

Trampoline

by

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FADE IN:

1. INT. TRAMPOLINE CENTER - 4.30PM

The worn trampoline bed explodes into life as a pair of 14-year-old feet lands and springs back into the stratosphere. Over the hubbub of the trampoline centre AIDAN is warming up for the afternoon session.

CUT TO:

Aidan's POV, a pod of girls walk towards the trampoline, led by the prettiest girl, BRITTANY, 16, nearly knocking over ALICE, 13.

AIDAN
Brittany! Hey Brittany!

Time slows down as she tosses her honey-coloured tresses his way, not breaking the beat of her conversation. In her wake, Alice recovers her balance, and beams up at Aidan.

AIDAN (CONT'D)
Look!

Aidan prepares for a triple somersault as the pod makes their way over to the kiosk. Aidan comes out of his trick only to find only Alice watching him.

2.INT. TRAMPOLINE CENTER KIOSK - 4.34PM

The girls sit down at a round plastic table. Brittany holds court, gym clothes match her expensive highlights,

In the mirror behind them, affixed to the kiosk's wall, Aidan performs another flawless trick as Alice watches on. The girls don't notice. They are looking at someone off screen.

BRITTANY
He is SO cute.
(Flicks hair)
Brooke told me he dumped Keyara ...

3.INT. TRAMPOLINE CENTRE - AIDAN'S TRAMPOLINE 4.35PM

Aidan, still jumping, watches MATT, 17, walk towards the table and break the flow of Brittany's monologue. Aidan can only see Matt's back, and watches as Brittany's friends follow, like a tennis match, the exchange. Tension mounts, Brittany nods agreement with a cool nonchalance. Matt swaggers off to his friends. The table erupts in excitement.

AIDAN

Brittany!

4. INT. TRAMPOLINE CENTER KIOSK - AFTERNOON 4.37PM

Brittany's phone rings, and she screws up her face in annoyance.

BRITTANY

Yes?

Brittany's eyebrows shoot up.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

What! You can not be serious.

Brittany's scans the maze of trampoline. Aidan, valiantly somersaulting, is reflected in the mirror, behind the girls.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

Yes. He's here.

Brittany drops her phone in her bag, stands up and walks towards Aidan's trampoline.

5. INT. AIDAN'S TRAMPOLINE - 4.45PM

Brittany's POV. Looks up.

BRITTANY

Aidan.

CUT TO:

Aidan bouncing. Time slows down again.

CUT TO:

Brittany talking. Her mouth is moving but he doesn't hear what she's saying. She's beautiful.

CUT TO:

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
(Clear as a bell)
For God's sake. Aidan...

Handbag clutched under her arm in annoyance.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
Stop...Jumping...

CUT TO:

Aidan forgets to stop jumping.

CUT TO:

Wind is blowing through Brittany's hair.

CUT TO:

AIDAN
Ok.

CUT TO:

Brittany looks up at Aidan.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
Aidan... Your mum has to give me a lift
home.

She checks to see if he's understood her.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
OK?

CUT TO:

Aidan still jumping. Hapless, helpless, hopelessly in love.

AIDAN (CONT'D)
Ok.

CUT TO:

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
So I'll meet you in the foyer. 5.30.

CUT TO:

Aidan still jumping. She's an angel.

CUT TO:

AIDAN (CONT'D)
Ok.

CUT TO:

Brittany rolls her eyes, wheels around and retreats back to her friends.

CUT TO:

Aidan watches her depart. She swims away in a golden sea of love.

6. INT. TRAMPOLINE CENTRE - ENTRANCE - 5.30PM

Brittany approaches the entrance, overtaking Alice who is walking towards Aidan.

AIDAN
Hey!

Alice recovers herself and waves in one deft move, while Brittany walks straight past Aidan, slams the double glass doors open, scanning the car park.

Alice opens her mouth to say something but Aidan is looking through the doors as his mum, JUDITH, wave enthusiastically out of the drivers' side window at the entrance.

Aidan walks through the door, leaving Alice open mouthed and alone in the foyer. He hears his mother as Brittany opens the front passenger car door.

JUDITH
Hello Britt. Haven't you grown u..

Brittany slams the door shut.

7. INT. CAR - EARLY EVENING - 5.35PM

Brittany texts furiously the entire trip home. Judith's eye catch Aidan's in the rear view mirror, her arched eyebrows ask "What's going on with her?". Aidan shrugs his shoulders, confused, and looks out the window.

8. INT/EXT. BRITTANY'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - 5.45PM

Brittany's MUM opens the screen door, and watches Brittany get out of the car. She hears Aidan's voice before the door slams.

AIDAN

See ya next Thursday Br...

Brittany storms up the path.

Brittany's mum waves a 'thanks' to Judith as Brittany stomps past.

BRITTANY

So embarrassing...

9. EXT. SCHOOL BUS SHELTER - NEXT MORNING

Aidan kicks a soccer ball with his mates.

AIDAN

We gave Brittany a lift home last night.

Mates stop playing soccer.

AIDAN

(chest exploding with pride)
I'm goin' ta Brittany's next week ...
in the 'arvo. 'Gunna walk her to the
trampoline 'cenna.

SOCCER BOY shoots a soccer ball into the fence.

SOCCER BOY

You 'gunna to ask her out?

AIDAN

Yeah.

Aidan tries to look nonchalant but he is puffed with pride and happiness.

10. EXT. BRITTANY'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - A WEEK LATER - 3.45PM

Aidan arrives full of bravado. Dumps his bag. Smooths his fringe. Opens the flyscreen door and walks in.

11. INT. BRITTANY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Brittany's busy in the kitchen, her back to the front door, she puts the kettle on. The golden glow envelopes her.

Her toast pops up.

AIDAN

Hey Brittany!

Brittany reaches over to pull toast out of toaster.

BRITTANY

Oh my God. So exciting I can't believe it.

She pulls open the cutlery draw and finds a knife.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

I know!

Brittany starts buttering her toast.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

I don't know what to wear.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

What you've got on is great.

A surprised Brittany spins around, toast in hand. She's talking on her mobile phone, propped under her ear. Time stands still. In a heartbeat the glow is shattered.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

(Into the phone)

Gotta go.

She regards Aidan for a moment, tears a ferocious bite out of her toast. Aidan pretends he didn't say anything.

Matt strides into the kitchen, nearly knocking Aidan over in his wake.

MATT

Who's he?

BRITTANY

It's Aidan. My mum is making me take him
this afternoon.

(Looks at Matt)

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

I have to babysit him.

Matt is satisfied with the explanation. He kisses Brittany, grabs the second piece of toast, crunches a bite and walks out of the room. Aidan's face slides off. Brittany follows behind him.

Aidan is left alone in the kitchen. A cat brushes up against his leg. Aidan pats it distractedly.

The kettle rumbles to a boil. The cat wanders over to her bowl, sniffs, unimpressed, walks out. Aidan examines his shoes. Shadows fall 'til it's time to go.

12. EXT. - SUBURBAN ROAD - AFTERNOON

Brittany and Matt walk ahead, silhouetted together against the harsh afternoon sun. Aidan trails behind, shoulders slumped.

13. INT. - ALICES CAR - AFTERNOON

Alice looks out the passenger window and sees Aidan walking along the road. She gasps and waves as they drive by, but he's looking straight ahead and doesn't see her.

14. EXT. - SUBURBAN ROAD - AFTERNOON

Aidan doesn't register the car driving past, into the setting sun.

THE END