

NEWS

'AFTER THE FALL'

SYNOPSIS

Gorgeous, athletic, 22-year-old Jenna Danville gears up for the Virginia Grand Prix, one of the world's most prestigious equestrian events. Her father, Phillip, arrives to the barn where Jenna, in her riding uniform, gets ready with her beloved horse, High Hat. Phillip is swelling with pride for his only child, who he raised by himself after her mother died.

Phillip joins Heather, Jenna's best friend, and Carson, Jenna's boyfriend, in the stands. The three cheer her on as Jenna rides High Hat through the difficult course of high jumps. Just as Jenna is about to win the competition, High Hat, whose leg is injured, falters on the last jump, sending Jenna flying to the ground, hitting her head and knocking her unconscious.

Jenna is rushed to the hospital, where Phillip, Carson, and Heather wait for her to come out of a coma. After five days, as Phillip sleeps at her bedside, Jenna finally wakes, and realizes she can't feel her legs. The doctors immediately put Jenna through a series of MRIs, CT scans, and X-rays before deciding to call in a spine specialist.

Jenna meets with the specialist, Dr. Miles, and, after agreeing to visit the spine center for more tests, is released to go home. Phillip and Heather have had a wheelchair ramp installed, and renovated the downstairs study into a new bedroom. Jenna is grateful, but becomes upset when she visits the spine center, where Dr. Miles examines her and reveals her prognosis isn't good—Jenna may never walk again. Dr. Miles suggests the possibility that Jenna could join a clinical trial study, which would require a surgery and an intense physical therapy program.

Jenna makes it through the surgery, but is shocked and heartbroken when she returns home, and Carson suddenly breaks up with her. He can't relate to her anymore, and feels helpless and distanced from her. She is crushed, but becomes determined to excel at the physical therapy sessions to get back to her old self.

During her first physical therapy class, Jenna's instructor, Eugene, shows her around the center. In the elevator, Jenna meets Annie, a punk rebel who is also in a wheelchair—decorated with skulls. She challenges Jenna to a race down the hall, but Jenna, put off by Annie's outrageous looks and rebellious attitude, refuses. Annie blows her off, leaving Jenna confused.

The next day, as Jenna leaves her house, she loses control of her wheelchair and falls off the ramp, trapped underneath her wheelchair. She calls out to her dad for help, but instead, handsome cowboy Will Dutton, her new neighbor, rushes over. He introduces himself as he carries her inside. Jenna is taken aback, but immediately drawn to him.

At physical therapy, Jenna runs into Annie again, who patronizes her for being so hopeful to

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walk again. The two have some not-so-friendly competition during their session, but Annie surprises Jenna when she invites her to come out to the bar with her.

Over drinks, Annie reveals how she became paralyzed—jumping into an empty swimming pool. After the accident, she lost touch with all her friends, just as Jenna has. Annie reminds Jenna not to let the wheelchair define her life, but at therapy, Jenna is bitter, and gets easily discouraged when she doesn't make progress. Annie reminds her she has been there for five years and still can't walk; it is going to take time.

Regardless of Annie's advice, Jenna stops showing up for her doctor's appointments. Phillip goes to speak with Dr. Miles, who tells him Jenna has to keep going, or she risks being dropped from the trial. Knowing what will push Jenna toward recovery, Phillip takes her out to Will's pasture for a surprise: High Hat. Will was able to heal High Hat's injury, and save his life. Jenna, who thought her horse was put down, is shocked to see him. She instantly feels better.

Back at physical therapy, Jenna pushes herself extra hard to make up for lost time. She is surprised Annie isn't there, but Eugene reveals to her Annie has depression, and will sometimes disappear. Her tough exterior is just an act; Annie is actually hopeless about her condition.

Then, Will surprises Jenna when he arrives at therapy to take her out to lunch. He sets up a picnic and the two enjoy talking to each other about Jenna's recovery and her ambition to ride High Hat again someday. Just as Jenna is getting comfortable enough to tell Will she is falling for him, the patients from the spine center, led by Annie, come out to join them.

One day after therapy, Annie teaches Jenna how to drive her van, which is specially equipped for handicapped drivers. Jenna drives around a parking lot until Annie convinces her to drive them to get fast food. Jenna is confident, driving like a pro, until a cop pulls her over. The officer lets her off with a warning, but Jenna is shaken by the ordeal, until she realizes she unconsciously moved her foot to the brake. The girls scream in excitement for her progress.

Will decides it is time for Jenna to get back to riding, and takes her out to ride High Hat. Will guides the horse around the pen until Jenna has a flashback of her accident, and falls off High Hat and into Will's arms, crying. He comforts her, and tells her he fell off a bronco and also suffered an accident. He broke his leg and had to teach himself to walk again. He left the rodeo after that, too scared to return, and regrets it. He begs her not to make that mistake.

Feeling closer than ever to Will and determined to heal, Jenna continues to work out in the pen with High Hat and keeps making progress at her doctor's appointments. Everything is looking up, until one day at therapy, Annie doesn't show up for lunch. Annie, who had been anticipating good news at her doctor's appointment, wanted to celebrate. Jenna asks Dr. Miles if she has seen her, and the doctor explains Annie didn't get the news she hoped for; she found out she will never walk again.

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Jenna gets a taxi to Annie's house, and bangs on the door. No one answers, but Jenna hears heavy-metal music coming from the closed garage. She smells exhaust, and realizes Annie is unconscious in her van, attempting suicide. Jenna immediately dials 911, and rushes to open the garage door. Working on adrenaline, Jenna is able to walk inside with staggering steps, and pull Annie out of the van and outside the garage, just as an ambulance arrives.

Annie recovers for a night at the hospital, and admits to Jenna she admires her determination, and hoped she could walk again, too. At therapy, Jenna begins using the parallel bars to practice walking more, step by step. Will brings Jenna out to ride High Hat in the pen again, and climbs up with her. They ride around the pasture, his arms around her. Jenna feels great.

When they return home, Jenna is greeted with a surprise party to celebrate the one-year anniversary of starting therapy. Everyone is there, including Dr. Miles, Eugene, Annie, and Heather. Touched, Jenna makes an impromptu speech, thanking everyone for supporting her through her recovery, and admitting she has become a better person because of it.

Later, as Will and Phillip watch, Jenna rides High Hat without assistance around the pen, performing jumps with ease. She challenges Will to a race, and he hops on his own horse, running to catch up to her and High Hat, already galloping through the pasture. Catching up to her, Will and Jenna finally share a kiss.

--HALLMARK MOVIE CHANNEL--

