

Falling

Synopsis and plot arcs

PLOT STRUCTURE

SYNOPSIS

Part 1	Protagonists drawn together but fail to connect.	Act I	
		Prologue: Jess	Short piece about Jess and Ceri choosing their accommodation for the following year.
		1: University opening	Introductory stuff. Meeting the characters setting the scene. Raising questions.
		2: Ben and Jess. Meet the Moles	
		3: Ceri and Jess and a bit about Lampeter.	
		4: Jess has a bath.	
		5: Caving 1 Journey	Set piece. Character development. Nick and Jess thrown together. The start of something
		6: Caving 2 Little Neath	
		7: Caving 3 Bridge Cave 1	
		8: Caving 4 Bridge Cave 2 and Pub	
		9: Up the Hill	Development of the relationship. Closer focus on just Jess and Nick
		10: Platform 1 (Jess shown)	
		11: Platform 2 (Nick finishes)	
		12: Nick tells Ty Bryn of his past	
		13: Platform after exams	
Part 2	On second time around connection is successful.	14: Failed connection.	Relationship crashes and burns
		Interlude: Letters.	
		15: Jess returns and is freaked.	Rapprochement, but it's not the same. Jess embarks on other adventures.
		16: Jess and Nick talk	
		17: Derek	We meet the inestimable Derek Broadbent
		18: Parents visit 1	
		19: Parents 2	
		20: Parents 3	
		21: Party 1 (we meet Bruce)	Jess's sexual encounter and relationship with Derek. Starts strong but circumstances and character capsize it. Short arc ending in a violent breach at the rugby match. Sympathy swings back towards Nick.
		22: Party 2 (Jess and Derek)	
		23: Emma distraught	
		24: Emma's house	
		25: Derek displeased	
		26: Skids Stuff	
		27: Rugby	
		28: Jess pursued	Climactic exciting scene containing danger and threat
		29: Jess rescued	In the teeth of the crisis Jess and Nick reconnect
		30: Culmination.	This time the connection works.
		Epilogue: Nick	Nick muses on what's happened and on his situation.

We open in 2003 with Jess identifying the body of her son. A short teaser before scrolling back to 1999 when Nick and Jess are at University in Wales.

Nick is reclusive but friendly and popular. Liked by his flat mates and the caving club but spends a lot of time alone and disappears up the hill behind the college where he appears to be building something in the woods.

Jess is confident and gregarious. Lives with Ceri and is close to Emma. Somewhat sexually rapacious she is attracted to physically imposing confident men such as Ben, one of Nick's flat mates. She goes on a caving trip in order to try and engage him but ends up getting close to Nick instead. Whilst he's not 'her type' she is intrigued by him, likes him, responds to his sensitivity. A friendship beyond friendship develops but never quite tips over into romance or sex.

Nick lets Jess into his secret. He's built a sort of tree house in the woods as a project and a retreat and they begin to meet there.

Eventually, in a moment of intimacy, she makes a move but Nick can't reciprocate and they rebound hurt and angry.

We all need a break. Over the summer, Nick and Jess write to each other and there is a tentative rapprochement.

On returning this is cemented and they revive a friendship with a little more distance.

Jess's parents visit and Jess is shown to be poised on the cusp between childhood and adulthood and needing to push away from them. We find out about her mother's infidelity.

Jess has a birthday party and hooks up with Derek, another strong confident lad but of the Public School mould. Sexually fulfilling but ultimately doomed. Nick fades into the background somewhat.

Things deteriorate with Derek culminating in an incident at a rugby match where he injures a friend on the pitch (Bruce) and then takes a swing at Nick when he tries to defend Jess.

At the end of the Michaelmas Term when most of the students have left Jess is pursued in the dark by a group of men from the town. She escapes but falls into a stream. Hypothermic she manages to reach Nick who warms her up in a bath, probably saving her life. The ensuing intimacy leads to a sexual encounter and this time, for reasons we'll only understand later, Nick reciprocates.

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PLOT STRUCTURE		SYNOPSIS
Part 1 The Setup.	Act II	
	Prologue: Jess Identifies the body	We open July 2003 with Jess identifying the body of her son. We now know what's coming and return to February 2003 for the main section of the act
	1: Meet the family	Nick appears to be caught in Internet porn and we now discover what his issue is. He's attracted to Children. Jess and he cohabit in a small town in Surrey. He's a self employed tree surgeon and she a part time editor for a magazine called 'Quest'. Jack and Molly are 7 and 5 respectively. Things are not harmonious. After the police raids of Operation Ore Nick is panicking and feels he needs to take action. He seeks out a Catholic priest on the basis that confession is confidential.
	2: Will & a little tree surgery	
	3: Family conflict	
	4: Nick visits church	Nick's crisis point. Starts to seek a solution.
	5: Craig is dead	Craig (caving friend from part 1) dies in a kayaking accident. Description of part of the funeral. Foreshadowing of Jack's death in father's oration At the funeral, Jess reconnects with Ben, unbeknownst to Nick. Sexual reawakening for Jess.
	6: Funeral 1 Ben	
	7: Funeral 2 Billy	
	8: Nick & Frank 1 st session. Confession	Nick continues to try and work out his issues with Frank the priest and we find out more about his history and his situation. The business and his family relationships are all failing and he's approaching a point of crisis. Jess goes to London for work and meets with Jill who will propel her towards Ben. Jess makes a first contact through Friends Reunited.
	9: Quest. Jess in London	
	10: Nick & Frank 2 nd session. The Matrix	
	11: Jess contacts Ben. Family conflict	
	12: Dan Osman. Rope jumping	At this point we begin to get snippets of Jack's thoughts and we discover that he desperately wants to be close with his dad and doesn't understand why he's detached. Nick is an avid climber and shows Jack some videos of Dan Osman who's thing is rope jumping. Jack senses unconsciously that climbing is the route to intimacy with his dad.
	13: Nick & Frank 3 rd session. Nick' parents.	After Jack's party Nick comes close to assaulting one of Jack's friends with whom he's become obsessed.
	14: Jess and Ben correspond.	
	15: Pizza party. Nick approaches Luke	In increasing desperation, Nick seeks a solution in conversation with the priest. Meanwhile Jess is becoming more intimate with Ben. They are peddling towards an inevitable sexual encounter, possibly and affair.
	16: Panicking. Nick visits Frank.	A commercial contract which Nick has been holding out for as a means to escape their financial and familial difficulties, falls through. Nick hits rock bottom and feels there is no hope. Jess meanwhile is accelerating towards and encounter with Ben.
	17: Nick & Frank 4 th session. Options?	
	18: Jess & Ben develop the connection.	
Part 2 The build up to the crisis	19: Tree bucking and proposal rejection	Nick's third and ultimate crisis point. Lowest spot on his arc.
	20: Jess has a dream	Nick is encouraged by the priest to attend a conference led by a Christian organisation who specialise in sexual and gender issues. He's reluctant but desperate and eventually concedes. They go to Bristol for a climbing trip. Jess is attracted to Nick's climbing friend.
	21: Nick & Frank 5 th session. Conference	
	22: Bristol 1 Climbing	
	23: Bristol 2 Harvey & Jess	
	24: Jess audits her body	Jess ruminates about her life and how her sexuality was subsumed by child rearing and her empty marriage. She's experiencing a renaissance and is excited. She shops for an outfit and lingerie with her colleague from the magazine. Everyone's hurtling towards a climax in their story arc.
	25: A walk in the woods	Nick and Jess leave the kids with a friend and head off; Nick to the conference and Jess to meet Ben.
	26: Jack learns Prussiks	
	27: Shopping	
	28: Preparations for Ben and conference	In the final chapter, Jack, in an attempt to emulate Dan Osman and impress his dad, kills himself by jumping from a tree tied to a rope. The narrative ends just before he jumps but we know the conclusion from the earlier teasers.
	29: Jess prepares her body	
	30: Falling.	Nick visits the coroner and learns how Jack died. Concludes the story.
	Epilogue: Nick at the coroner	