



Ho Lin

Dare

He tells her he's adventurous. Although he's a homebody, he added "adventurous" to his dating profile because a TED talk recommended an algorithm change.

She tells him she's adventurous, even though she's not. She's older (not too old to have kids, not that she's interested in kids), but she's determined to show she's a lively sort, rather than one who obsesses about keto and shiplap.

Although he's never dived before, he takes her scuba diving. He gets nitrogen narcosis and spends three days in his hotel bed. To keep up, she arranges a ski trip to Breckenridge, but breaks her wrist on her second run. An old buddy he doesn't really relate to anymore suggests a BMX cross-country event. Halfway through he

clips a tree branch and fractures his collarbone. She tries slacklining after seeing photos of daredevils in Kjerag; while practicing, a bracket ricochets loose, tearing through her knee. Compelled to keep up, he goes skydiving. A headwind hits him twenty feet off the ground, and the awkward landing cracks two vertebrae in his back.

Soon the planned activity list includes running the bulls in Pamplona, scaling the Jin Mao Tower and big-wave surfing at Shipstern Bluff. Then he hears that the Mars One Mission is looking for volunteers. Their hospital beds alongside each other, he asks if she's interested. Sighing, she swirls her finger round his yet-to-be-scarred navel, and admits, "I think I'd rather just play with your outie." They agree: from now on, outies only.

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