

## GOING BY STAIRS

Life is about trying to succeed, or at least trying to, right? Graduating from school, attending university, having a family and being able to provide everything you need. Like a circle, new kids born, new points of this infinite circumference going around this little same point called success. They pretend they're happy, but they're actually so frustrated to follow the same road, with no turns, for ever. What pushes them to go on is the fear of the unknown. They've always been told: if you go outside the circle, you fall, you fail. You don't have other choices. That's why after their failures, no one knows anymore about those "falling people", no one knows where they go: if they would have stayed in that limbo forever or something would have happened to them sooner or later. Sometimes though, they see these bright stars popping out from the sky and starting to shine. They don't know where they're from. The only few curious ones are told to mind their own business and go back to their lives.

Well, those stars are actually existing or existed people: some clear examples? One is Einstein, another one is Galilei, then we have Lincoln, Edison, Newton and so many others. Fun fact: these names are actually famous among the circle people. They see them in books or on TV and social media and they just admire these extraordinary people who made lives easier and more beautiful and now live in a superior place, like a human gods' paradise. But they don't know how they did it: "how did they get up there?" they were chosen, they were born there, it's impossible to reach them, back to homework!" adults tell children. This circle could go on and on getting bigger regularly and nobody would ever complain: some people would have kept falling from the circle and at the same time some new stars and new names would have popped out from nothing and would have been added to the list of the "venerated and unreachable". Listen to this story now.

This guy was born in a family of very “successful” people. His parents were lawyers and his older sister was studying hard to become an engineer. He had always been a good guy, had great marks and did everything their parents wanted him to do. He was growing fast, getting ready to become the newest point of the circumference. The problem is he didn’t want to be a point. He couldn’t stand the idea of living a whole life doing something he didn’t like to do. He wanted to be different, and if that had meant leaving the circle, he would have done it. The only thing he wanted to do was acting. He loved acting. In his room thousands of posters of his idols were kept hidden. He spent whole nights acting and talking to the mirror creating stories changing personality in every one... He was sure: he would have done that in his life. One day he finally got courage, went to his parents and said: “Mom, Dad, I want to be an actor!”. He didn’t get an answer in words, he just saw their shocked and angry faces. “Are you serious? An actor? Who do you think you are? You’ll never be successful. No jokes and more studying. You need to do something that will allow you to have a wealthy life, you will listen to us. It’s the only way you can achieve something. End of story.” He was killed by these words. There wasn’t any way to convince his parents, they couldn’t understand. But he had made a decision. He would have gone his own way. So he packed his things and left. They were really rich, but didn’t give him a penny, even though he had none. He was alone but he was guided by a dream, stronger than anything else. He then signed up for an audition to a small theater in the city. The big day arrived, and the audition would have taken place right at the edge of the circle. He was quite scared of going there as he had been told a lot of bad stories about what’s outside. His moment finally arrived, he had the audition and... he got rejected. He didn’t have money, a job or family and friends to support him. Now he was completely alone, he thought even his dream had left him. His mind was so full of thoughts that he lost balance, right at the edge of the circle and... he fell. After falling for some seconds, he landed in an empty room with 2 open doors: on top of one there was written: “Road to your dream”, and the other one said: “Road back to

the circle”. He looked inside both: the room of the dream had just stairs going upwards. On the first step there was written “First floor”. The room of the circle was full of money, great cars, all his friends and his smiling parents. He thought about it for a while, then he started running up the stairs. He was full of energy at first, but he soon started to feel tired and unable to go on. The number of the floor increased but he could never see an end. He was about to lay down, but he kept going, guided by that same dream that had led him out of his parents’ house. When he expected the least, he found a closed door. It said: “Now that you know what going by stairs feels like, you can take the elevator”. He opened the door, took the elevator, went up with the speed of light and reached the sky. He had become a star. Everyone from the circle looked up and saw him and his movies. He showed his parents what real success was like and demonstrated that everything is possible with a dream. Failure is the shadow in which success hides.