

EXT. SUSPENSION BRIDGE

perched 300 feet high above a rocky gorge, a suspension bridge made solely from wood, sways slightly in wind. The bridge is the only way across, and BEAU and his friend EMMA, are faced with the extraordinary challenge of making it across the bridge before their bus leaves them behind. The rest of their class is already on the other side and BEAU elected to stay behind to help MARY cross. MARY is extremely afraid of heights. Time is running out and they need to get across fast. The sun is starting to go down, but EMMA won't budge. They are stuck in the middle of the bridge alone. The wind is beginning to pick up as well.

BEAU  
But you said you wanted to face  
your fears.

EMMA  
I didn't mean like this.

## THE SUSPENSION

by

STEFANO DIMATTEO

FICITON

BEAU  
Just don't look down ok.

EMMA  
Ahhh... Too late.

EMMA grabs tightly to the rope handles on the bridge. She is frozen and cannot or will not move!

BEAU  
Remember when we signed up for  
this, you were like, "This will be  
great. Terrifying but great!" And  
you kept going on about how you  
would conquer your fear of  
heights.

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CONTINUED:

EMMMA

Gobblygook. Nonsense. I've come realize that the stuff you say when your feet are firmly planted on the ground, is nothing like the stuff you say when your swaying on a rickety old bridge 300 feet over your rocky and imminent death below.

BEAU

Come on Emma, you're over exaggerating.

EMMMA

I'm exaggerating. Really?

BEAU

Yes you're exaggerating. We've gone through the terrifying part. Now we need to move onto the GREAT part! I mean look around you, its beautiful up here. The trees. The rocky cliff side. Smell that fresh air, it will make you feel like a whole new person. We're up so high, I almost feel like a bird. I feel like I can fly.

EMMMA

(terrified)

I recommend not looking down then, or you may have to learn how to fly in a hurry bird man.

BEAU

OK now why would I do something silly like that.

And just as BEAU says that, he looks down. A sudden and paralyzing fear takes hold of his Body. He too becomes frozen, and clings for dear life to very the rope EMMA holds on to.

BEAU (CONT'D)

OH GOD. OH GOD. OH GOD. WE'RE GONNA DIE. WE'RE GONNA DIE. DEAR GOD I'M TO YOUNG TO DIE.

A crack can be heard on one of the wooden boards beneath their feet.

BEAU (CONT'D)

What was that?!?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BEAU  
(reluctantly)  
Got it.

They both start to move tentatively at first. Then after a few feet Emma's confidence begins to rise. She is emboldened by her ability to help her friend. A smile comes to her face. This is not so bad after all.

She looks at BEAU

EMMMA  
Thanks BEAU. You did it.

BEAU is still a bit shaky on his legs.

BEAU  
Did what?

EMMMA  
Help me conquer my fear of heights.

BEAU  
Great! That's just great for you.  
Now who's gonna help me with mine.

EMMA smiles gently. She knows exactly what to do.

EMMMA  
Look around you BEAU. The trees.  
The rocky cliff side. Smell that  
air. I feel like a new person up  
here.

BEAU  
Its Terrifying.

EMMMA  
Its GREAT!!!

They exit slowly from the bridge.

FADE TO BLACK.



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BEAU

But you said you wanted to face your fears.

EMMA

I didn't mean like this.

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by

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EMMA

I didn't think that part through exactly.

FICITON

BEAU

Just don't look down ok.

EMMA

Ahhh... Too late.

EMMA grabs tightly to the rope handles on the bridge. She is frozen and cannot or will not move.

BEAU

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BEAU

But you said you wanted to face  
your fears.

EMMA

I didn't mean like this.

BEAU

And how exactly did you intend on  
facing your fear of heights  
without actually going up in  
height.

EMMA

I didn't think that part through  
exactly.

BEAU

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(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

2.

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BEAU (CONT'D)

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(CONTINUED)



EMMMA

Freeze. Stop Moving. You're gonna get us killed.

BEAU

I don't wanna die. And Emma, I don't know if you know this, but I really can't fly.

EMMMA

No kidding. Really? OK, relax. It's gonna be OK. We just need to relax.

BEAU

I'm relaxed.

He is completely not relaxed. He has started to sweat.

BEAU (CONT'D)

I think I'm gonna throw up!

EMMMA

Oh no your not. We're getting off this bridge if its the last thing we do. Now slowly. Move one foot in front of the other.

BEAU

I can't Em. I can't move. My legs won't budge.

EMMMA

Look me in the eyes. We're gonna do this together. From here on in we don't look down. Focus on my eyes.

Another creak is heard underneath their feet.

EMMMA (CONT'D)

Its now or never.

BEAU

Never wasn't really an option was it?

EMMMA

No it wasn't. One foot at a time alright. I will face you and you will face me. This way neither of us will look down again. Got it?

(CONTINUED)

BEAU  
(reluctantly)  
Got it.

They both start to move tentatively at first. Then after a few feet Emma's confidence begins to rise. She is emboldened by her ability to help her friend. A smile comes to her face. This is not so bad after all.

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