

61. More Than a Broken Bone

(Girl)

1 I heard the snap. In fact, I'm pretty sure the whole gym
2 heard the snap. They saw the girl trip and come flying at
3 me. They knew before I did what was going to happen. I was
4 still focused on getting the ball. Sure that I could make it in
5 time. I didn't know there was danger until it was too late.
6 Until I was flat on my back, my leg twisted in such a way
7 that the audience gasped.

8 There was no question whether it was broken. The angle
9 of my leg and the bone pushing at the skin left no doubt. I
10 was taken out on a stretcher. The pain was so intense I
11 could think of nothing else.

12 *(Pause)* The thinking came later ... after the talk with the
13 doctor. And the surgeon. The break was bad. They had
14 doubts that I would play volleyball to my full potential ever
15 again. Even with therapy they couldn't guarantee that I
16 would ever return to normal. The pins in my leg would make
17 sure of that.

18 My parents were as crushed as I was. It wasn't only a
19 broken bone. It was a broken dream. It was the beginning
20 of the season. I was a starter! A key player! My sister was
21 already playing Division One college volleyball and I was
22 going to follow in her footsteps! My lifelong dream. My
23 injury, of course, sent that dream spiraling down the tubes!

24 But I'm not going to let this beat me! I'm not. I'm going
25 to prove those doctors and the coaches wrong. You watch!
26 One day you'll see me playing college ball — that's a
27 promise!