

LINKING TURNS

Written by

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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 and spins off the 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. Faith wasn't one to make a scene, just protest silently. 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 brothers,
DEREK and IAN test their helmets with their boards.

FAITH

Woah, chill!

The Ian YELLS and grabs his face. Derek laughs.

Faith rushes over.

FAITH

Let me see.

Faith looks Ian over while addressing the class.

FAITH

Alright kids, boards down.

RIPLEY WEAVER, 18, an energetic androgynous female
snowboarder observes, intrigued by the young, cute instructor
- Faith.

Boards drop. Boards slide. Tucker kicks his board instead of
stopping it. He tries to catch the board. Falls into Faith.

Ripley catches Faith before she falls.

FAITH

Thanks. I'm herding cats today.

RIPLEY
Want a hand?

Faith doesn't realize who Ripley is. Yet.

FAITH
I've got it.

Ripley eyes Faith 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 I've done 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, fun, and hasn'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
No one old enough. 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 if nothing else.

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

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. Am I 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 rides up as Coach leaves, bursting with enthusiasm.

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
Yeah... 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 rule 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
you 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.
Traveling the world. That's what
you're giving up for the chance
you'll be outed.