
FREE FALL

Paula Bowman

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Free Fall

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Cover by Brandi Doane McCann

NINA sat on a stool behind the bar and counted out the money for her till. Outside the door of the club it rained hard on the Seattle Free Fall sidewalk and she could see pedestrians as they fought with their colorful umbrellas on the windswept street.

She looked around at the club she co-owned with her brother and stepfather and gave a sigh of satisfaction. The remodel still looked good in the long rectangular room. The bar was just to the right of the entrance with a kitchen behind it. In front of her was an open area filled with tables Free Fall and beyond that was a dance floor and a raised stage. A long, red, leather-padded bench seat lined the wall on the left with more tables and chairs set up along the length of it. The décor was in muted tones of red, brown and gray.

Patrick, a big red headed man, was the bouncer at the door. Gail, in her uniform of black shorts and a red top, waited on customers at the tables. Another waitress, Cindi, would show up Free Fall at nine when the band started. Jake was in the back at the grill. It was just another Friday night when the Live Wire would be hopping. She had no idea that it would be a night that changed the rest of her life.

Just then, her best friend Trish entered the bar wearing a tight, black corset with a scooped neckline that plunged dangerously low. Beneath the display of cleavage she wore an equally tight black leather mini skirt Free Fall that rode low on Free Fall her hips with four inches of flat belly and a tiny gold navel ring exposed. Completing the ensemble Free Fall was a pair of thigh high, shiny black vinyl boots with four-inch spike heels.

Nina looked pointedly at her friends pushed up breasts. "Ow!" That's gotta hurt."

Trish laughed and the rhinestone clip that held up a long pony tail of braids sparkled. "Beauty is pain, girl!"

"Where's the whip?" Nina said. She glanced down at her own casual jeans and T-shirt. "We're certainly going to be a mismatched Free Fall pair up there on the Free Fall Free Fall stage tonight."

Trish walked behind her. "The best of both worlds, babe."

Trish had applied for a bartender job three years ago before their grand opening and her brother Luke had hired her on the spot. They found out she could sing as well as Nina so they integrated her into the music show. The pair of them were very popular with the regulars.

Nina heard the door and looked up. It was her stepfather George, his round face smiling as usual.

"Georgie!" Trish called out. George Free Fall flashed a peace sign and went right to work helping Patrick at the door. People were already piling in to find choice seats before the Free Fall band started.

Here we go, Nina thought, and turned to the nearest customer at the bar. "What can I get for you?"

Joseph paced restlessly in his suite at the Seattle Marriott. He picked up the Stranger, a rag he had found in the hotel lobby and flipped through pages. There was an ad for a place called Live Wire. He grabbed his cell phone and rang Free Fall the studio's car service. He asked for Trevor, the young man who'd picked him up at the airport. They made arrangements to meet in front of the hotel at nine.

He Free Fall had arrived in Seattle early that morning and had gone straight to the set. After a short rehearsal, he was ready to shoot one of the outdoor scenes he had in the film with Anne Greenfield. But, it started to rain heavily and a strong wind blew up from Puget Sound, soaking the actors and the crew and wrecking the set. The entire location had packed up and shut down for the day.

What a bitch, he thought as he dressed Free Fall in jeans and a white button up shirt. It could take days for the weather to change. Personally the rain didn't bother Free Fall him, he wanted to shoot the scenes as quickly as possible and go home to Los Angeles. He'd been invited to dinner with the producer and Anne Greenfield but had opted out. So what if she was one of the greatest living actresses, she was arrogant and difficult to work with. He wanted to spend as little time as possible with her.

He grabbed his navy blue sport jacket and took the elevator down to the lobby. He went out the front entrance and spotted a black SUV parked a little ways off to the left. He sprinted down the sidewalk and hopped into the front seat beside Trevor, Free Fall a local man who worked for a Seattle transportation and security service.

"I want to go to this place," he said, showing him the address.

"Great spot, but we'd better hurry if you want to find a seat. It's packed on Friday night." Trevor, in brown slacks and a black polo shirt, pulled out smoothly into traffic. "That's in Pioneer Square. You could pub crawl down there all night."

"So what kind of music does it have?" Joseph asked.

"All kinds. Little of this, little of that."

"If you don't have anything Free Fall else to do why don't you Free Fall come in with me for a while?"

"Sure, man. I'll hang around as long as you Free Fall need me."

Inside the entrance to Live Wire, a bouncer asked for Joseph's ID. He took out his wallet and showed his California driver's license. Looking speculatively from the license to Joseph and then back to the license again, the bouncer pointed to a table in the far right corner. "That one's reserved," he said, his face inscrutable as he handed Joseph his license. "If you'd like to sit there, no one will bother you."

Joseph looked at the table along the end of the wall near the stage. "Thank you," he said graciously, taking his license back as the man waved them in. What a hoot! He thought. One of the fifty people outside of Hollywood that might recognize him from Free Fall his acting was working right here at this club. Thankful the guy didn't make a big deal about it, he made his way through the crowd and surveyed his surroundings. Nice. The place looked newly remodeled, well set up, and he had a primo seat.

A good looking waitress with blonde hair piled on top of her head arrived at their table and took their orders for drinks. Both Joseph and Trevor watched her trot off, admiring her black shorts.

"She's a peach." Trevor's young, wholesome face was alight with admiration. Joseph agreed. The night had gotten off to a good start.

"Whatcha need?" Nina signaled to Gail who'd arrived at the waitress station.

"One coke and one VO rocks for the VIP table." Gail waggled her eyebrows suggestively.

"Who is it?" Trish sidled up close Free Fall to Nina to lean over the bar and get a better look.

"Get your boobs out of my face," scolded Nina. She squirted coke from the spigot in her hand and tried to sneak a look. "Two dudes," she said. "I have no idea who they are." Just then, one of the guys stood up and took off his jacket. A tall man in his early forties with a lean face, dark eyes and a mop of wavy black hair, he turned his head and their eyes met briefly across the room before he sat back down.

Whoa! Nina thought. Although he wasn't conventionally handsome, with rugged features and a nose a little too big for his face, she felt a jolt of instant attraction. Forget it, she admonished herself. He was Free Fall probably out of her league.

"Time to go!" Trish said, as she smeared lip gloss on her already Free Fall juicy red lips.

Nina and Trish headed to the front of the club to sing the opening song of the first set. The crowd quieted as they took their places side by side in front of two microphones at center stage.

"And now," Nina spoke into the mic, "A little retro from T'Pau."

At a signal from Nina the band started and she began the half rap, half singsong lyrics to 'Heart and Soul'. Trish joined in, harmonizing in a strong contralto. They'd spent many hours

practicing and perfecting the tune and it showed.

Joseph's table was so close to the stage he could see the singer's lips moving. As their voices soared into the chorus, he felt the rush of delight he always felt when he experienced music that he liked. The second verse started and they switched vocals. He listened to the woman in jeans as she took over the harmony Free Fall with yearning in her clear voice.

At the end of the song, the lead guitarist took over the mic. The band immediately broke into 'Pride and Joy'. Amidst the blast of the guitar, the two women stepped down off the stage.

Joseph watched the little brunette as she walked by.

"She's nice," Trevor said, following his look. "I think her family owns the place."

"She's incredibly cute." Joseph's eyes roved over her figure Free Fall and came to rest on her breasts as they bounced past his table. He looked up just in time to see that she'd caught his eyes on her. Busted! He smiled and gave her a little wave. She smiled back at him over her shoulder.

"Maybe Free Fall I should talk to her?"

"Go to the bar and order a drink," Trevor Free Fall Free Fall suggested.

Free Fall

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