

Towering over me, the rollercoaster loomed above like a monster made of steel, its tangled tracks slicing through the sky. I craned my neck to take it all in, my trainers rooted to the ground as screams rained down from above. Thumping, my heart pounded against my ribs like a drumbeat warning me to turn back. The fast, shaky cars raced by, a blur of colour and flashing lights, the riders' faces a mixture of thrill and terror. I swallowed hard, my mouth dry. Could I do this? The line crept forward, and before I knew it, the safety bar was locking me in. Quickly and desperately, I gripped the safety bar as the rollercoaster shot forward, the wind howling in my ears. Terrified, but too late to run.

Slowly and steadily, the car crawled up the steep track. The clink-clink-clink of the chains filling my ears. Higher and higher we went, the ground shrinking away until the park below looked like a toy town. Terrified, I squeezed the bar until my knuckles turned white, the wind brushing my face as we neared the summit. For a moment, everything stopped—the climb, the noise, even my breath—as we hovered at the beautiful, terrifying peak. I. The track ahead disappeared into a sheer drop, the kind that made you feel like you were falling forever. My heart leapt to my throat. And then we fell. Soaring, my stomach lurched as the ground rushed up to meet me.

Shocked, at the end of the ride, my body buzzed with a strange mix of relief and exhilaration. My hair stuck to my face, my legs felt like jelly, but I was smiling so hard my cheeks hurt. I stumbled out of the car, every nerve still tingling from the twists and turns. “Let’s do it again!” burst out of me before I could stop myself. Grinning, I glanced back at the towering coaster, now less of an evil, scary monster and more like a challenge conquered. My fear had vanished, replaced by something I couldn’t quite explain. Suddenly and unexpectedly, I wasn’t just a kid staring up anymore—I was someone who had faced the fall and come out laughing.