

The Fastest Alive



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CHAPTER ONE



Never Fast Enough

It's early morning, and we're completely alone. The surface of the lake is still, and the surrounding forest is strangely quiet. By the afternoon, the lake will be overrun with tourists, but at 5:00 a.m., everyone is still sleeping. Well, everyone but me and Kit, my driver.

“Skis are on!” I give Kit an enthusiastic thumbs-up.

Kit grins and starts the boat. I veer left and right, creating gigantic waves. Then, I start wake jumping, catching more air each time. I want to go higher, farther, and faster.

“Kit, you’re not going fast enough!” I shout into the wind.

Kit shakes his head but hits the gas. We’re flying across the lake, and I can feel the wind and water working with me, pushing and pulling when I need them to. We go faster, and I get a familiar pull in the pit of my stomach. It’s how I feel when I’m utterly terrified. It’s my very favorite feeling.

CHAPTER TWO



Brave from the Beginning

I grew up in Texas in the 1950s and 1960s. Most of my childhood was spent outdoors. Ever since I was little, I've been climbing up one thing and jumping off another. I was always getting into trouble with my older brother, Charlie. Just like me, Charlie loved mischief and adventure.

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