

MY GREATEST FEAR

By Shawn Deal

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A Comedic/Dramatic Monologue

By Shawn Deal

SYNOPSIS: There is no thrill too big. No fear that can't be conquered, yet for our narrator, it seems to be impossible to talk to a girl and ask her out.

TIME: Present

SETTING: High School Hallway

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 male)

NARRATOR (m)..... Teenager

SET: Bare stage

PRODUCTION NOTES: This can be done very simply: bare stage, no costuming and no props.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: The focus of the main character is his indecisiveness when asking Laura out. The difficulty he is having in making this decision (the agonizing back and forth) needs to be shown effectively. At the beginning, truly sell his need for the thrill. Have him be really animated in his actions. Jump up and down. Pretend to do a dive. You could even have a wooden box on set to help sell his willingness to jump off things. Have him bounce around to demonstrate the trampoline. This can be a super active part. It's only when he starts discussing his greatest fear that the character slows down and becomes introspective. He can be dressed for school, whatever that looks like; a letterman jacket or baseball cap can help with that.

NARRATOR: I'm fearless.

Straight out. I'm fearless. There's only one thing that has ever scared me.

I'll get to that in a moment.

I'm an adrenaline junky. Always have been. I was one of those kids that jumped off everything. I think I started jumping off the couch at two and then my bed. My parents got me a trampoline in the back yard when I was like four. I jumped on that thing every night, jumped and jumped and jumped, as high as I could get, until I finally just wore it out.

The feeling of free fall was what I was after. No matter how fleetingly short it was, that single moment of free fall was what I was going for.

Obviously, I was addicted to that thrill and I couldn't stop right there.

Two years ago, my parents finally let me go bungee jumping. Oh what a thrill. The rush was greater than anything I ever experienced before. I jumped off this bridge with just a cord, kind of a really strong rubber band, tied to my ankles. I was there with my best friend, Lee.

Lee is one of those great friends that is willing to do anything with you, even if he is not up for it. Going bungee jumping was a birthday present from my parents. I had only been bugging them about it for ten years. I think they finally let me do it more to shut me up than anything else.

Stepping off that bridge, suspended over the river, was a moment of total freedom.

It certainly beat the roller coasters that were my typical birthday. I've done bungee jumping about ten times since then.

This year, I got to go skydiving. Now, admittedly, I was strapped to a professional jumper, but that rush beat the bungee jump by a thousand times. There is nothing I wouldn't do to feel a natural rush like that.

See, I don't jump at horror films. I don't get scared if someone is hiding behind a door and leaps out at me and screams. Nothing like that scares me. Nothing at all. I'm impossible to scare.

However, no matter how brave I appear to be... no matter how fearless I look or feel about myself, I do have a fear. Everyone has a fear.

As humans, we have two natural fears—loud noises and heights. It's are just two things that everyone's body naturally is affected by.

Everyone jumps to a loud noise. And everyone gets a sense of vertigo if they are very high up in the air and look down. The human body has a natural response to both of those things.

Now granted, you can condition yourself out of having a fright response to either of those. But, mind you, you would have to condition yourself out of them. They were inherently part of you from the beginning.

Any other fear a person may have is one that has been self-taught or environmentally influenced. You know, like the fear of certain insects, like spiders, or fear of a shark or bear. The mind really is the enemy that messes with you and allows you to be scared of this or that. Like being scared of the dark. No one is really scared of the dark. We are scared of what might be in the dark. We are scared of what is in the dark that we can't prepare for or defend ourselves against.

Seemingly, everyone has at least one of these fears that our mind has created for us. Simply by the act of growing up, we come into contact with various things, events... not all of them pleasant.

Like hey, this animal just bit me. I'm going to have to be more careful in the future with such animals, whatever that animal may be, just as an example.

I am not immune to this. I have a fear. It is my one and only fear up until this moment in my life. So, it easily could be described as my greatest fear.

(Takes a deep breath.). My greatest fear... It's hard for me to say. *(Takes another deep breath to compose himself.)*. My greatest fear is asking Laura Fellman to prom.

Why should I be scared to ask her? I'm not scared of a dozen things that could possibly kill me, but asking Laura out on a date is the single most terrifying thing I've ever considered doing.

Can you believe that?

I can't even believe it.

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