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# Dance Academy

SERIES ONE

EPISODE 15

BLOCK 3

**"My Life en Pointe"**

Written by Sam Carroll

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**Release Script**  
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INT. BOARDING HOUSE/Common Room - NIGHT 1

TARA, ABIGAIL, ETHAN, CHRISTIAN, BONNIE, N/S STUDENTS,  
TARA (V.O)

Tara, Abigail and Bonnie sit in front of the fireplace, preparing their feet and shoes for class the next day. There's a quiet unspoken industry between the girls.

Tara tapes her toes with masking tape, her pointe shoes on the floor beside her.

TARA (V.O.)  
*I loved my first pair of pointe shoes so much I took them to bed with me.*

Abigail pops a blister, clear pus oozes out.

TARA (V.O.)  
*Before my first class I spent hours carefully preparing my feet and the shoes.*

Bonnie uses sterile scissors to cut dead skin off an old blister on her foot.

TARA (V.O.)  
*But nothing could've prepared me for how much it hurt to dance en pointe.*

Abigail dips her toes into a small container of methylated spirits and winces as the spirits hit the burst blister.

TARA (V.O.)  
*It's like the most intense pain - blisters, blood... totally inhumane. And then, one day - you get used to it.*

Tara slips an ouch pouch (a crescent shaped pouch made of a layer of gel inside a soft, fabric outer, used for stuffing and protecting the toes inside pointe shoes) over her toes and then pushes her foot into the pointe shoe.

TARA (V.O.)  
*It's not like the pain goes away, it's more like your brain tells your feet to shut up and stop complaining.*

Tara stands in the highest demi-pointe, testing the shoes. She flexes and extends her feet a few times.

TARA (V.O.)  
*And they listen.*

1

CONTINUED:

1

Just then Ethan and Christian burst down the hall and into the room, laughing and talking loudly - disturbing the peace of the girls.

ETHAN

I know you can't have forgotten how vastly superior I am to you.

Christian follows him into the common room and then watches as Ethan goes up behind Tara and grabs her around the waist.

ETHAN

Who's the best, me or Christian?

TARA

You.

Ethan lets her go and heads over to collect pool cues. Christian raises his eyebrows at Tara and smiles before heading to his pool game.

TARA (V.O.)

*Which just goes to show, you can talk yourself into anything.*

On Tara as she picks up her shoes and smiles at the boys as they rack up the balls then she quickly heads out the room.

2

**EXT. BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT 1**

2

KAT, LUCAS, PETRA, MISS RAINE

It's late. Street lights reflect off the wet street. Kat and Lucas appear, laughing and talking, arm in arm, walking back to the boarding house.

Kat is enthusiastic, words tumbling out.

KAT

Genius! Pure, unadulterated, let me die now because I am never going to be this happy ever again, geniusity.

LUCAS

I saw them last year in the States, I think they played better then.

KAT

That is so pretentious, you can't tell me magic didn't just happen here tonight.

LUCAS

They weren't bad.

Kat grabs him and kisses him.

2

CONTINUED:

2

KAT

Better than "not bad". Say it.

Lucas enjoys the game, shakes his head.

KAT

I'm not kissing you until you admit that was the most amazing music ever played on the entire planet.

LUCAS

The entire universe.

He gets his wish and Kat and he start to kiss - properly - neither of them notice a CAB pull up and illuminate them with its headlights. A figure slams the door and strides towards them. As she enters the light we see that it's Miss Raine.

Kat, oblivious, just keeps kissing Lucas.

A 15 year old girl, whom we will come to know as PETRA, wheels an over-sized suitcase into the street-light and sneakily takes a quick photograph of Kat and Lucas kissing with her camera/phone. The flash finally disturbs Kat and she turns her head to see she has an audience.

MISS RAINE

Please don't let us disturb you Katrina.

On Kat - oops.

3

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE/CORRIDOR - NIGHT 1**

3

KAT, PETRA, MISS RAINE

An unimpressed Miss Raine marches down the corridor of the sleeping boarding house, a muddy, dishevelled Kat trailing behind her. A few paces behind, Petra follows, still wheeling her suitcase.

MISS RAINE

This is well outside curfew. And don't think it didn't escape my attention that you skipped afternoon classes today.

KAT

It was just jazz, thought you'd approve.

Miss Raine stops. Kat almost bumps into her. Petra stops just short of Kat.

MISS RAINE

The day is getting close when you'll discover that the joke is increasingly on you Katrina.

3

CONTINUED:

3

Miss Raine looks beyond her towards Petra, tries hard to regain some politeness for the new girl.

MISS RAINE

This is Petra Hoffmann. On exchange from the Berlin Ballet School. Your new room-mate.

Kat looks across to Petra. Petra gives her the best smile she can manage given her jet lag.

MISS RAINE

(to Petra)

Ignore everything Katrina tells you. Welcome to the National Academy.

With a curt nod to Petra and a frown in Kat's direction, Miss Raine heads off down the corridor.

Kat raises her eyebrows at Petra, a test to see how she responds to Miss Raine.

PETRA

Standard issue. Teachers are the same in Germany.

Kat grins and swings open the door to her room.

KAT

Petra Hoffmann, welcome to Chateau Karamakov.

4

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE/KAT'S ROOM - NIGHT 1**

4

KAT, PETRA

Kat comes into the room and flops onto her bed. Petra stands at the door and takes it all in. Clothes cover every surface - bed, floor and dresser. Photographs and art projects cover every wall. It's like an extreme bower bird nest crammed with stuff of every description.

Kat smiles at Petra gingerly wheels her suitcase into the room.

KAT

Just push those clothes off, that's your bed.

Petra shrugs at the state of the room and turns her attention to the photographs on the wall, particularly the series of dancer's feet.

KAT

You can take them down if you really hate them.

4

CONTINUED:

4

But Petra is engrossed in the pictures.

PETRA

You can tell everything about  
someone by their feet. How they  
stand in the world, how they dance,  
how grounded they are.

(to Kat)

I think they're beautiful.

Kat is pleased but, as usual, disguises it.

KAT

They're just snaps.

Petra digs into the pocket of her hoodie and pulls out her  
phone. Hands it to Kat.

PETRA

I collect love.

Off Kat's raised eyebrow, Petra quickly explains.

PETRA

More like signs of love... public  
displays of affection, couples...  
that sort of thing.

Kat sleepily looks at the picture of her and Lucas.

KAT

Sweet. You'll have to give me a  
copy, my boyfriend will love that.

She puts her head onto the pillow - it's been a long day.

PETRA

So that was your boyfriend?

But Kat doesn't reply. She's already asleep.

Petra gently takes her camera/phone out of Kat's hand and  
sits on the bed.

She reaches under her and pulls out the clothes, thinks for a  
moment then puts them on the floor as instructed and looks  
around at her new life.

5

**EXT. ACADEMY/HARBOUR - DAY 2**

5

NIL CAST

Morning on the harbour. Seagulls, glistening water, boats  
cruising by.

6

**EXT. ACADEMY/CAFE - DAY 2**

6

KAT, TARA, PETRA, ETHAN, MR KENNEDY, N/S STUDENTS

Tired, Kat flops down at a table and starts eating her toast. Tara and Ethan, having just finished eating breakfast together at another table, see her and approach. She knows what's coming.

ETHAN

Was it worth it?

KAT

Let me think - fifteen awesome bands, one particular transcendental musical experience and the opportunity to share it with thousands of people who didn't talk about ballet once the entire day? Yep, worth it.

TARA

(stern)

Really? Miss Raine trapped me after jazz. She knows you skipped.

Kat keeps eating.

KAT

Saw her already. You know, she watched Lucas and I pashing for a very long time before she interrupted, don't you think that's weird?

ETHAN

She did that to me and Isabelle once, it was kind of creepy.

Tara mocks offence.

TARA

Standing right here.

Ethan grins and kisses her.

ETHAN

Long time ago. I can barely remember it.

TARA

Good.

Behind them Petra snaps a quick shot of them kissing as she arrives at the table with her breakfast. Tara sees her and gets immediately self conscious.

PETRA

Sorry.

6

CONTINUED:

6

Kat moves to give her some room at the table.

KAT

Petra Hoffmann - German exchange,  
Tara Webster and my brother, Ethan -  
love birds.

ETHAN

What's with the photo?

Petra hands him the camera/phone.

PETRA

If you don't like it, please erase  
it.

Tara checks out the shot with Ethan.

KAT

Petra's into PDA's.  
(off Ethan's look)  
Your favourite thing, public  
displays of affection.

PETRA

Just the photos. It's not like I  
stalk people or anything.

TARA

(about the photo)  
I like it.

KAT

Now that you're the pash expert.

Tara shoots an embarrassed look at Ethan who just laughs -  
just then Mr Kennedy walks through the cafe, not even  
stopping.

MR KENNEDY

(to Kat)  
My office, now.

7

**INT. ACADEMY/MR KENNEDY'S OFFICE - DAY 2**

7

KAT, MR KENNEDY

Mr Kennedy looks evenly at Kat over the desk.

MR KENNEDY

You're late most days, your  
teachers tell me you're working  
nowhere near your potential and now  
you decide that Friday afternoons  
are optional?



KAT

I was looking for inspiration. I'm planning a contemporary piece about young people and their religious attachment to music festivals. It's very raw.

MR KENNEDY

You think this is a joke?

Kat knows when to shut up.

MR KENNEDY

You're on shaky ground here Katrina, if I hadn't known you so long...

KAT

(interrupting)

Don't treat me any differently because of who my family are.

MR KENNEDY

I was going to say I know you well enough to realise that detention won't change your behaviour.

Kat just shrugs - he's right.

MR KENNEDY

One of our ex-students, Gus Walker, graduated from the Academy a few years ago, and has been doing some interesting community work.

KAT

You must be very proud.

Mr Kennedy ignores her dig.

MR KENNEDY

You'll be spending this afternoon, and the next four Saturday afternoons helping him out.

He scrawls something on a piece of paper.

MR KENNEDY

Here's the address.

Slides the piece of paper across the desk.

KAT

(not impressed)

I'm more than happy to clean out the shoe lockers instead.

7

CONTINUED:

7

MR KENNEDY  
Don't be late for class.

Kat is dismissed.

8

**INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 2**

8

KAT, TARA, ABIGAIL, PETRA, FIRST YEAR N/S STUDENTS (FEMALE),  
MISS RAINE

Girl's classical ballet: Tara, Kat and the rest of the first year girls warm up. Abigail approaches Petra, who is fitting her feet into pointe shoes - unlike the rest of the class who are wearing flats.

ABIGAIL  
You do know this is just the barre,  
right?

Petra looks up at her, a little startled at her abruptness. She ignores it and smiles.

PETRA  
Hi, I'm Petra.

Abigail ignores her.

ABIGAIL  
You don't have to wear pointe shoes  
during warm up.

PETRA  
It's how we'll dance when we're  
professionals. Why not always do it  
this way?

Abigail doesn't have an answer. Petra smiles and turns, walks to the front of the barre and stands in Abigail's usual spot.

Watching, Tara cringes and nudges Kat.

TARA  
Your room-mate's taking Abigail's  
spot.

KAT  
Blood sport. I like it.

But Abigail goes to the barre and takes the position behind Petra. Staring at her through the mirrored glass, she lifts her leg above her head, showing off her incredible flexibility.

Petra just circles her ankles, not responding to the challenge.

CUT TO:

LATER:

Miss Raine walks along the barre as the girls complete their exercises (grande battements en cloche - adjust).

MISS RAINE  
Abigail watch those hips in the  
devant. Don't lose your line.

She stops in front of Petra.

MISS RAINE  
Lovely Petra. Good work.

At the end of the barre she turns as the girls finish their grande battements.

MISS RAINE  
Stretch it out and come into the  
centre.

Abigail is doing a big stretch. Miss Raine stops her and has a private word.

MISS RAINE  
I spoke with Dr Wicks this morning,  
she thinks you should restrict  
yourself to the barre for now.

ABIGAIL  
But I'm fine...

MISS RAINE  
You're still getting your strength  
back. Sit this one out.

CUT TO:

LATER:

All the girls, including Tara, are now en pointe and practicing a dance exercise in the centre - Abigail sits on the sidelines in a stretching position using a rubber theraband, watching rather miserably.

In a class of her own, Petra moves gracefully, every bit a ballet dancer. Miss Raine is impressed.

MISS RAINE  
Take note, girls.

Petra continues, her movements light and effortless.

MISS RAINE  
Look at Petra's lines - nothing is  
broken - it appears effortless.  
Lovely, lovely training.

8

CONTINUED:

8

Watching enviously, Abigail fumes.

9

**INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 2**

9

TARA, KAT, PETRA, ABIGAIL, ETHAN, N/S STUDENTS

Class is over and students trickle out of the studio, clearly still dumbstruck by Petra's performance. Tara and Kat rave to Abigail.

TARA

Petra has the most amazing extensions. Don't you think she's incredible?

It nearly kills her, but -

ABIGAIL

Incredible.

Kat rubs it in nice and hard -

KAT

She actually made me remember why I'm here.

Behind them, Petra emerges from the studio, alone. Abigail moves on down the corridor.

PETRA

So Saturday afternoon's are free?

KAT

Unless you're me.

PETRA

Do you guys have lunch...  
(*somewhere*)?

- but before she can complete her sentence, Ethan bursts across in front of her, and pounces on Tara, draping an arm around her shoulder.

ETHAN

You're not busy are you?

TARA

Not now.

Kat pretends to stick her finger down her throat.

ETHAN

(flirting)

I've been thinking about my show-reel, and I'm looking for a dancer, you know anyone?

9

CONTINUED:

9

TARA  
(flirting back)  
Might do.

ETHAN  
Kat...?

KAT  
I know way too many thanks.

ETHAN  
I was going to put you on camera.

KAT  
Got my own slave labour to  
complete.

She splits off in one direction as Tara and Ethan, arms  
around each other, head off down the corridor.

Angle to reveal Petra has been left alone.

10

**INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY 2**

10

TARA, CHRISTIAN, ETHAN

Ethan prepares his handi-cam.

ETHAN  
You remember the piece that  
Isabelle did for my contemporary  
showcase?

TARA  
Wait, are you only using me because  
Isabelle's away on exchange?

ETHAN  
Is she?

Tara gives him a little push - you know she is. Ethan puts  
his arm around her waist.

ETHAN  
I want you because you're perfect.

Tara grins.

TARA  
Really?

A clatter as the door opens to reveal Christian. He clocks  
them and immediately turns to leave.

CHRISTIAN  
I'll leave you guys to it.

ETHAN

Hey, no, come on in.

Tara drops her arms from around Ethan's neck, tries to be cool around Christian. Ethan doesn't notice anything and instead sets up the tripod.

ETHAN

(to Christian)

So you remember the chore right?

CHRISTIAN

It was a while ago.

TARA

Maybe you should get someone else.

Christian looks right at her.

CHRISTIAN

I remember it.

ETHAN

Good, you're both cast.

He grins at them both.

ETHAN

My gorgeous, sweet Juliet and a brooding, difficult Romeo - perfect.

Tara steals a look at Christian - yeah really perfect, not. He spots her and smiles back, he's going to enjoy this.

**EXT. HARBOURSIDE/THE ROCKS - DAY 2**

PETRA, ABIGAIL, PASHING COUPLE, N/S EXTRAS

Petra walks through the streets near to the school and boarding house with her camera/phone.

She takes photographs of interesting details of this world all of them in some way reminiscent of the idea of love - a piece of graffiti, the curve of an old iron railing, the grain of a sandstone step, a pair of birds, an old weathered band poster with a silhouette of two people kissing.

Then she spots a COUPLE kissing on a bench and surreptitiously takes a shot of them. They don't even notice. Petra takes the camera/phone away from her eye and watches them for a moment before moving on - very much alone.

A familiar figure sits on another bench nearby. It's Abigail with one of her carefully portioned lunches. She toys with her food as Petra approaches.

11

CONTINUED:

11

PETRA

I was just thinking how strange it was to not know anyone and here you are.

Abigail looks up, not happy at the intrusion.

ABIGAIL

I come here because it's private.

Not realising she is speaking directly to Abigail's issue, Petra tries to be friendly.

PETRA

It's a beautiful spot. You're so lucky. I know girls in Berlin who won't eat in front of other people, which I don't get. There's nothing better than having some lunch company, don't you think?

Abigail stands, jamming the lid back on her meal.

ABIGAIL

Nothing. If you'll excuse me.

She walks off, dumping the food into a bin, leaving Petra alone, startled at the outright rejection.

12

**EXT. HARBOURSIDE PARK - DAY 2**

12

PETRA, ZIGGY, EXTRAS

Alone, Petra wanders into a nearby park. She looks around, but doesn't recognise anybody else.

She walks on, and a small scruffy mongrel dog starts to trot along after her.

She stops, as does the dog. It looks up at her, wagging its tail. She smiles - finally, a welcoming face. Then walks on.

The dog trots along, still following her.

This time she stops and crouches, patting the dog.

PETRA

Hallo. Wie heisst du?

She smiles - the dog obviously doesn't speak German.

PETRA

Who belongs to you huh?

She looks around, no one pays her or the dog any attention. She stands and speaks in a firm voice.

12

CONTINUED:

12

PETRA

Stay.

She walks on, but again, the dog follows. She keeps walking, but looks back at the dog.

PETRA

Okay, I mean it. Go home!

She shoos the dogs and it backs away, but as soon as she turns it follows again. Petra stops - the dog stops. Wags at her.

PETRA

I'm very busy, you have to leave me alone.

She walks away, turns back - the dog is still there. She relents - after all - who else is there to talk to?

PETRA

Okay, what do you know about public displays of affection?

The dog walks forward and licks her hand.

Petra laughs, stands up and sets off again - this time the dog follows her and she looks happy about it.

13

**INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY 2**

13

KAT, SCOUT, GUS, N/S KIDS

Kat enters an urban, dingy community centre, wearing big, dark vintage sunglasses, listening to her mp3 player (we hear what she hears).

She reaches the open doors of the centre, lifts her sunnies, takes out the earphones, and peers in, to see -

- a dozen screaming ten year olds doing an energetic warm-up.

KAT

(to herself)

No loud noises, no sudden moves.

But there's a flash of movement behind her and she reacts as her sunglasses are suddenly snatched from her head.

KAT

Hey!

She swivels to see a kid (Scout: 10, feisty, brash, cheeky tomboy) scrutinising the sunglasses.

SCOUT

Mmmm. Vintage, huh?



13

CONTINUED:

13

She slips the sunglasses on, stirring.

SCOUT

Wonder how much these'd be worth at  
the pawn shop?

Kat just looks at her.

KAT

Give them back or I'll crunch your  
bones.

SCOUT

You can't touch me.

KAT

Don't try me. Bad things happen to  
bad boys.

Scout is defiant. With hands on hips -

SCOUT

Lucky for me I'm a *girl* then!

Kat squints at her.

KAT

Really?

She looms over the kid.

KAT

Pity I don't discriminate.

GUS

You must be Kat.

Kat lets the kid go and turns to see the voice belongs to an  
amused young man (Gus, early 20s, dancer's body), who has  
emerged from the centre.

GUS

So Scout, you wanna give Kat her  
sunnies back?

Scout grins cheekily and holds Kat's glass out to her with a  
mock bow.

KAT

Hilarious.

14

**INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY 2**

14

KAT, SCOUT, GUS, N/S KIDS

MUSIC UP. The kids stand in two lines, performing a sequence  
of basic hip-hop moves - step snap; tap it out;

the toe touch (adjust). Their moves may not be precise but they have attitude.

Kat stands on the sidelines with Gus, she turns to him - not bad.

Seeing this, Scout steps out of her line and drags Kat into the line next to her.

Kat reluctantly goes along with it and joins in, half-heartedly performing the moves -

- then looks sideways at Scout, and busts a slightly trickier move - throwing down the gauntlet.

Scout imitates her perfectly.

As the song comes to an end, Kat hides how impressed she really is.

KAT

Not bad...

SCOUT

Not bad? We killed it!

KAT

Okay, you were better than I expected.

SCOUT

Better than anyone at your fancy ballet school?

KAT

What makes you think I go to a fancy ballet school?

SCOUT

Can tell by looking at you. And Gus told us before you got here.

They both look across to Gus, Kat accusatory.

GUS

Was it meant to be a secret?

KAT

I usually try not to lead with it.

GUS

Why? Scout's been nagging me all morning to get you to teach them some... what do you call it Scout?

SCOUT

Proper girl's ballet.

14

CONTINUED:

14

GUS  
(smiling)  
Apparently I'm too male.

SCOUT  
(to Kat)  
Will you?

KAT  
Serious?

She looks down at Scout - from the look on her face it's clear she couldn't be more serious.

15

**INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY 2**

15

TARA, CHRISTIAN, ETHAN

The music blares through the studio. Ethan is filming as Tara and Christian dance Ethan's piece (from episode 7), Tara dancing classical, Christian hip hop, their styles starting to fuse - Christian seems to be enjoying himself but Tara is tense.

ETHAN  
Good... Tara, you need to get closer - Christian, pull her into you.

Christian pulls her close but Tara, now dancing en pointe, resists and they're thrown off balance.

ETHAN  
Okay, cut.

He points the remote at the stereo and cuts the music. Christian grins at Tara before letting her go. She moves away from him and folds her arms - annoyed.

ETHAN  
Tara, what's the deal, you're all stiff.

TARA  
I'm just getting used to it.

ETHAN  
Let Christian lead you. He knows it.

Tara looks across to Christian who just shrugs and smiles at her - he's enjoying her discomfort.

TARA  
(tight)  
Fine.

15

CONTINUED:

15

ETHAN

From the top?

He starts, the music and Christian and Tara begin the dance again.

16

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE/KAT'S ROOM - DAY 2**

16

PETRA, SAMMY, ZIGGY

The dog (Ziggy) lays on Kat's bed, watching Petra as she goes through the photos on her phone. She stops and looks at it.

PETRA

My brother used to say that our old dog could read minds.

She stares at the dog - willing him to read her mind. She smiles.

PETRA

You're so right! I do wish that Tobi was here, how did you know that?

She scratches him on the head, but startles as there's a KNOCK at the door.

She quickly grabs Ziggy and stashes him in the cupboard.

PETRA

Be very quiet.

She closes the cupboard, leaving an air gap, composes herself and opens the door to reveal a smiling Sammy. Sammy walks right on into the room without being invited.

SAMMY

Thought so, Saturday afternoon everyone tends to get out of here, which is not so great if you've just arrived, right?

Petra just looks at him - who is this guy? Sammy clocks her confusion starts to over-explain.

SAMMY

Sorry. Sammy Lieberman. I'm Kat's friend... You're new... Obviously.

Petra looks confused, Sammy's losing ground.

SAMMY

Cake?

PETRA

Why not?

Sammy pulls out a plastic container of poppy seed cake - and starts to sniff and rub his eyes.

SAMMY

My grandmother bakes a truckload every week, I usually give most of it to Kat, the girl is a cake...

But he's interrupted by a SNEEZE.

SAMMY

...fiend.

PETRA

She seems fun.

SAMMY

Kat? She's the...

Sammy SNEEZES again, pulls out a hankie and blows his nose.

SAMMY

Sorry. I'm not normally like this.

But he immediately SNEEZES again.

SAMMY

Just around cats... and pollen... and

And again.

And again.

SAMMY

...dogs.

His eyes start watering.

SAMMY

Which doesn't make sense.

PETRA

Right.

SAMMY

This could get ugly, I should...

He heads out, leaving the cake and sneezing as he goes.

Petra opens the cupboard, and Ziggy bursts out and sits in front of her wagging his tail.

PETRA

You're scaring away the cute boys.

Ziggy just pants at her, his eyes on the cake.

16

CONTINUED:

16

PETRA

Cake?

She peels the cling wrap off the plate.

17

**INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY 2**

17

KAT, SCOUT, GUS, KIDS

Kat has the kids lined up using chairs as a make-shift barre, Scout at the front. They follow Kat's instructions.

KAT

Feet in second position... watch those spaghetti arms... Good. Now repeat.

She and Gus watch the kids repeat the basic ballet moves.

As they finish, they look to her for a compliment.

KAT

Not bad... Couple more lessons and we'll make ballet bots out of the lot of you.

SCOUT

Is that what you are?

KAT

Hardly.

SCOUT

So what are you?

KAT

Good question.

She heads off to grab her bag, followed by Scout.

SCOUT

Bet you're not as good as the guys on Dance Explosion.

KAT

That lame TV show?

SCOUT

As if. They're amazing.

Kat laughs - this kid is game - and right.

KAT

They're not bad, you want to see for yourself? I could make a call...

The kids all react to this.

SCOUT

Really?

KAT

The producer's an old friend of the family.

Gus steps in and pulls Kat aside, speaks in private.

GUS

(quiet)

Don't get their hopes up. A lot of these kids do it tough.

KAT

It's fine, really.

Gus isn't convinced. Kat takes out her mobile and starts dialing a number.

KAT

(to phone)

Liz... it's Kat. Hey I have a bunch of dance freaks who'd kill to come to a taping if you've got room...

She grins.

KAT

(to phone)

Tomorrow? Great. Do you need exact numbers?... Cool... Thanks, I owe you one...

She buttons off and turns to Gus and the kids.

KAT

How does ten o'clock tomorrow sound?

The kids all react, stoked.

SCOUT

No way! I'm getting TJ's autograph. She's the best.

Gus speaks over the rabble.

GUS

Okay, I'll get the bus but I need you all to get permission. That means signatures!

Kat smiles at the chaos.

18 INT. BOARDING HOUSE/KAT'S ROOM - DAY 2 18  
PETRA, ZIGGY

INTERCUT WITH:

19 INT. BOARDING HOUSE/CORRIDOR - DAY 2 19  
PETRA, STUDENT (BOY)

Ziggy scratches at the door, clearly needing to pee. Petra hesitates.

PETRA

Okay, just... wait a moment.

She goes to the door and steps outside.

CUT TO:

CORRIDOR: Petra looks to the left - coast is clear.

She looks right, and sees a student approaching.

She smiles and waits until he has passed.

She rechecks both directions then opens the door and slips back into the room -

CUT TO:

ROOM: - to find Ziggy curled up on Kat's bed, asleep, a large yellow puddle next to him on the quilt.

Her face falls.

20 INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY 2 20  
TARA, CHRISTIAN, ETHAN

Ethan films as Tara and Christian dance, both of them sweating, working hard individually - but not as a unit.

On one particularly tricky lift, Christian and Tara lose balance, misjudge their timing and almost fall on top of one another. They both stumble up, Tara furious, Christian infuriatingly calm.

TARA

Careful!

CHRISTIAN

You were fine.

TARA

I was about to fall flat on my face.



20

CONTINUED:

20

CHRISTIAN

When have I ever dropped you?

ETHAN

(over)

- Alright!

He stops the music. This has been a long day for him.

ETHAN

I thought you guys were getting along these days.

TARA

It's got nothing to do with that.

ETHAN

You know what. I have enough stuff so...

TARA

What? But we haven't done a full take.

ETHAN

(over)

- I'll use what I've got.

He goes to the door and opens it.

ETHAN

Thanks for your help.

Meaning 'get out'. Tara looks to Christian - smug, then realises Ethan is also looking at her.

TARA

Me too?

Ethan kisses her on the cheek - yes her too. Tara and Christian both exit.

21

**INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 2**

21

TARA, CHRISTIAN, ETHAN

Ethan closes the studio door on Tara and Christian.

Tara is still mad, Christian just smiles at her.

TARA

I'll just ummm... (go)

CHRISTIAN

Okay.

They head off in opposite directions.

22

INT. BOARDING HOUSE/CORRIDOR/KAT'S ROOM - DAY 2

22

TARA, KAT, PETRA, ZIGGY

Kat arrives back from the community centre, in a good mood, at the same time as Tara.

KAT  
How was your lovebird afternoon?

TARA  
Rudely interrupted. How was your enforced slavery?

KAT  
Surprisingly enjoyable.

TARA  
I thought you hated kids.

Kat has a flash of annoyance, Tara can be so judgemental.

KAT  
Shows how little you know about me.

Kat opens her door and enters to find her bed has been stripped.

KAT  
Who stole my sheets?

They both react as they hear a SCRATCHING, WHINING sound coming from inside the cupboard.

Kat slowly opens the cupboard door, and reacts as -

- ZIGGY bursts out.

At the same moment, PETRA re-enters with Kat's laundered bedding in a basket.

PETRA  
(squeals)  
Oh no!

She starts babbling.

PETRA  
He was lost, I couldn't leave him alone.

Kat looks at Petra, a slow smile forming on her lips.

KAT  
(impressed)  
You're a rule breaker.

PETRA  
I'm really not.

22 CONTINUED:

22

KAT

Petra, you've just gone up a notch  
in my estimation - don't fight it.

But her expression changes as she sees Ziggy chewing on a pair of her shoes.

KAT

You on the other hand...

She grabs the shoes from his mouth - too late - they're wrecked.

PETRA

I'll get you some new ones.

Kat doesn't care.

23 **EXT. HARBOUR - DAWN 3**  
NIL CAST

23

We see the sun rise over the glistening harbour as the city moves from dawn into early morning. Joggers jog alongside the harbour, seagulls squawk, boats cruise.

24 **EXT. HARBOURSIDE PARK/WHARF - DAY 3**  
TARA, KAT, SAMMY, PETRA, ZIGGY

24

MUSIC OVER MONTAGE:

Morning. Tara and Kat tape a 'found' notice to a light pole on the outskirts of the park. The notice features a photo of Ziggy and a mobile number.

In a separate section of the park, Sammy tapes a copy of the same notice to another pole, then sneezes as-

- Ziggy flies by, running and barking through the park.

A moment later, Petra runs through frame, chasing him.

MUSIC CONTINUES OVER THE NEXT 3 SCENES -

25 **INT. BOARDING HOUSE/CORRIDOR/KAT'S ROOM - DAY 3**  
KAT, PETRA, ZIGGY

25

- Kat and Petra deposit Ziggy inside the room then close the door, but before they can walk away, he starts BARKING loudly.

They react, and quickly unlock the door.

26 **EXT. ACADEMY/CAFE - DAY 3** 26  
TARA, KAT, SAMMY, PETRA, ZIGGY, N/S STUDENTS

Petra and Kat join Sammy and Tara at the cafe, carrying a large duffel bag.

They set the bag down, and check the zip - making sure there is a good air hole in the bag - we hear a muffled Ziggy bark and the bag starts moving of its own accord.

Other students glance nervously at the moving bag, but Petra and Kat just smile. Petra puts a foot out to stop it.

27 **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 3** 27  
TARA, KAT, SAMMY, PETRA, ABIGAIL, CHRISTIAN, MISS RAINE, ZIGGY, N/S FIRST YEAR STUDENTS (BOYS AND GIRLS)

Mixed classical ballet: Class is underway, everyone in the centre, the girls en pointe, apart from Abigail, who is doing basic barre exercises near to the door.

In the centre, Tara reacts as -

- Ziggy trots into the room. She glances at Miss Raine, whose eyes are thankfully on Petra as she performs a complicated dance move, then to Abigail, who does a double-take as she too sees the dog right near her.

Tara gives Abigail a pleading look and tilts her head towards Ziggy.

Abigail hesitates, then quickly whisks Ziggy away.

28 **EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 3** 28  
TARA, KAT, PETRA, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, CHRISTIAN, ZIGGY, N/S STUDENTS

Abigail, still dressed for dance class, sits with Ziggy by the wharf, talking and patting the dog.

ABIGAIL

Look at the state of your coat. My grandmother had a dog, Charles. I really loved him. He was a pedigree of course, not like you.

Tara, carrying Abigail's dance bag, Kat, Petra and Sammy approach. Sammy immediately starts sneezing.

SAMMY

Okay bad idea - I'll see you later.

Still sneezing, he leaves. Petra and Tara crouch to pat Ziggy.

TARA

I didn't know you liked dogs?

ABIGAIL

They're loyal and mute.

Petra reacts as Ziggy whimpers unhappily.

PETRA

What's wrong Ziggy?

ABIGAIL

Isn't it obvious? He's hungry.

She hands his lead back to Petra, and heads off.

TARA

He eats more than any dog I've ever met.

PETRA

I'm going to ask if they've got any spare sausages at the cafe.

She puts his lead down near Tara and walks away.

Kat's phone rings, she looks exasperated.

KAT

No doubt another psycho calling me.  
I still don't see why my number had to go on the flyer.

She heads off to take the call. At that moment Christian arrives, holding his skateboard. Tara is not pleased.

CHRISTIAN

Nice dog.

TARA

He's a stray, we're looking for his family.

Christian shrugs - whatever - and sits down next to Tara on the wharf. Tara can't believe it.

TARA

Did you want something?

CHRISTIAN

(teasing)

I just was thinking, we don't talk anymore.

TARA

We never talk.

Christian give her a look - that's not quite true. Tara doesn't want to go there.

TARA

I'm busy Christian.

CHRISTIAN

What you're blowing me off? Aren't we supposed to be getting on better now.

TARA

Do you have to work at being annoying or is it just...?

But they're interrupted as Kat returns.

KAT

Not a psycho after all but rather the legitimate owners of "Lady Curlington", they're coming for *her* right away... Who'd call a dog that?

She looks around.

KAT

Where is she?

Tara reacts, realising that while she and Christian were arguing, Ziggy has vanished.

**EXT. HARBOURSIDE PARK - DAY 3**

PETRA, KAT, N/S EXTRAS

Kat and Petra search the park, calling out for Ziggy.

KAT

Ziiigggyyyy...

Petra scans the park, still calling.

PETRA

Ziiigggyyyyyy....

Kat's phone rings and she answers it without looking.

KAT

(on the phone)

Do you think we should be calling for Ziggy or Lady Curlington?

The person on the other end of the phone (Gus) is obviously not who Kat expected.

29

CONTINUED:

29

KAT  
 (on the phone)  
 Oh... right... I completely  
 spaced... Just... I'm on my way.

She hangs up and heads off at a jog without explanation to  
 Petra.

30

**EXT. HARBOURSIDE - DAY 3**

30

TARA, CHRISTIAN, PETRA, ZIGGY, N/S EXTRAS

Tara and Christian walk along the harbour wall, searching for  
 the dog, squabbling.

TARA  
 And the smirk, that's really  
 annoying.

Christian smirks.

CHRISTIAN  
 I smirk?

TARA  
 And your mole. What is that meant  
 to be anyway? It just sits there.

CHRISTIAN  
 Don't think I can change that one  
 sorry.

TARA  
 And you've always got an answer for  
 everything, even if it's just  
 your...

CHRISTIAN  
 Smirk?

TARA  
 Exactly.

Just then they hear a familiar WHINING sound.

It's coming from over the other side of the harbour wall.  
 They look over and find Ziggy on the narrow shore, with no  
 way to get back up.

CHRISTIAN  
 I'll get him.

He jumps down onto the sand, and calls the dog.

CHRISTIAN  
 Here boy...

TARA

She's a girl.

He pats his leg and moves over to grab Ziggy. But Ziggy thinks its a game and dodges him, BARKING playfully.

TARA

Come on, grab her.

CHRISTIAN

I'm trying.

He tries to grab the dog again, launching himself at it, but misses, landing chest-down on the sand, the dog BARKING playfully.

Frustrated, Tara jumps down onto the sand.

TARA

You're doing it wrong.

She crouches, moving towards the excited Ziggy.

TARA

Here girl... I'm not gonna hurt you...

Ziggy stays still. Tara moves in.

TARA

See? It's all in the tone... good girl...

- when she's only a couple of feet away, she launches herself at the dog - landing on the sand, the dog escaping easily.

Christian stifles a laugh.

Tara sits up and brushes herself off.

CHRISTIAN

Come on. Let's try and corner her.

He helps her up, Tara pushes his hand away. Christian is exasperated.

CHRISTIAN

Fine. You go that way.

Tara and Christian start to circle the excited dog until they're on either side of it.

TARA/CHRISTIAN

Here girl... good girl...

They close in, Ziggy barking again as they near her.



CHRISTIAN

Now!

They both DIVE towards the dog - and come up empty handed, Ziggy having escaped again.

The dog barks at them, but this time they don't notice.

They've landed next to each other, faces close, and they stare at each other in silence for a long beat.

Finally Christian goes to turn away but Tara leans forward and kisses him - he doesn't hesitate for long and soon they're kissing one another.

We hold on them for a moment, then PAN ALONG THE NARROW SHORE  
-

- where Petra has found another way down onto the sand. Ziggy runs to her.

PETRA

There you are!

She scoops the dog up into her arms, and pauses as she sees - further along the shore a couple kissing.

Without thinking Petra pulls out her camera/phone and takes a shot - a classic public display of affection.

Which is when she recognises Tara and Christian!

She takes this in, then quickly leaves, unseen by them.

The kiss ends, and as Tara realises what she's done, her face registers shock.

CHRISTIAN

Hey, it's okay...

But Tara turns and runs, scrambling up the harbour wall and disappearing.

Christian watches her go, partly regretful but no idea how to handle it.

**INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY 3**

KAT, SCOUT, GUS, N/S KIDS, TARA (V.O)

Kat runs in, really late, to find the kids doing floor exercises lead by Gus.

KAT

Guys - you're here, great. We'd better get going.

The kids hardly look at her - except Scout.

31 CONTINUED:

31

GUS

It's too late, I've sent the bus away.

KAT

Can't we get it back? I'm so sorry, there was this dog... and she went missing, we went looking for her, total chaos...

SCOUT

(angry)

You promised.

Kat can see Scout is hurt and doesn't know what to say.

Scout gets back to her exercise. Finally Gus looks at Kat.

GUS

I'll call the Academy. I can't risk the kids with someone they can't trust. They can find you another punishment.

Ashamed of herself, Kat doesn't argue. She leaves, and doesn't look back.

32 **EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 3**

32

TARA, PETRA, N/S PARENT, N/S KID, ZIGGY, TARA (V.O)

Tara watches from a distance as Petra hands Ziggy back to an ecstatic family. Petra looks over, sees Tara and gives her a little wave.

TARA (V.O.)

*The first time I went en pointe I didn't realise how much I cheated my technique.*

33 **INT. BOARDING HOUSE/Common Room - DAY 3**

33

TARA, KAT, PETRA, CHRISTIAN, ETHAN, SAMMY, N/S STUDENTS, TARA (V.O)

Later. Tara and Sammy teach Petra how to play pool.

TARA (V.O.)

*You can hide things in flats, but when your entire body weight is resting on two toes, there's no room for faking it.*

Kat enters, miserable, and flops onto the couch.

TARA

Hey - how'd you go?

KAT

(dark)  
Don't ask.

TARA (V.O.)

*Your weaknesses are on display.*

Chastened, Tara drops the subject. Just then Ethan comes in with his laptop trailed by a reluctant Christian.

ETHAN

You guys should check this out. It came up surprisingly well.

He sits down on the couch and starts to fiddle with his computer. Tara intersects Christian on his way over.

TARA

(under her breath)  
It never happened.

Ethan looks back at them.

ETHAN

You two kissed and made up yet?

He doesn't wait for an answer. Christian and Tara move over to the couch and stand next to one another, behind Ethan, as he plays the show reel.

TARA (V.O.)

*And all the groundwork you thought  
you'd done, unravels in an instant.*

Kat - feeling alone and terrible from her day - stands watching Sammy and Petra laughing as they play pool.

Tara and Christian stand and miserably watch Ethan's show reel together.

Just another complicated night at the Academy.

END OF EPISODE.