES WILD!
 Ava dives down, kissing, hugging Sal.
 Sal picks her up, swinging her round.
 Claps - Cheers - Stevie howls!
 Sal puts Ava down, to put a RING on her finger.
 It's a bit big, but Ava loves it!
 The unicorn and dragon, kiss. Forever.

INT. LIVING ROOM / BALCONY - SUNRISE

Sal exits his bedroom. Plain-clothed.
 He scans the apartment. The music's low.
 Party stragglers, refusing to end.
 Sal pulls Gabe out of a conversation;
 Gabe listens to his plea - laughs - then warns Sal.

BALCONY:

Manni's on the balcony with a GIRL.
 Gabe and Sal interject their deep & meaningful.

MANNI
 (to Gabe)
 My brother. You seen Noya?

GABE
 I think she left. Huh, Sal?

Sal shrugs; Manni's upset; Gabe hugs him;

GABE (CONT'D)
 Sunrise dips wipe away the blues.

MANNI
 You wanna jump now?
 (Gabe and Sal smile)
 Haha, yeah! I'll call my pilot.

Manni mood lifts. He makes the call.
 Gabe reaffirms his warning to Sal with a look.

INT. GABE & AVA'S BEDROOM - SUNRISE

Ava's asleep in her dragon onesie, under duvet.
 Gabe sneaks in - his flip-flops SQUEAK with each step.

AVA
 Squeak. Squeak. No squeak.

GABE
 You love them.

Ava shakes her head, as Gabe bends down to her.

GABE (CONT'D)

I love them. So now, you have to.

Ava wags her ring finger 'no'.

Gabe leans in, sniffing her. Ava opens her eyes.

They sniff each other. Dogs in heat.

GABE (CONT'D)

Hi...Mrs. Waters.

(Ava's face lights up!)

(re: FLY FREE banner)

At least we don't have to plan our
honeymoon.

(Ava beams; closes her eyes)

I'm gonna make all your dreams come
true, Mrs. Waters. Our love's gonna
wake up the world. They'll see.

Gabe kisses her - gets up to leave - waking Ava;

AVA

Then, where you going?

GABE

Gotta save Stu. A quick dip.

(Ava's concerned)

I got it. Sleep.

AVA

(lifting up the duvet)

Stay.

GABE

OHHH! Strip club dragon?

Gabe dives under; tearing kisses into her skin.

Unicorn-dragon-rolling-around; sexing, laughing.

Ava tries to trap him in duvet.

But Gabe finds a way out - squeaking away.

GABE (CONT'D)

In a bit. And DON'T clean anything.

Sal's doing it. All of it.

AVA

Squeak. Squeak.

Gabe dances on his squeaky flip-flops; like castanets;

GABE

Spanish squeaking.

Gabe laughs as he leaves.

Making Ava laugh as she closes her eyes.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SUNRISE

Gabe exits his bedroom. Closes the door.
 Sal has two 'chutes ready.
 Manni motions to leave them - *He has everything.*
 Manni, Sal and Gabe's unicorn squeak out the door.
 The stragglers carry on not leaving.
 A beat..
 Noya creeps out of Gabe's bedroom. To sneak out.

INT. D.M. APARTMENT - MORNING

Ava wakes.
 The apartment's empty. Bar the mess.
 Ava starts cleaning.
 She notices the ring on her finger.
 She can't believe it...Then does.

I/E. LIVING ROOM / BALCONY - MORNING

Half the place cleaned into trash bags.
 Ava takes her coffee to the balcony.
 Her ring chimes on the mug - *That's new.*
 Beaming with love, Ava puts the mug down.
 Faces the view, arms outstretched.
 Closes her eyes and turns 180°.
 Her back held by the railing.
 She raises up on her toes. Opens her eyes.
 Leaning back over the edge at her strip of sky.
 'Falling up' into blue.
 She inhales life, pushing her arms out wide.
 Smiling.
 Her ring slips her finger, sliding off--
 --FALLING - 18 FLOORS!
 Ava spins round - *NOOOO--WHERE'D-IT?!--*
 The horror on Ava's face is real.
 She sprints out of the apartment--

INT. APT. BUILDING - ELEVATORS / STAIRS - MORNING

--Ava presses elevator buttons - *Taking too long.*
 She runs to the EMERGENCY EXIT.
 Hurtling herself down stairs.

EXT. APT. BUILDING - STREET - MORNING

Ava runs outside the building.
 Searching anywhere. Everywhere. Frantic!
 Wandering out into beeping cars.
 She steps back on the sidewalk. Aghast.