

## Terrifying Things #1

By: Adrienne LaValley

What's the scariest thing that's ever happened to you? I voluntarily threw myself off a fifteen hundred foot cliff in Brazil, as that's what one does when one hang glides. I remember being able to hear my own heart beat in my ears banging loudly over the instructor yelling "It's going to be good run, yes? It's a good run.... yes? A good run! Go! Now now now!!!" As I started sprinting toward what every fiber in my body told me was the end of my life a simple 'Errrrp' is all that escaped my mouth. My stomach flipped over itself and I was weightless in an instant and all I said was "Errrrrp!" Is that what I'm going to sound like when I die? Fucking 'Eeeerp'? Is that who I am in moments of sheer panic and imminent death? 'Eeeerp'? It was so ridiculous that my family watched the video (because there absolutely was one) over and over again to their delight. Breathless laughing at my expense. They'd literally pass the video around to everyone they could find and without exception... every single person lost their breath laughing like a dental patient on gas. Jerks.

I guess I always thought of myself as someone who would casually throw a peace sign as I stepped off the cliff with the confidence of an eagle. Just knowing I was about to soar. Or like the squirrel suit people. Did you know they say "3-2-1- see ya!". Fucking "see ya?".... and then possible (or imminent depending on about twenty factors) death? What?! Who are these people? I wonder if they're on the psychopath spectrum. I wonder if that kind of disconnect between the end of your life and the present is something that can be taught or something that you just are inherently born with. A skill honed over time like polishing a rock with a piece of sand paper. That takes a lot longer than you think it would, by the way.

Eerrrrrp. Fuck you mouth. Well, at least I didn't cry. I guess that would be worse. I heard about a girl who instantly threw up upon going weightless. It flew back in her and her instructor's face. That would be worse I guess. Kind of takes the fun out of the flying like a bird experience. Eagles don't puke on themselves. Pretty sure of that.