

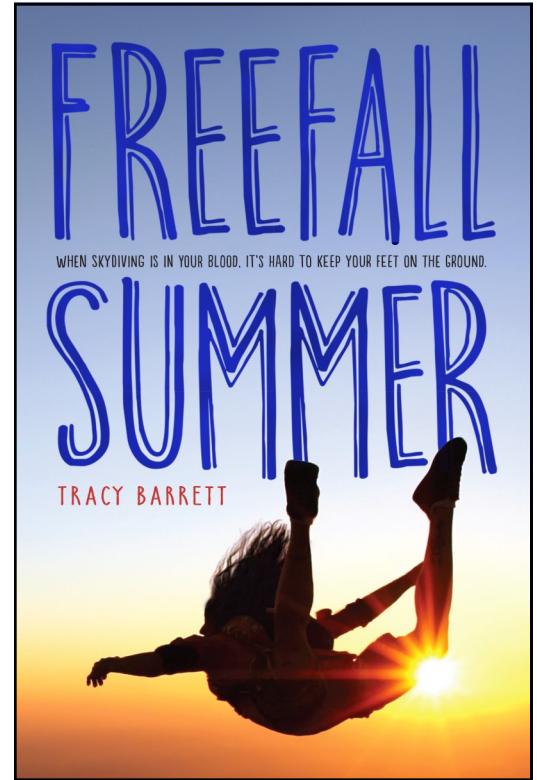
Levelity: The state of being in a level position with respect to another skydiver
—The Whuffo's Guide to Skydiving

About the Book

Sixteen-year-old Clancy Edwards has always been “the good girl.” Ever since her mother died in a skydiving accident when Clancy was young, Clancy's father has watched her like a hawk. Between her dad’s rules and her boyfriend’s protectiveness, she's longing for an escape this summer.

Then she meets Denny.

Denny is a new skydiving student and college freshman. Clancy lets Denny think they're the same age—that she's old enough to make decisions for herself. But her lies snowball, relationships are damaged, and suddenly Clancy isn't the person she wants to be. If only making choices were as simple as leaping out of a plane. Before Clancy can make things right, one last act of rebellion threatens her chance to do so—maybe forever.



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About the Author



Tracy Barrett is the author of more than twenty books for children and young adults, as well as being a scholar and professor. Her fiction titles include *Anna of Byzantium* (Penguin Random House), *The Stepsister's Tale* (Harlequin Teen), and the middle-grade series *The Sherlock Files* (Henry Holt). She knows more about ancient Greece and Rome and the European Middle Ages than anyone really needs to know, can read lots of dead languages, and used to jump out of airplanes. She lives in Tennessee with her husband (also a skydiver) and two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

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CharlesbridgeTEEN Readers' Group Guide

1. What is a whuffo?
2. Why does Clancy continue to watch her mother's final drop video over and over again?
3. Despite all her experience at her dad's drop zone, what is the one thing Clancy isn't allowed to do? What is her dad's reasoning, both for the public and for Clancy specifically?
4. What is Clancy's real first name? Why does she go by Clancy? What does this say about her character and the relationship she has with her father?
5. Why is Clancy's relationship with Theo complicated, and does it get further complicated as the summer continues?
6. Do you think Clancy's father is justified in forbidding her to skydive once she turns eighteen? Why or why not?
7. Why does Clancy lie to Denny about her age?
8. Why does Denny go skydiving? Who supports his endeavor?
9. Why doesn't Clancy's dad trust her judgment when it comes to making friends? How is his distrust emblematic of their relationship as a whole?
10. After yelling at Theo on the first day of school, what realization does Clancy come to about herself and why? Why is this particularly notable for Clancy?
11. Despite what happened to her mom, why does Clancy enjoy being at the Drop Zone?
12. Why does Clancy take a particular interest in Travis's jump?
13. How does Theo's five-month-anniversary visit surprise and change Clancy?
14. Why does Clancy decide to go to the Jump Ranch for her first jump instead of staying at her dad's drop zone?
15. Why does Clancy's dad finally reveal what really happened with him and her mother? How does this revelation change Clancy's views of her mother and her parents' relationship?
16. Can you find connections between the myth of Icarus and Clancy's story by looking not only at the plot, but at the names of people and places, and at Clancy's nightmares in the hospital?
17. Clancy can't figure out which of the views of her is accurate: that she's wild and crazy, or that she's overly prudent. Which, if either, do you think she is? Support your answer with citations from the book.
18. Clancy has relationships with two young men, Theo and Denny. How are the relationships different, and what does each of them mean to Clancy—on the surface of the story and also in a deeper sense?