

### After the Fall

Happiness is like a snapshot frozen in time, out of focus in remembrance, moments never attained again. Water caressing the sun kissed skin, the silence broken by slashing and peals of laughter. Jenny screaming, "Jump higher, stop being your being a girl!" Billy looks over at his brother Fred's girl friend with lust in his eye. With a fourteen year old foolishness he goes ever higher. "This is stupid. Why am I doing this?" Knobby knees shaking, "This will never work, no matter how high I jump it will not impress her." These noble thoughts are ignored as the raging hormones once again sneak a peek at Jenny's bikini top. Maybe Jenny will finally look past the ginger's bane, the gangly shape, and the pimple rough face.

"I can't believe that I had to bring Billy on this trip. This was supposed to be the night!" Fred thinks as he sneaks yet another peak at Jenny. "He has to be adopted, how can someone be so pale?" "Oh leave him alone Fred, Jump higher Billy!" Jenny shouts, while at the same time wondering how many times she has to put up with Fred looking down her top. Billy jumps and makes a girlish scream while falling, "I should have spent the weekend with my friends shopping", Jenny thinks to herself. "I need to show these boys how it is done" she thinks while elbowing Fred in the ribs and wades out into deeper water to the tallest rock. She passes Billy on the way and wishes that he was just a little bit older, he is kind of cute. As she climbs the rock she notices Billy looking at her, and strangely she doesn't mind. But she breaks out laughing when Billy turns red with embarrassment when he sees that he is caught. "Oh my God, he is turning as red as his hair" Jenny thinks while climbing higher.

"Don't climb so high Jenny!" Fred shouts. He would go up and stop her if he was not so afraid of heights.

"Be careful where you jump from. There are rocks on the bottom of the water Jenny!" Billy yells. If she heard him it was too late, he can't help but stare at her as she falls. She hits the water and goes under. After a few seconds pass Billy calls out "Jenny?" "She is only messing with you Billy." Fred calls out, "Just ignore her". But Billy doesn't think so, he swims towards the spot where she landed and notices blood on the surface of the water. "Jenny!" He shrieks and dives after her. He finds her right under the surface, both legs at weird angles, blood coming from both ears, and a pale white bone protruding from her right arm. Billy drags her towards the shore where Fred is shouting "What happened!" "What are we going to do?" "Do something dammit". "Get all of the towels and then go get help Fred!" With the towels he cuts up and tries to wrap up all of the wounds that he can find. After performing CPR for what felt like ages she coughs up water and gasps for air. "You're okay Jenny, Fred went for help, try not to move" "I can't feel my legs Billy" "Why can't I feel my legs?" "Shhh just take it easy we will get you fixed up in no time" Billy says while looking at his watch.

Hours have passed and still no help arrives. "Don't leave me, don't go" Jenny whispers. "I have to get you help, you have lost so much blood Jenny" Billy says. "She is so pale" he thinks to himself "Where is Fred!". "Billy, you are so much cuter then your brother" she gasps and then passes away.

Night has fallen and the silence is broken by the sound of a sheriff's car approaching the river. Car doors slam and flash lights pierce the darkness and fall on Billy Cradling the fist love of his life.

"Son you have to let her go, she is dead" the sheriff urges. "Your brother Fred has been in a serious car accident. He may not survive the night." But still no words can penetrate Billy's world. He just sits there and holds on to the one that he loves. Hoping beyond hope that he could have the chance to tell her how he really feels about her.