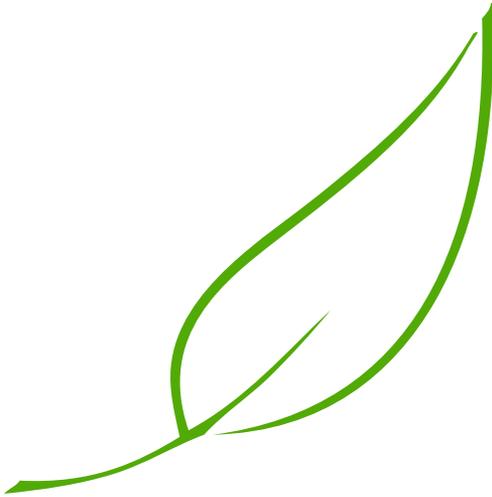


# TAKE THE PLUNGE

by Ken Bradbury



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*(Brady enters pulling a very hesitant Gale.)*

**GALE:** I hate these things.

**BRADY:** You'll be fine, Gale.

**GALE:** I'm not kidding, Brady. I really, really hate these things. Did I tell you I hate these things?

**BRADY:** You told me you hate these things. Now, come on. Let's get on.

**GALE:** Why am I getting on something I hate?

**BRADY:** Because you're my friend, Gale. That's what friends do for friends. Things they hate. Come on, it's about to start up.

**GALE:** *(stopping in her tracks as her eyes slowly pan upward)* Oh----my----gosh.

**BRADY:** Don't look up, Gale.

**GALE:** I'm looking up. I'm already looking up. Look, I can do the Tilt-A-Whirl, Brady. I'll even do the roller coaster if I can close my eyes, but I cannot do this. Look at the name of thing, Brady! "The Plunge of Death!" You know what that means, Brady? The Plunge of Death? It means...the Plunge of Death!

**BRADY:** It's an amusement park ride, Gale! Look ... we get in that seat, it takes us up, then we come back down again.

**GALE:** Brady, you'd describe the Titanic as a little dip in the pool. This machine jerks you up three miles in the air then drops you down like a lead balloon. You get off the thing with your liver in your mouth.

**BRADY:** Yeh. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? *(grabs her and drags her toward the two chairs)* Come on, it's starting.

**GALE:** (*being dragged along but protesting*) I can't do it, Brady! Don't make me do it!

**BRADY:** (*plopping Gale down in one chair while she sits in the other*) Just close your eyes. It'll all be over in a second.

**GALE:** People die in a second, Brady! What are they doing?

**BRADY:** They're just strapping us in.

**GALE:** If this is so safe then why do we need to be strapped in?

**BRADY:** Insurance purposes.

**GALE:** Life insurance!? What's happening now!?!?

**BRADY:** (*both lean back in seats to imply the upward climb until they reach the top*) We're going up. That's the only way we can come back down. We've gotta go up.

**GALE:** I don't wanna go up.

**BRADY:** So jump off!

**GALE:** (*looks down*) The ground! The ground is going away, Brady!

**BRADY:** It's called physics. Come on. You like science.

**GALE:** I like to study science! I don't want to be science! Oh Brady, this is awful!

**BRADY:** Up and up and up ...

**GALE:** Stop that! Don't describe it! It's bad enough to do it! Don't talk about it!

**BRADY:** Look! There's our school bus! It seems so tiny!

**GALE:** (*shutting her eyes tightly*) I can't look.

**BRADY:** What's the fun of going on a ride if you don't see what's happening?

**GALE:** It's like being at my own funeral! I don't want to watch!

**BRADY:** Almost to the top!

**GALE:** Stop that! Stop talking! (*Brady is happily looking around and down.*) Why aren't you talking?

(*feeling around to find Brady*) Are you still there? Brady, talk to me!

**BRADY:** You said to stop talking.

**GALE:** (*opens eyes*) Stop talking about the ride! Talk about something else!

**BRADY:** Thomas Jefferson was our third President. Born in 1743, he died on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1826.

**GALE:** That's better.

**BRADY:** And I think I can see his grave from here.

**GALE:** Stop that! (*they sit up straight*) Hey! What's the matter? We've stopped moving.

**BRADY:** We're at the top. Come on, Gale. Open your eyes for just a second. This view is unbelievable.

**GALE:** Are we dropping yet?

**BRADY:** No. You'll know it when we drop. You'll feel like you're dropping. (*both girls sit in anticipation of "the big drop"*)

**GALE:** What's happening?

**BRADY:** We're stopping. Funny. I didn't think they stopped you for this long. I wonder if something's wrong with the ride.

**GALE:** Don't say that! Do not say that! There is nothing wrong with this ride!

**BRADY:** (*looks over the edge*) Maybe those repairmen down there are just doing aerobics. They're waving their arms at us.

**GALE:** (*eyes wide open*) What!!!!? (*looks over the edge*) Oh, my gosh! (*shuts her eyes tightly again and grips her chair*) I looked! I looked! I shouldn't have looked but I looked!

**BRADY:** (*waves back*) Hi guys! (*sees something else*) Wow. Those ambulances look so small.

**GALE:** Ambulances!

**BRADY:** Somebody must have gotten hurt. They're pulling up to this ride.



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