

The Way Up

by  
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## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Callie, F. 18

Thinking she likes girls now.

Sam, F. 18

Doesn't feel much like a girl anymore.

Randy, M. 17

Good at everything but courage. Has a secret.

Dan, M. 45

Used to think life was an adventure.

## SETTING

A construction site in Boise, Idaho.

## TIME

Summer. 2015. The kids just graduated high school. Early morning. Close to sunrise.

Notes:

A slash (/) indicates where the next speech begins.

Text in parentheses ( ) is unspoken.

A construction site for a new building in Boise, Idaho.  
CALLIE, RANDY and SAM climb.

CALLIE

Help me up. I'm losin my second wind.

RANDY

We should quit. It's getting dangerous.

SAM

Don't be a pussy.

CALLIE

Pussies are tough, Sam.

SAM

Don't be an asshole then Randy.

RANDY

What are you a bro now?

SAM

And what if I was?

CALLIE

Help me. Oof. Careful!

SAM

Easy with the Twinkies, then.

CALLIE

You did NOT just--

RANDY

Are there still Twinkies?

SAM

Shut up. Yes. I don't know.

CALLIE

They got bought out but they're still around.

SAM  
You would know!

RANDY  
Oh that's good/ news--

Fuck you Sam!

CALLIE

Knock it off guys!

RANDY

We're not guys.

CALLIE

Sorry.

RANDY

Come on, we're getting close.

SAM

We're already so high.

RANDY

Not yet we're not.

CALLIE

I am.

SAM

I meant off the ground.

RANDY

Me too.

SAM

She starts giggling. A lot. Callie does too.

RANDY  
Careful. I don't wanna laugh -- seriously I'll fall!

SAM  
Breathe...

CALLIE  
Okay, breathe...

They try breathing. They laugh harder.

Guys! RANDY

We're not--(guys). CALLIE

Sorry, geez. RANDY

Laughter stops. They keep climbing.  
Randy looks like he might have a panic attack.

It's okay Randy. CALLIE

You're okay. We're okay. SAM

Randy breathes, gets control of himself, keeps climbing.

What's this gonna be, anyway? CALLIE

SAM RANDY  
Apartments? Offices.

A bank, I bet. CALLIE

Just what we need more of. SAM

Whew. Listen-- CALLIE

City gets quieter and quieter... SAM

RANDY  
I can taste my lunch up here. I can't take this.

SAM  
Come on, we all have to touch the top or it won't count.

RANDY  
You keep changing the rules and I have homework.

SAM  
You asshole, we graduated!

RANDY  
College prep!

SAM  
It's summer!

CALLIE  
Sam, I don't really mind if it's just us two makin it all the way.

SAM  
Callie sweetheart, you're sexy as hell, but we all have to do this.

CALLIE  
Fine. Come on, Randy. I'll give you an A for the day.

RANDY  
I can't get As in summer.

CALLIE  
OH MY GOD! You can't get in trouble, either.

RANDY  
Says who? We're trespassing!

CALLIE  
I say. It's Boise. Middle of the night. SUNDAY NIGHT. NOBODY is out.  
Nobody cares. Nobody's calling your parents.

RANDY  
They know. I'm sure they know--

CALLIE  
You're eighteen!

RANDY  
Seventeen.

SAM  
I'll protect you from your big bad daddy.

RANDY  
Shut up.

CALLIE

Shit...is that the sun--(rise?)

SAM

Only gettin better, babe. Come on. Ten minutes till perfection.

CALLIE

Bet we make it sooner than that.

SAM

The two of us maybe, but--

RANDY

This is the dumbest way to commemorate somebody.

SAM

Fuck you.

CALLIE

Quit it!

SAM

You agreed it was right. We all did. You promised!

RANDY

What'll it do? Won't change anything.

CALLIE

Shut up. Stay focused.

RANDY

He'll still be dead.

CALLIE

She.

RANDY

Whatever.

SAM

But we'll see where she was last. We'll see the last thing she saw.

RANDY

Who cares? Alex was an asshole.



Was not!  
CALLIE

RANDY  
Asshole enough to leave.  
Asshole enough to decide he's gay, leave you, turn you gay and then decide he's a she--

CALLIE  
AssHOLE! Shut UP! That's not how/ it works!

RANDY  
So of course he's gonna get upset and do something dumb like / WHAT WE'RE DOING  
RIGHT NOW!

CALLIE  
Stop or I'll push--

SAM  
WHOA, OKAY you two! We all loved Alex. Even asshole Randy.  
We have to stay calm. Concentrate. Three more levels.

RANDY  
I'm staying right here.

DAN  
(from below)  
HEY WHO'S UP THERE!

RANDY  
Fuck!

CALLIE  
Who's that!

SAM  
Asshole with a megaphone.

RANDY  
We're fucked! I'm screwed!

SAM  
Might as well go all the way now.

RANDY  
Yeah right?!

CALLIE

We're all fucked now, Randy. Let's say goodbye to Alex.

RANDY

...Fine.

SAM

Atta friend.

DAN

YOU KIDS COME DOWN NOW, IT'S NOT SAFE!

A flashlight spotlights them.

CALLIE

Hey look, he's lighting our path!

SAM

Quick. Two more stories. Come on, babe, you can make it.

CALLIE

I'm doin fine.

DAN

THAT'S IT, I'M CALLIN THE COPS!

SAM

YOU GO AHEAD, ASSHOLE! OUR BEST FRIEND JUST THREW HERSELF OFFA YOUR FUCKING BUILDING! LIFE CAN'T GET ANY WORSE FOR US!

DAN

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE.

SAM

Made it!

CALLIE

Made it.

RANDY

Made it--

They all touch the top of the highest beam.

SAM

Bye, friend.

Their pockets are full of photos. Love letters. Hearts.  
They hold them out, holding on.

Now one, two three:

SAM

They rip up everything in their hands.  
They toss it like confetti and watch it fall down.

I can't believe he just. She just--.

CALLIE

RANDY

I know.

SAM

Love you guys. Don't you ever...

CALLIE

RANDY

Deal.

Yeah.

CALLIE

Gawd, this city...

RANDY

I know. I can see forever.

SAM

The sprawl goes to infinity...

CALLIE

Ugh.

SAM

K. Let's go before guy down there has a heart attack.

CALLIE

We're comin, friend! Don't have a heart attack!

DAN

POLICE ARE ON THEIR WAY!

CALLIE

SAM

Fuck.

Shit.

RANDY

Oh well.

Let's go.

CALLIE

Hey, I think, I'm gonna stay up here a minute longer. Keep them busy a sec?

RANDY

Yeah, buddy. Sure.

SAM

Love you, Randy.

CALLIE

One hellofa sunrise.

RANDY

Toldya.

SAM

Sam and Callie climb down. Randy watches the view.  
 He gathers up courage.  
 Stands to full height, holding the framing bars behind him.  
 And leans out into the night.  
 He gives a giant, gruesome, animal yell.

CALLIE  
 (from below)

Randy?!

Looks like he might puke.  
 He bends over the city, holding on tight, all nausea.

RANDY

Uhhhh...

And then he is all clarity, stillness, calm.  
 He stands to full height, terror dripping away.

RANDY

I. Am. Watching the dawn.

He dangles out one foot.

RANDY

I'm walking. Into the dawn.

And then his grip starts to loosen.  
One hand falls slack. He's holding on by fingers.

RANDY

I am the dawn...

He breathes in. Closes eyes. Braces for--  
The sound of yells/shrieks/guttural cries bolt him back.  
Randy's grip on the beam claws tighter.  
But still just one hand holding on.  
Behind him, in front of him, all around?  
A shadow of a person, people, a hundred crowds,  
leaping off, falling, flying.  
Randy watches the figure(s). Awe/melt/blown.  
He watches all life collide with pavement.  
His breath is outside him. He nearly loses his grip.  
It takes a moment, or maybe twelve moments,  
but once he finds air again:

RANDY

Miss you. Love you. Always, loved you. Don't think I can make it, without you...

A snap of wind. Sirens. He pulls himself back, out of his  
trance, to the frame. Two hands gripping. He looks down.

CALLIE

(from far down)

YOU OKAY RANDY?!

RANDY

I think so?

From below, where the shadow figures fell/flew,  
shadows of birds flock upward.  
We hear/see them as Randy starts his climb down,  
one steady footfall after another,  
following Sam and Callie.

END OF PLAY