

Jump

By

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FADE IN.

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

STEVEN, 28 is running up a dark staircase. He gets to the top, pushes a metal door in front of him and stumbles through it.

EXT. ROOF OF BUILDING - DAY

The bright sunshine on the other side of the door blinds Steven for a second. He raises his hand to shield his eyes.

In his other hand is an almost empty bottle of whiskey.

Tears are running down his face. He slugs back the last of the whiskey and throws the empty bottle across the roof.

He glances around, scanning his surroundings. His eyes fix on a point at the edge of the roof.

He slowly starts walking, the walk speeds up to a jog and then into a flat out sprint.

Just as he is about to run out of roof he stops and slides to a halt on the loose gravel, centimetres from the edge of the building.

He drops down onto his backside, puts his hands up to his head and starts pulling hard at his hair.

STEVEN

Fuuuck!

He breaks down and begins to sob.

Shaking his head as if trying to clear it, he stands up and looks over the edge.

EXT. GROUND LEVEL OUTSIDE BUILDING - DAY

Steven is peering over the top of the building.

EXT. ROOF OF BUILDING - DAY

Steven is standing astride with the toes of his right foot over the edge of the building, his other foot out behind him. Rocking his weight back and forth, from front foot to back, he closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

INT. CAR - DAY

JIM, 38 and PETE, 26 dressed in suits and ties are sitting in an unmarked police car drinking coffee.

JIM

So how's your first week in CID been?

PETE

It's certainly more exciting than shuffling papers on a desk.

JIM

Exciting? Wait until you've been doing it ten years, the excitement wears pretty thin.

Pete smiles and takes a sip of his coffee.

POLICE RADIO OPERATOR (V.O.)

We have reports of a white male standing on the roof of Peterson's office building, possible suicide. Anyone in the area? Over.

Pete and Jim look at each other.

PETE

We are just round the corner?

JIM

Can't we let uniform handle it?

PETE

He might have jumped before they get there.

JIM

OK, but you're buying the first round when we've done.

Pete chuckles and reaches forward to start the car.

Jim picks up the microphone to the radio.

JIM

10-4, me and Pete are 30 seconds away, we'll attend. Over.

POLICE RADIO OPERATOR (V.O.)

Roger that Jim.

EXT. ROOF OF BUILDING - DAY

Steven opens his eyes and exhales in exasperation. He begins to pace up and down along the edge of the building.

STEVEN

Come On. Just fuckin' do it and it'll all be over. Then she'll be sorry.

Sweating in the sun, he wipes his brow and continues to pace. He takes off a thin black jacket he is wearing and throws it down on the floor.

STEVEN

OK, this time.

Steven walks to the edge of the building again, puts both feet together, raises his arms up to shoulder height, takes a deep breath and closes his eyes.

JIM(O.S.)

(shouts)

Stop!

Steven spins around to see Jim and Pete standing by the door to the roof.

PETE

(shouts)

OK just stop. Let's talk about this.

JIM

(whispers to Pete)

Let's talk about this?

PETE

(whispers to Jim)

I don't know, I've never done this before.

Pete and Jim start walking towards Steven.

STEVEN

Don't try and stop me, I am going to jump. Don't come any closer.

Pete and Jim stop walking.

JIM

OK. At least tell us your name before you do.

STEVEN

Steven.

JIM

Hello Steven, I'm Jim and this here is Pete. We're police officers and we just want to talk to you, nobody is going to stop anybody doing anything, OK?

STEVEN

I guess.

JIM

That's great. So what are we all doing up here Steven? What's this all about?

Steven starts to cry.

STEVEN

It's all her fault. Fucking bitch.

JIM

You see, I said to Pete I bet it's all to do with a woman, didn't I Pete?

PETE

He did.

(pause)

Look, whatever she's done can't be worth all this.

STEVEN

She'll be sorry when I'm dead.

PETE

Whatever it is I'm sure you can talk to her about it.

STEVEN

She won't talk to me, that's just it. She won't talk to me. She's made her mind up.

PETE

OK Steven, what if I call her and ask her to speak to you?

STEVEN

She won't.

PETE

It's gotta be worth a try?

JIM

(whispers to Pete)

What are you doing?

PETE  
 (whispers to Jim)  
 She might be able to calm him  
 down.

JIM  
 (whispers to Pete)  
 Or she might tell him to take a  
 running jump. Which might not be  
 the best advice given the  
 circumstances.

PETE  
 (whispers to Jim)  
 It's worth a try.  
 (to Steven)  
 Alright Steven, how can I get  
 hold of her? What's her number?

Steven points to his jacket on the floor.

STEVEN  
 My mobile, in my pocket.

PETE  
 OK Steven I'm going to pick up  
 your coat, take out your phone  
 and call her. Is that OK?

STEVEN  
 Yes.

Pete walks over to the jacket, picks it up and takes out  
 Steven's phone.

PETE  
 What's her name?

STEVEN  
 Katherine.

Pete scrolls through the address book until he finds  
 KATHERINE.

PETE  
 Now I'm gonna go over there and  
 phone her and see if she will  
 talk to you.

STEVEN  
 I've tried phoning her she won't  
 answer my calls.

PETE  
 OK, I'll call her from my phone.

Pete takes his own phone out of his pocket and starts  
 dialing the number on the screen of Steven's.

PETE  
You just keep chatting with Jim  
until I get back. OK?

STEVEN  
OK.

Pete presses send on his phone, puts it to his ear, walks  
back behind Jim and through the door into the staircase.

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

Pete, still holding his phone to his ear, closes the door  
to the roof behind him.

PETE  
(into phone)  
Hello is that Katherine?

EXT. ROOF OF BUILDING - DAY

Jim and Steven are still on the roof, Steven is very close  
to the edge.

JIM  
So, how long have you known her?

STEVEN  
Three years. She still loves me  
you know.

JIM  
I'm sure she does Steven.

STEVEN  
No really, she does, she just  
won't fuckin' leave him.

JIM  
Who?

STEVEN  
Her fuckin' husband, that's who.

JIM  
She's married?

STEVEN  
Yeah she's married.  
(pause)  
She doesn't love him though.  
(pause)  
But he's dependable, apparently.

Pete walks back up to Jim and stands by the side of him.

PETE

Right Steven, I've spoken to her and she's really worried about you. She wants to come and talk to you. So why don't you move away from the edge, come downstairs with us and we'll go talk to her. OK?

STEVEN

You're lying. You just don't want me to jump.

PETE

No Steven, I'm not lying. She said you two had lunch together today and had a bit of a disagreement.

Steven begins to Shake his head and laugh.

STEVEN

Disagreement?

PETE

She said she's sorry and wants to come here and sort it out. So I've sent a police car over to her office to pick her up it'll be here in a few minutes.

STEVEN

I told her it was either him or me. She said she loves me more than anything but she can't leave him.

(sarcastically)

He's got a secure job. He's got a pension. He can pay the mortgage. He can provide for the baby.

(shouts)

I could give her those things.

JIM

Of course you can Steven, and when she gets here you can tell her.

(whispers to Pete)

Is she really coming?

PETE

(whispers to Jim)

Yeah, she sounded really concerned, I guess she must really love the guy.

JIM  
Let's just hope she doesn't make  
things worse.

A FEW MINUTES LATER:

Steven starts to laugh.

STEVEN  
You know what the funny thing is?  
(pause)  
It isn't even his.

JIM  
What isn't?

STEVEN  
It's mine.

JIM  
The baby?

STEVEN  
Suppose you've gotta feel sorry  
for the poor bastard, bringing up  
someone else's kid thinking it's  
his.

A police siren rings out.

Steven looks over the edge of the building. KATHERINE, 32  
and a uniformed POLICE OFFICER get out of a police car on  
the street below and run into the building.

STEVEN  
She's here, she's really here.

PETE  
See Steven, I told you, now why  
don't you come away from the edge  
and we'll go talk to her.

Steven resumes pacing up and down along the edge of the  
building, pulling at his hair again.

STEVEN  
What have I done? What can I say  
to her? I don't want her to see  
me like this.

JIM  
Look Steven you'll be fine, she  
obviously loves you or she  
wouldn't be here. Just calm down  
and move away from the edge.

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

Katherine and the police officer are running up the stairs.

EXT. ROOF OF BUILDING - DAY

The door to the stairs opens and the police officer steps through it. Katherine pushes past him and looks towards Steven.

KATHERINE

(shouts)

Steven, oh my god Steven, Stop!  
I'm sorry. I love you.

Katherine starts running towards Steven.

Steven wipes the tears from his face, he smiles and starts running towards her.

Jim looks to the heavens with a smile and sighs with relief. He turns around to look at Katherine.

Katherine sees Jim and stops dead in her tracks. With a look of horror on her face she falls to her knees and let's out a shriek. Her hands move up to her mouth to cover it.

Jim is no longer smiling, all the colour has drained from his face.

JIM

Kathy?

(pause)

What are you doing here?

Katherine begins crying hysterically.

KATHERINE

Oh my god. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

JIM

But...

KATHERINE

I'm so sorry.

JIM

I don't understand.

(pause)

He said it's been three years?

Katherine hangs her head, not able to look at Jim.

JIM  
What about Ben?  
(pause)  
He said Ben wasn't mine?  
(pause)  
Is that true?

KATHERINE  
I'm sorry.

JIM  
(shouts angrily)  
Is it true?

Katherine looks up at Jim and slowly nods her head.

KATHERINE  
Yes, it's true.

Jim lets out gasp of pain and hangs his head. He turns around, raises his head and stares at the spot near the edge of the roof where Steven was standing.

A tear rolls down his face.

He starts to run towards the edge.

KATHERINE (O.S.)  
Noooooooo!

Jim reaches the edge of the roof and jumps.

FADE OUT:

THE END.