**Catalyst**

A diabetic teenager, Zooey is angry at the world. After a huge fight with her mother about taking better care of herself and being responsible, she suffers from a low blood sugar. Coming on quickly she stumbles through the house and collapses, falling down the stairs. She hits her head and her whole world fades to black. As the fight ended Zooey’s mom was walking out the door to go to work. Zooey yelled saying, “I wish I didn’t even exist.” Now, after tumbling down the stairs she will get a glimpse of what the world would be like if she didn’t exist. At first Zooey sees the world as better without her in it; her mother is a corporate executive instead of a career counselor at the local college, but is no longer with Zooey’s father. Her father a brilliant man, pursued his passion for painting, and is very successful at selling his artwork, but when he leaves the galleries and auctions he returns to an empty home and a cat. Her best friend, Kevin who normally is quiet, but full of life is that begs Zooey to take a closer look at what is going on here. She sees that he is very lonely and for the first time she can see a void where she is supposed to be. She befriends Kevin and he helps her see past the surface and that her mother is not happy despite a better career, her father isn’t complete without his family, and she brings a certain light to all their lives. As she spends more time with Kevin she begins to see a different side to him as well; a side she never saw before, a vulnerable openness. Not the Kevin she knows, who has large walls and jokes that are just facades. But, what she really didn’t expect is to fall in love with him, he begs her to stay, and part of her wants to. But, deep down she knows this isn’t real, and she needs to go back to make things right. Kevin and Zooey sit on an old bridge, swinging their legs over the edge. Zooey stands and walks away as they argue, Kevin reaches out his hand and pulls her arm. Zooey goes over the railing, hurtling toward the bottom of the ravine. As she hits the bottom, the Zooey who lies at the bottom of the stairs awakens to the sound of someone banging on the door. Kevin peers through the window yelling her name; he breaks the window and enters rushing to her side. He holds her as she loses consciousness, and whispers a final message before drifting away. She awakens in the hospital with her mother and father sitting nearby, they both rejoice as she blinks her eyes open. After hugging them she asks where Kevin is, they both look at each other, and tell her that it has been almost a week and he is in school. They take her home, and as soon as Kevin walks by toward his house, she rushes to his side and greets him. Together they talk and their love is reaffirmed, this time forever.