

BALANCING ACT

by Japheth Gordon

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - BEDSIDE

TAYLOR (14) holding back tears, looks over the UNCONSCIOUS GIRL in the bed.

She sits next to JORDAN (14), shaking her head in disbelief.

JORDAN

It was an amazing routine --
y'know, before...

TAYLOR

That's where your mind is right
now?

JORDAN

Sorry, but she could seriously
make nationals with that.
(quiet)
Just gotta tighten up that double-
back.

TAYLOR

Can you be quiet?

BEAT.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Why are you even here?

JORDAN

She's my teammate.

TAYLOR

Well we're all here now; her
family. So you can leave.

JORDAN

Why are you mad at me?

TAYLOR

Because you're a bad influence.

JORDAN

I didn't force your sister to
compete. She wanted to.

TAYLOR

No, she wanted you guys to like
her. You teased her--

JORDAN

-- We never teased her.

TAYLOR

Ever since elementary school you made her feel like she wasn't good enough. She was just trying to prove you wrong. Now she might not...

Taylor, emotional, stops.

JORDAN

Look, I'm sorry she got injured. It sucks. But that's the risk we take every time we step up on the beam.

TAYLOR

Such a stupid sport.

JORDAN

Says who? You? I've been training six days a week since I was a baby. I broke my ribs, dislocated my shoulder, and have sprained my ankles more times than I can count. You think studying all night for mid-terms is commitment? My mom is working two jobs to keep me in this "stupid sport."

I didn't mean -- I'm sorry.

(beat)

I'm scared.

JORDAN

So am I.

TAYLOR

Wh-what if she never walks again?

JORDAN

She will.