

Climbing Down
by
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PAGE ONE (6 PANELS)

PANEL 1 - INT. YOUNG ROGER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

YOUNG ROGER, age 10, sits in bed and pulls on his shoes. He should be sleeping, so he's quiet and trying not to let his parents hear him.

CAPTION

I was always trying to escape.

PANEL 2 - EXT. YOUNG ROGER'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

YOUNG ROGER is climbing out his bedroom window onto the short roof below.

PANEL 3 - CONTINUOUS

He shimmies to a large, sturdy tree branch at the edge of the roof.

PANEL 3 - CONTINUOUS

He makes it to the branch and looks down scared.

PANEL 4 - CONTINUOUS

He hugs the branch and scoots towards the trunk.

PANEL 5 - CONTINUOUS

YOUNG ROGER hangs from one branch, reaching to the next, nearly to the ground.

PANEL 6 - CONTINUOUS

He falls to the ground, landing on the dew-covered grass.

PAGE TWO (6 PANELS)

PANEL 1 - EXT. - YOUNG ROGER'S FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

YOUNG ROGER sits in the grass and looks at his house cautiously triumphant.

PANEL 2 - CONTINUOUS

He gets to his feet and begins creeping to the end of the yard.

PANEL 3 - CONTINUOUS

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CONTINUED:

Same panel, but now the porch light has come on behind him.
YOUNG ROGER stops cold.

PANEL 4 - CONTINUOUS

YOUNG ROGER turns to see his dad standing in the doorway
holding his belt and a bottle of whiskey.

PANEL 5 - CONTINUOUS

Camera stays back as YOUNG ROGER walks past his dad and into
the house.

PANEL 6 - CONTINUOUS

The porch light is turned off and the house sits still.

PAGE THREE (5 panels)

PANEL 1 - INT. ROGER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ROGER, now in his mid-30's, lies awake in bed, staring at the
ceiling disturbed by his dream. His forehead glistens with
sweat.

PANEL 2 - CONTINUOUS

ROGER sits up, picks an empty glass of water from the night
stand, and stares at it with an expression just as empty.

PANEL 3 - CONTINUOUS

ROGER'S POV as he looks at his wife in bed.

PANEL 4 - CONTINUOUS

Close on ROGER, distraught.

PANEL 5 - CONTINUOUS

ROGER walks down the hall to his kids room.

PAGE FOUR (5 PANELS)

PANEL 1 - INT. KID'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ROGER'S POV of his boys sleeping in bunk beds.

PANEL 2 - CONTINUOUS

Close on ROGER, on the verge of tears.

PANEL 3 - CONTINUOUS

ROGER continues down the hall to the room at the end.

PANEL 4 - INT. ROGER'S STUDY (CHILDHOOD BEDROOM) - CONTINUOUS

ROGER enters the room and we see that this is his childhood bedroom now converted to a study. Some belongings are still there.

PANEL 5 - EXT. ROOF

ROGER opening the window, determination on his face.

PAGE FIVE (5 PANELS)

PANEL 1 - EXT. ROOF - CONTINUOUS

ROGER balances his way to the edge of the roof and to the same old tree.

PANEL 2 - CONTINUOUS

ROGER hugs the same branch as he inches towards the trunk.

PANEL 3 - CONTINUOUS

ROGER is hanging from a branch, feet now touching the dew-covered grass.

PANEL 4 - CONTINUOUS

ROGER looks on at the house with the cautious look of triumph.

PANEL 5 - EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

ROGER runs free down the dark and quiet neighborhood street in his white pajama's.

PAGE SIX (6 PANELS)

PANEL 1 - EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Close on ROGER as he stops abruptly and stares blankly down the street. It's going nowhere. HE's going nowhere.

PANEL 2 - CONTINUOUS

Same shot, ROGER puts his hands on the sides of his head and sobs.

PANEL 3 - EXT. ROGER'S YARD. - MOMENTS LATER

ROGER walks back up the steps of his house, the porch light on.

PANEL 4 - INT. KID'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

ROGER looks in on his children and smiles, tears still on his cheeks.

PANEL 5 - INT. ROGER'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

ROGER lays in bed.

PANEL 6 - CONTINUOUS

ROGER puts his arm around his wife.

CAPTION
Until I finally climbed down.

(MORE)