

Thresh Hold

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Birth. You said that it was a miracle. You couldn't see, or breathe, or live outside on your own. Well, maybe this once. Take a breath. "koooo." Mysteries. Providers. Family? Friends? Life? Dependence. Jump.

Steps. You said you wanted out of that crib. You couldn't understand what's beyond its bars, or the window sill, or the play pin. Well, maybe this once. Welcome the upright world. "Mommy!" Fall. Practice. Family? Friends? Life? Abandon. Jump.

License. You said you'd take your sister anywhere she wanted to go. You couldn't drive past curfew, or with too many people, or playing the music too loud. Well, maybe this once. Drive fast. "I'll race you." Close calls. Teens. Family? Friends? Life? Freedom. Jump.

College. You said this was as good as it gets. You wouldn't leave home, or friends, or the life you'd known for so long. Well, maybe this once. Party hard. "D is for degree!" Memories. Mates. Family? Friends? Life? Presence. Jump.

Graduation. You said the world was at your fingertips. You weren't sure exactly what you'd learned, or what you'd do with it, or if you could even get by. Well, maybe this once. "The world is your oyster." Possibilities. Roots. Family? Friends? Life? Apprehension. Jump.

Job. You said you'd follow your passion. You wouldn't let money, or job title, or anything be the deciding factor. Well, maybe this once. Work late. "Work hard, play hard; right?" Excuses. Coworkers. Family? Friends? Life? Exhaustion. Jump.

Love. You said this wasn't your type. You never understood those songs, or those friends, or anything shaped like a pink, pinched circle. Well, maybe this once. Head over heels. "Marriage?" Yes. Husband. Family? Friends? Life? Excitement. Jump.

Children. You said you would never. You weren't the type to change diapers, or spoon feed, or clean up any of *those* messes. Well, maybe this once. Twice. "Your turn." Laugh. Yours. Family? Friends? Life? Patience. Jump.

Soccer. You said you only plan one day at a time. You didn't have time to commit to one more PTA, sports team, or afterschool club. Well, maybe this once. Chicken-with-its-head-cut-off. "Be there at 8." Juggle. Tasks. Family? Friends? Life? Perseverance. Jump.

Empty Nest. You said you wouldn't cry driving away. You weren't sure you could remember a free night, or that face across the dinner table, or anything you loved before. Well, maybe this once. Stay busy. "What now?" Phone. Lunch-bunch. Family? Friends? Life? Fatigue. Jump.

Retirement. You said you'd play more golf. You didn't know if you liked the idea of not working, or so much free time, or any kind of discount. Well, maybe this once. Your time. "My son is a banker!" Chat. Grandchildren. Family? Friends? Life? Pride. Jump.

Death. You said you were ready. You wouldn't cry, or miss those who'd gone before you, or wonder what was next. Well, maybe this once. Just wait. "See that light?" Go. Past. Family. Friends. Life. Peace? Jump.