

LINKING TURNS

Written by

Jax Meyer

15080 E Caspian Pl, Aurora, CO 80014  
720-336-8767

**EXT. BIG WHITE RESORT - TERRAIN PARK - MORNING**

**SUPER:** Big White Resort, Kelowna, BC, Canada

It's a Saturday morning at Big White Resort. Heavy snow weighs down the branches of tall, thin pine trees surrounding the terrain park.

FAITH CARTER, 17, confidently snowboards through the terrain park she could ride in her sleep. She flows over rails, pipes, and jumps that make up her playground.

Faith slows as she spots FOUR MEMBERS of the coed snowboarding team identifiable by their matching coats. Faith starts to go around them when COACH SCOTT, 30s, gestures for her to stop, barely glancing her way.

COACH

The team goes first.

Faith stops and crosses her arms. If life were fair, she'd not only be on the team, but their top rider, male or female.

JAKE SADLER, 17, Faith's best friend and member of the team, looks back at Faith and waves. Jake wanders through life with the awareness of a basset hound, easily distracted and prone to laziness. Faith rides up to him.

FAITH

What are you working on?

JAKE

Switch lipslide 270.

FAITH

You nailed it last weekend. Should be easy.

ELI FINCH, 16, elitist rich kid and all around dick smirks at Faith.

ELI

Can that thing even handle a lipslide or will it snap in half?

FAITH

Gear's only as good as the rider.

JAKE

And Faith could beat you on a Walmart board.

ELI

You mean that isn't from Walmart?

FAITH  
Way to miss the point.

COACH (O.S.)  
Eli! Get going.

Eli takes his run and clips the rail, falling on his face. Faith grins in satisfaction.

Faith watches Jake. She's confused when he slips off the rail early.

DYLAN PRINCE, 15, has an easy going energy about him. He almost nails the trick, wobbling on the landing.

Coach drops his board to step into the bindings.

Faith blasts past Coach. She POPS onto the rail with a 90 degree turn. SLIDES perpendicular along the rail. JUMPS off with a 270 degree spin, landing smooth. She looks back to find no reaction from Coach.

**EXT. BIG WHITE RESORT - SKI LIFT - DAY**

Faith skids to a stop next to Jake.

FAITH  
What happened?

JAKE  
Don't know. I think screwing up is contagious.

FAITH  
Yet another reason to avoid the team.

JAKE  
Or join it and make us better. You'd kill at competitions.

They move forward with the line.

FAITH  
I'll pass. Competitive snowboarding only uses its rebellious background to make privileged rich kids feel cool.

JAKE  
Whatever. You love showing up those rich kids.

FAITH  
Yeah, but--

JAKE  
Hey, want to find some fresh powder  
after practice?

FAITH  
You won't find it without going out  
of bounds.

JAKE  
So?

FAITH  
So I can't risk my pass or my job.

JAKE  
No one is going to fire you, but if  
you don't want to ride with me,  
just say so.

Faith grows very serious.

FAITH  
Jake, I don't want to ride with you.

She's so convincing Jake questions whether she's joking.

FAITH  
I was kidding.

JAKE  
Yeah, I knew that.

COACH (O.S.)  
Jake, stick with your team.

FAITH  
I'm going to work. Hit that lip  
slide next time!

**EXT. BIG WHITE RESORT - BEGINNERS AREA - LATER**

Faith teaches five excitable FIRST TIME SNOWBOARDERS, all 8-12 years old. SAM, 11, wears a pink beanie with a skull and crosses her arms around her board while SAM'S MOM, 45, speaks sternly.

SAM'S MOM  
If you take that hat off, Samantha,  
there will be consequences.

Sam's mom leaves. Faith approaches Sam.

FAITH  
What's going on? Samantha, right?

SAM  
Sam.

FAITH  
Got it. What's wrong, Sam?

SAM  
My mom got the wrong beanie.

FAITH  
That sucks, but you'll forget all  
about it once you're on the board.

Sam is skeptical.

A series of THUNKS pulls Faith's attention. Two boys test their helmets with their boards.

FAITH  
Hey, chill!

The smaller boy YELLS and grabs his face. His brother laughs.  
Faith rushes over.

FAITH  
Let me see.

Faith looks the boy over while addressing the class.

FAITH  
Alright kids, boards down.

RIPLEY WEAVER, 18, a snowboarder in gender-neutral clothing quietly watches, intrigued by the cute instructor - Faith.

The kids drop their boards which slide when they hit the snow. Tucker, a clumsy boy kicks his board instead of stopping it. The board hits Faith. Tucker falls into her, knocking her off balance.

Ripley catches Faith before she falls.

FAITH  
Thanks, I feel like I'm herding  
cats today.

RIPLEY  
Want a hand?

Faith doesn't realize who Ripley is. Yet.

FAITH  
I've got it.

Ripley eyes her skeptically.

FAITH  
Wait, I know you. I mean, I don't know know you, but you're Ripley, right?

RIPLEY  
Yeah, that's me.

FAITH  
Did I miss that you were coming here? Not that I'm stalking you or anything. But you're, umm, memorable.

RIPLEY  
Memorable. I like that.

Self conscious, Faith shifts the conversation.

FAITH  
I need to get these kids started.

RIPLEY  
What about your unhappy kid? I can get her on board while you wrangle the rest. Ooh, pun unintended but I'm keeping it.

Faith laughs.

FAITH  
Alright kids, take a seat before anyone else gets hurt.

The kids flop to the snow. Ripley turns to Sam.

RIPLEY  
Hey, I'm Ripley. So your mom got the wrong beanie?

SAM  
It's pink.

RIPLEY  
I get it, not a fan of pink myself. If I let you have my beanie, will you let my new friend..

Ripley turns to Faith to prompt for her name.

FAITH

Faith.

RIPLEY

Faith here teach you how to ride?

SAM

Are you a boy or a girl?

RIPLEY

Let's keep it simple and go with girl. One who doesn't wear pink either.

Sam softens but remains skeptical.

SAM

My mom said I had to wear this one.

RIPLEY

I'll talk to her. Promise.

Sam takes the beanie and hands hers to Ripley. With that crisis averted, Faith can finally start the class.

FAITH

Thanks for the help. Maybe I'll see you around?

RIPLEY

Or I could stay and help.

FAITH

Without a beanie?

Ripley looks at the pink beanie.

RIPLEY

It's not that cold.

Faith laughs.

FAITH

Just put the beanie on. Frostbite isn't cute on anyone.

RIPLEY

Then I can stay?

Ripley has the puppy dog look down pat. Faith quickly gives in, not wanting Ripley to leave either.

FAITH

Yes. Just don't tell my boss.

Ripley gives an excited jump and joins the class.

FAITH

Who's ready to snowboard?

Ripley joins the chorus of kids.

ALL

Me!

**EXT. BIG WHITE RESORT - BEGINNER'S AREA - LATER**

Ripley stands next to Sam as her mom looks her over.

SAM'S MOM

Samantha, where is your hat? And whose is that?

SAM

Ripley gave me hers! Isn't it cool?

Sam's mom scowls at Ripley.

RIPLEY

It helped her relax. Your kid's a natural, by the way. Show her what you learned, Sam.

Sam tugs at her mom's hand, leading her towards the lift.

FAITH

Impressive. Sam's mom was pissed.

RIPLEY

I have my moments. Are you busy now?

FAITH

No, why?

RIPLEY

I'm itching for terrain. Ride with me?

FAITH

Hell yeah. Do you need to stop by the shop for a beanie more your style?

Ripley gets a mischievous look.



RIPLEY  
Actually, I think pink is starting  
to grow on me.

FAITH  
What if it makes you straight?

RIPLEY  
Not a chance with you around.

Faith tries not to let Ripley's flirting affect her.

FAITH  
So it's me versus the all powerful  
pink beanie? Talk about pressure.

RIPLEY  
I have faith in you.

Faith gives Ripley a look.

RIPLEY  
Too much?

FAITH  
A bit. Let's ride.

**INT. BIG WHITE RESORT - GONDOLA - DAY**

Faith watches Ripley fidget as the gondola takes off.

FAITH  
You alright? You're making the car  
shake.

RIPLEY  
It's my ADHD. I never stop moving.

FAITH  
Oh.

RIPLEY  
I'm also afraid of heights.

FAITH  
What? How did you become a  
snowboarder?

RIPLEY  
I was hooked before I rode my first  
lift. But this isn't so bad. You're  
a nice distraction.

Faith isn't sure how seriously to take Ripley's flirting.

FAITH

Do you flirt with all the girls you meet on the mountain?

RIPLEY

Just the pretty, talented ones.

FAITH

How do you know I'm any good? All you've seen me do is a few butter tricks to impress the kids.

RIPLEY

I can tell. Why haven't I heard of you? I follow all the female boarders. Camera shy?

FAITH

That's complicated, though it shouldn't be.

Ripley looks around.

RIPLEY

I have time.

FAITH

Okay... When that girl asked if you were a boy or a girl, why did you say, "go with girl", rather than just say you're a girl?

RIPLEY

Because I didn't want to explain non-binary to a bunch of kids.

FAITH

That makes sense. What are your pronouns?

RIPLEY

I'm leaning towards they/them but haven't told many people so she/her works, too.

Ripley fidgets. Faith studies them, understanding Ripley's fears too well.

FAITH

You can be yourself with me, Ripley. What are your pronouns?

Ripley looks up, relieved.

RIPLEY

They/them.

FAITH

Cool. I had a hunch my question was relevant. Now when I tell you I'm trans it feels less out of the blue.

RIPLEY

Really? I wouldn't have guessed.

FAITH

Would you have flirted with me if you knew?

Faith studies Ripley for any red flags. Ripley takes it in stride.

RIPLEY

Let's see. You're a girl who's cute and fun. And you haven't figured out that you're out of my league. Expect me to keep flirting.

Faith is relieved and charmed by Ripley's admission.

FAITH

Good answer, though you should probably have kept that middle part to yourself.

**EXT. BIG WHITE RESORT - TERRAIN PARK - DAY**

Faith and Ripley stop short at the scene before them. Medics and members of the snowboarding team surround a girl being loaded onto a stretcher. Faith moves close to Jake.

FAITH

What happened?

JAKE

Jules went down hard and busted up her knee. Doesn't look good.

FAITH

Damn. Does Coach have any other girls who could jump in?

JAKE

Not in our age group. Wait here, I have an idea.

Jake runs over to Coach a few feet away and speaks briefly. Jake gestures for Faith to come over. Her guard is up as she approaches.

COACH

Jake thinks you should step in for Jules? Think you can cut it?

FAITH

You know I can, but I'm not putting my parents into debt to cover your fees.

COACH

I'll consider waiving tuition. Show me you're worth it.

Jake silently encourages her. Faith glances at Ripley. She can impress Ripley as well.

Faith takes a quick breath and rides. Coach follows, studying her intently. Ripley follows.

Faith hits her first trick well. Coach doesn't react.

Faith's next trick is extra flashy. Coach shakes his head.

Faith flies off a jump with a 540 tail grab. She lands clean and relaxed. Faith pulls off the line to talk to Coach.

FAITH

What's the verdict?

Coach takes a moment before answering.

COACH

Welcome to the team, Faith.

FAITH

Wait, I didn't say I'd do it. Do you know if I'm even eligible to compete?

COACH

Why wouldn't you? Couldn't pass a drug test?

Faith scowls.

FAITH

Wow, no. Did you forget?

Coach is confused. Faith looks down at her own body.

COACH

Oh, right.

Faith can't help but be happy with his answer.

FAITH

Check the rules. If I have to publicly disclose that I'm trans, I'm out. I won't make myself a target just to bail you out.

COACH

That's fine, but I need an answer soon. Next event is in two weeks.

Ripley approaches as Coach leaves.

RIPLEY

I knew you could shred. You're joining the team, right? He'd be stupid not to bring you on.

FAITH

He asked, but I don't know.

RIPLEY

Why not?

Faith looks around, considering her options.

FAITH

Not here. Let's hit the cafe.

**INT. BIG WHITE RESORT - CAFE - DAY**

Faith and Ripley refuel with snacks as they talk.

RIPLEY

Will you be around this afternoon?

FAITH

Yeah, I ride with my friends once they're done with practice.

RIPLEY

Can I crash the friend party?

FAITH  
Or I can ditch them for my new  
friend?

Ripley grins. They open a new contact in their phone and slide it over to Faith. Faith enters her contact info and hands it back. Ripley sends a quick text.

RIPLEY (TEXT)  
*It's Ripley. From across the table.*

Faith laughs.

RIPLEY  
Now that we're officially friends,  
can you tell me why you don't want  
to join the team??

Faith takes a deep breath.

FAITH  
Since we're friends...

Ripley sits taller, bouncing in their seat.

FAITH  
And now it's awkward.

Ripley pulls their beanie down to cover their eyes.

RIPLEY  
Is that better?

Faith laughs and pulls Ripley's beanie off. Ripley tries to take it back. Faith pulls it over her head and halfway down her face.

FAITH  
This is better. Ooh, I like your  
shampoo.

Faith covers her face with her hands.

FAITH  
I can't believe I said that out  
loud. I'm such a dork.

Ripley lifts the beanie from her eyes.

RIPLEY  
A cute dork.

Faith hands the beanie back to Ripley.

FAITH

Wait, is that your shampoo or Sam's?

RIPLEY

I'll buy a new one later. (beat)  
Sorry, I interrupted you. I'm listening now.

More relaxed, Faith dives in.

FAITH

There's never been a competitive trans snowboarder. Last I checked, Canada Snowboard didn't even have a policy. No one knows people like me exist.

RIPLEY

If there's no rules against competing, what's stopping you?

FAITH

Think about what happens when trans athletes go public. If the wrong person finds out my life gets turned upside down.

RIPLEY

Right, but in an ideal world, would ride for fun or go pro?

FAITH

Pro, definitely. But--

RIPLEY

Hear me out. You're good enough to end up on a sponsored team within a few years. Top notch coaching while traveling the world snowboarding. That's what you're giving up for the chance you'll be outed.

Faith is torn but thoughtful.

RIPLEY

Bonus, our paths cross more often.

Faith looks at Ripley, curious.

RIPLEY

And I just made it weird. Forget about me. Just, don't be afraid to go for your dreams.