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Dance Academy

SERIES ONE

EPISODE 18
BLOCK 3

"Spring Fever"

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1 **EXT. GRASSY AREA NEAR THE ACADEMY - DAY 11** 1
N/S STUDENTS, TARA (V.O)

It's a beautiful sunny day. Sunlight sparkles on the water as boats skim across the harbour.

TARA (V.O.)
Before I left home Mum gave me the talk. Not that talk.

Students remove scarves and jackets as they arrive from the Academy.

TARA (V.O.)
She wanted to me to be aware what I was giving up by coming to the Academy.

Girls chat in the sun in singlets, applying sunscreen, lying in splits, threading a few flowers in each other's hair.

TARA (V.O.)
Graduating high school with my friends, getting my hair cut really short if I felt like it.

A couple of boys roll down the hill, books flying, ending up in a tangle at the bottom.

TARA (V.O.)
She was worried one day I'd regret missing out on being an ordinary teenager.

2 **EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE/STAIRS - DAY 11** 2
KAT, TARA, SAMMY, ETHAN, PETRA, ISABELLE, ABIGAIL, TARA (V.O)

Kat, Tara and Sammy sprawl up the stairs, near the door, outside the Academy.

TARA (V.O.)
I told her point blank there wasn't any choice.

The three of them pass Kat's mobile phone between them - a happy gang once more.

TARA (V.O.)
Because who wants to be ordinary when you have the chance of becoming a professional dancer?

KAT
(reading from the phone)
Taurus. The dream you desire is within your grasp today.

Tara takes the phone from her to confirm.

TARA

So she's staying!

SAMMY

It's an online horoscope service people, can we get some perspective?

TARA

Don't you want Petra to stay?

SAMMY

Course I do, I just don't think the little horoscope man in Kat's phone knows what Mr Kennedy is saying to her right now.

Just then the door opens. They look up expectantly, but to Tara's dismay - it's Ethan and Isabelle, laughing together - arm in arm, looking very much like a couple.

ISABELLE

Hey Kat, I'm taking your brother fishing. Three years on the harbour and he's never done it.

KAT

He's more your urban animal.

ETHAN

I just don't have anything against fish.

ISABELLE

Isn't he funny?

Kat and Sammy make a face - oh yeah.

As they pass on the stairs, Ethan totally blanks Tara. She can't help but watch them as they laugh and walk together.

Kat notices and puts an arm around her.

KAT

Where does it hurt?

She points to Tara's foot.

KAT

I always seem to feel that stuff in my big toe, am I right?

Tara smiles, happy to be close to Kat at least.

The door opens again. This time it's Petra.

2

CONTINUED:

2

Excited, they all look towards her but the sad look on Petra's face stops them.

SAMMY

No?

He puts his arm around her and Petra cuddles into him.

PETRA

Mr Kennedy made it very clear. He said... he wants me to stay!

The girls scream. Petra hugs Sammy before Tara and Kat join in - a four way hug.

The door opens again - it's Abigail, she takes one disdainful look at the tangle of friends and kicks Sammy's bag out of the way.

ABIGAIL

Typical Lieberman. You're a walking safety hazard.

She stalks down the stairs - the girls look after her and laugh. Sammy checks his watch and disentangles himself.

SAMMY

Running late... Great news Petra!

And takes off with his bag down the stairs.

3

INT. ACADEMY/STOREROOM - DAY 11

3

SAMMY, ABIGAIL

Sammy pulls open a door into the store room, still panting.

He interrupts Abigail as she stretches her leg up the wall.

She looks at Sammy - uh oh - then she pulls him into a kiss!

4

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 11

4

SAMMY, ABIGAIL, TARA, KAT, PETRA, MISS RAINE, CHRISTIAN,
N/S FIRST YEARS (BOYS AND GIRLS)

Mixed classical ballet class: warm up.

Abigail and Sammy almost bump into one another as they cross to the barre.

ABIGAIL

Careful Lieberman.

SAMMY

You don't own the barre Armstrong.

They both play it perfectly straight - no sign of the kissing they've just been doing.

Tara and Kat listen in and give one another a look - what's he doing?

Sammy makes his way to his usual spot at the barre.

Petra ducks in front of Sammy (*not her usual position*), smiling at him.

Tara has to suddenly find another spot and she and Christian arrive at the same place, same time. It's awkward.

TARA

Sorry. You go. Or we could both...?

CHRISTIAN

It's okay.

They both attempt a smile, but it's painful and Christian moves to another spot closer to the front, while Tara tries to compose herself. Miss Raine, already in the class, turns on the music and the class start their plies.

CUT TO:

LATER: The class dances a sequence of grand battements and chaines (adjust) in the centre.

MISS RAINE

More technique Abigail, not more height.

Abigail's face shows her determination but Miss Raine isn't happy, she stops the music.

MISS RAINE

Everyone step out, I'd like you all to watch Petra.

She gestures for Petra to take the floor and start the exercise again on her own and starts the music again.

Petra demonstrates a flawless example of the short sequence.

MISS RAINE

See how she keeps her line. Lovely Petra.

As Petra dances, Kat sidles up close to a watching Abigail.

KAT

(sotto)

Miss Raine is *smiling*.

(MORE)

4

CONTINUED:

4

KAT (CONT'D)

And those eyes, I think it's love.
Definitely the new favourite don't
you think?

Abigail doesn't even deign to look at Kat, but her eyes
narrow as she watches Petra dance.

CUT TO:

End of the class: Sweaty and breathless, everyone finishes
up, wiping faces with towels and grabbing their bags.

Petra sees there's a message on her phone as Miss Raine calls
out above the noise.

MISS RAINÉ

Auditions for the junior summer
program are this Saturday afternoon
and Sunday morning. A roster will
be on the notice board. If your
name is there, you have volunteered
to help me.

Petra listens to her message, what she's hearing in the voice-
mail message completely floors her.

MISS RAINÉ

And if you *have* volunteered,
attendance is compulsory.

5

EXT. ACADEMY/BACK OF SCHOOL - DAY 11

5

CHRISTIAN, SCOUT

Christian escapes to the loading dock at the back of the
school with his bag and skateboard.

Instead of being deserted as usual, Christian sees Scout
practicing a simple sequence, half a vegemite sandwich in her
mouth. She is wearing tracksuit pants and an old one piece
swimming costume instead of a leotard.

She doesn't see him immediately as she's concentrating on her
steps, but he notices her jiffies keep coming loose, causing
her to stop and adjust them.

Christian drops his bag and sits on a step, pulling out a
packet of chips. Scout is momentarily caught out, but quickly
recovers her defence.

SCOUT

I'm allowed to be here.

CHRISTIAN

Lucky you.

He opens the packet. Scout is immediately distracted - she eats the rest of the sandwich, but keeps her eyes on the chips. It's Christian's turn to feel uncomfortable.

CHRISTIAN

Don't let me stop you.

Scout feigns indifference as Christian eats. He looks at her ill-fitting clothes and old shoes, her plastic bag with a few clothes in it. He offers the pack to her. She hesitates and then moves forward towards the chips.

SCOUT

Barbecue flavour's better.

Scout takes a tentative handful - then devours it.

CHRISTIAN

You might want to try chewing one day.

Scout shrugs, her mouth full of food.

SCOUT

Yes Mum.

CHRISTIAN

Is she here?

Scout lies like an old hand.

SCOUT

My sister.

Scout swallows audibly. Christian hands her the rest of the pack and starts on an apple.

CHRISTIAN

I liked to do my own thing when I was your age.

Scout looks up to see if he's making fun, but Christian is deadly serious - he's been where Scout is. She relaxes.

CHRISTIAN

Junior summer program huh?

Scout nods, wipes her mouth.

SCOUT

If I get in. My shoes kinda suck.

Christian looks at this little toughie and decides something.

CHRISTIAN

Come with me.

6

INT. ACADEMY/STOREROOM - DAY 11
CHRISTIAN, SCOUT, ABIGAIL, SAMMY

6

Christian opens the door to the store room, Scout in tow-

CHRISTIAN

You wouldn't believe how many shoes
the girls here go through in a
week...

- and busts Abigail and Sammy kissing. They quickly spring
apart, embarrassed.

ABIGAIL

Do you mind?

SAMMY

We were just... I was helping
Abigail...

Christian can hardly keep from laughing and covers Scout's
eyes.

SCOUT

How is he helping?

CHRISTIAN

I think she was having trouble
breathing, right Sammy?

Christian grabs the whole box and backs out, still with his
hands over Scout's eyes, very amused by the whole situation.

CHRISTIAN

As you were.

He's out the door. Abigail turns to Sammy anxiously.

ABIGAIL

What are you waiting for? Stop him
before he tells the whole school!

Sammy laughs.

SAMMY

Christian? Speak? You're kidding.

ABIGAIL

Stop laughing. This is a disaster.

SAMMY

People are going to find out about
us.

6

CONTINUED:

6

ABIGAIL

What do you mean 'us'? This is just 'this'. It doesn't make us 'us'.

Sammy is a bit confused by this.

SAMMY

So what does 'this' make 'us'?

ABIGAIL

Nothing.

Abigail doesn't quite meet Sammy's eye.

7

EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 11

7

TARA, KAT, PETRA, N/S STUDENTS

Petra finishes a difficult phone conversation.

PETRA

(on the phone)

I know... I've got to go Tobi....
You miss me more.

Kat and Tara join her, they are carrying books ready for an English class.

TARA

How'd Tobi take the news that you're staying?

They head towards the building.

PETRA

He didn't say it but he wants me to come home.

KAT

Your brother is so evolved, mine would never in a million years let slip that he missed me.

Petra looks at her new friends - and comes clean.

PETRA

They heard about the offer.

TARA

Must be tough for them to think you'll be here so much longer.

PETRA

(reluctant)

Not that.

(MORE)

7

CONTINUED:

7

PETRA (CONT'D)

The Company, in Berlin, they want me to start in the corps straight away.

Tara stops.

TARA

Wow! That's huge!

She hugs Petra. Petra hugs back - not so enthusiastic.

KAT

That's child labour. You're still a student.

PETRA

I haven't accepted.

TARA

Why not? You could be a principal by the time you're twenty, you're easily good enough.

PETRA

It's like they heard I was having some fun and they got together to take it away from me.

KAT

Teen snatchers. Fun police.

PETRA

Berlin ballet bots.

Kat nods at her protege - she's come a long way. Tara can't believe they're missing the obvious point.

TARA

An offer to join a Company though... that's why we're here, that's the dream!

But not for Petra.

PETRA

You know what, being a teenager for the first time in my life, that's my only dream right now.

KAT

I like a girl who's got her priorities straight.

Kat is pleased, Tara still can't believe it.

8 **INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 11** 8
KAT, TARA, PETRA, N/S PARENTS

INTERCUT WITH:

9 **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 11** 9
MISS RAINE, SCOUT, N/S YOUNG BALLERINAS

Kat, Tara and Petra walk past the studio carrying school books. A few anxious parents congregate outside.

Kat catches a glimpse inside the studio - a group of young girls audition in the centre with Miss Raine. Kat recognises Scout and stops.

KAT

I'll catch up. I just want to say
hi to someone.

Tara and Petra keep going. Kat watches as Scout, dressed in her swimmers and bike shorts (in contrast to every other girl in pink leotard and tights) but with pink ballet flats, keeps up with the audition. She's got great flexibility and energy, but obviously no technique, her leg high but thumping down with every grand battement. And that scowl of frustration doesn't escape Miss Raine either... Kat watches, concerned.

The exercise finishes and Miss Raine claps her hands.

MISS RAINE

Thank you girls, very good work.

As she turns away, hands on hips, Scout does a quick Miss Raine impersonation. None of the other little girls dare to laugh.

Kat smiles and waves at Scout. But Kat is obviously persona non grata - Scout completely freezes her out.

Miss Raine consults her list.

MISS RAINE

If I call your number, please stay
behind for your callback time.

She puts her hand on each girl's head as she walks through the line of girls.

MISS RAINE

Five, Six, Ten, Thirteen,
Seventeen...

Miss Raine walks straight past Scout. Kat can see the heavy disappointment on the little girl's face.

9

CONTINUED:

9

MISS RAINE

That's all. Keep dancing and come
back next summer.

Scout moves away from the centre towards the window to get
her bag and pulls on a tracksuit top, resolutely ignoring
Kat.

10

INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 11

10

KAT, MISS RAINE, ABIGAIL

Kat follows Miss Raine down the corridor.

KAT

But Scout's a natural.

MISS RAINE

Scout?

KAT

Number fourteen.

Miss Raine checks her files.

MISS RAINE

Right. She's flexible but there
are physical limitations.

KAT

She just hasn't been properly
trained.

Miss Raine stops and looks pointedly at Kat.

MISS RAINE

She also has a very bad attitude.
That is something that can't be
fixed, as we both know.

Abigail has spotted Miss Raine and approaches her.

MISS RAINE

Yes, Abigail?

Kat can see Miss Raine is intractable and leaves. Abigail
steps neatly into the vacated spot.

ABIGAIL

I'd like to volunteer to help with
the junior auditions.

MISS RAINE

You can do the rosters.

Abigail beams.

10

CONTINUED:

10

MISS RAINÉ

Just make sure you include Petra.
I think the young girls could learn
a lot from a dancer like her.

Abigail's smile become very forced.

11

INT. BOARDING HOUSE/KAT'S ROOM - NIGHT 11

11

TARA, KAT, PETRA

Petra is adding another photograph of a 'public display of affection' to her PDA wall collage.

Kat and Tara lounge on the beds, supposedly studying, but the books are abandoned.

KAT

First up we need to camp out for
Vibrant tickets.

PETRA

No. First up, boyfriend.

Kat and Tara sit up and listen.

PETRA

All these pictures of other people
kissing and none of me.

KAT

So true, we have to remedy that.

TARA

Don't let her play cupid.

Kat give her a playful push - why not?

PETRA

I know who I like... You're his
best friends, do you think there's
any chance.

TARA

Sammy?

KAT

Really?

PETRA

Is he seeing someone?

This makes Kat and Tara laugh.

TARA

No.

11

CONTINUED:

11

KAT

As if we wouldn't know.

PETRA

So, it could be me.

Tara likes the idea immediately.

TARA

I can totally see you two together.

12

EXT. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DANCE - DAY 12

12

NIL CAST

Another bright sunny day on the Harbour.

13

INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 12

13

ABIGAIL, SAMMY, PETRA, TARA, N/S STUDENTS

Sammy, Petra and Tara make fun of the volunteer list on the notice board. Abigail waits a little behind them.

TARA

Aren't we generous, looks like we've volunteered for tomorrow morning Petra.

PETRA

Isn't that good of us.

SAMMY

I haven't "volunteered" at all. That's so unlike me.

Tara has an idea of bringing Petra and Sammy together.

TARA

So, we're all free this afternoon. Why don't we do something?

Petra knows what she is up to.

PETRA

That might be fun, Sammy?

Sammy has half an eye on Abigail.

SAMMY

I should stay here and do my history essay.

Abigail gives him a tiny shake of the head.

13

CONTINUED:

13

TARA

History's not going to change. Do it tomorrow, while Petra and I are volunteering.

Sammy lets himself be led down the corridor by Tara and Petra.

None of them notice as, behind their backs, Abigail switches the two roster days around.

14

INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY 12

14

KAT, SCOUT

Kat walks into the empty Community Centre. Almost empty - in a corner using a chair as a barre is Scout practising a short sequence of steps (adjust). She's working hard on the same sequence Miss Raine made her do at the audition (from Scene 9), counting to herself so that she doesn't immediately see Kat.

KAT

I could never get my leg that high at your age.

Scout is startled and stops. She pretends to ignore Kat and keeps going with her exercise.

KAT

Look, Scout. I know I really screwed up with those tickets and I'm sorry.

SCOUT

It happens.

Kat has to try a lot harder to break through Scout's defences.

KAT

You were as good as the girls that got a callback.

Scout falters, a chink in her armour showing.

SCOUT

Then why didn't I get one?

KAT

Well... you aren't a prissy little Betty Bunhead stapled into her ballet shoes.

SCOUT

I know I had the wrong clothes.

14

CONTINUED:

14

KAT

You had a personality, that's why.

Scout smiles a little at this - just.

SCOUT

Anyway, I knew I wouldn't get in.
I just wanted to see what it looked
like inside.

Scout starts to carry her chair across the floor. Kat registers Scout's real pain and stops her.

KAT

Grand battements have to look like
you're not even aware your leg's up
near your ear. And quiet, no
banging down.

Scout shrugs - a bit late now. Kat has an idea building inside.

KAT

You know what would really help?
Practising in front of a mirror.
In a proper studio.

SCOUT

What's the point?

Kat makes a decision.

KAT

What if I got you another audition?

Scout stops and stares at her - a challenge.

KAT

I won't flake out on you again
Scout.

15

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 12
MISS RAINE, ABIGAIL, N/S BALLERINAS

15

It's chaos at the callback. The little ballerinas are going crazy - no one's there to supervise them. Miss Raine is walking around with a clipboard handing out numbers to be pinned on. She can hardly be heard over the squealing.

MISS RAINE

Rosie Hall? Number twenty.

Abigail casually walks by with her dance bag - as if she was just on her way to practise. Miss Raine spots her.

15

CONTINUED:

15

MISS RAINE

Abigail! Have you seen Petra and Tara?

ABIGAIL

(feigns innocence)

No... Aren't they supposed to be assisting you this afternoon?

MISS RAINE

I thought so.

ABIGAIL

How irritating. I was just off to do some extra practise but I could always help.

MISS RAINE

Would you?

Abigail smiles - of course - puts her bag down and takes off her wrap, revealing that she's in her pink practice gear. She stands in the middle of the floor and claps her hands. Suddenly she's surrounded by a gaggle of little adoring girls.

Abigail laps up the attention of the mini-Abigails.

ABIGAIL

Now those of you with a number follow me. The rest, line up for Miss Raine. Soft arms now, petals floating in the breeze.

She leads the girls off around the studio, a line of spring flowers.

16

EXT. CENTENNIAL PARK/CHILDREN'S BIKE PATH - DAY 12

16

TARA, SAMMY, PETRA, N/S EXTRAS

Tara, and Sammy stand either side of a bicycle. Petra, wearing a helmet, has both feet firmly on the ground and is refusing to budge.

PETRA

(scared)

I am really sorry I ever told you now.

TARA

I still can't believe your ballet teacher wouldn't let you learn.

PETRA

Injuries. Couldn't risk it.

16

CONTINUED:

16

SAMMY

It's a crime. My bike meant freedom. They stole that from you.

PETRA

What if I fall?

TARA

So what? How many fouettes have you fallen out of?

SAMMY

We'll catch you.

Petra smiles at Sammy, then turns back to the front - grim determination on her face.

PETRA

Let's do it.

Petra pedals, Sammy and Tara run alongside keeping the bike upright.

SAMMY

You've got it. You're riding!

PETRA

I'm riding!

TARA

Keep pedalling.

Petra pushes down harder, she laughs as the bicycle takes off, leaving Sammy and Tara behind.

They watch as Petra rides ahead on the bitumen bike track.

PETRA

How do I stop?

SAMMY

Onto the grass!

Sammy breaks into a sprint and gets to Petra just as she turns the bicycle onto the grass and back around towards him.

Petra grabs Sammy as she falls. She ends up in his arms, both laughing.

17

EXT. CENTENNIAL PARK/PICNIC AREA - DAY 12

17

TARA, PETRA, SAMMY, N/S EXTRAS

A picnic is unpacked, most of the food demolished.

Sammy leans back on his arms, Petra next to him. Tara lies on her back, eating the last piece of chocolate.

PETRA

The sky is never this blue at home.

TARA

But you have snow. White
Christmases and reindeer and ice
skating. Everything sparkling and
glamorous.

PETRA

And freezing cold.

TARA

I'd love to see snow.

PETRA

You've never seen snow?

SAMMY

Hey you've never ridden a bike.

TARA

I've never even been on a plane.
That's why I can't wait to join the
Company and go on tour.

PETRA

I'm the opposite, I always wanted
to join the Berlin Ballet so I
could stay close to Tobi.

SAMMY

He's sick yeah?

PETRA

Cerebral Palsy. But we don't see
him as sick. He's the coolest
person I know and he's my best
friend, that's why I want to be
close.

SAMMY

I want to kill my brother most
days.

PETRA

(smiles)
That too.

Tara sees what she thinks is a connection growing between
Sammy and Petra - her work here is done. She jumps up.

TARA

I really feel like a walk.

SAMMY

I'll come.

17

CONTINUED:

17

Tara and Petra shoot a look of alarm at one another - Sammy clocks it.

TARA

Alone...

(trying to sound
unsuspicious)

You stay here, talk to Petra.

Sammy starts to see that he's being set up.

SAMMY

All that chocolate. Need the
exercise.

Sammy and a reluctant Petra move to their feet.

18

INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 12
CHRISTIAN, KAT, SCOUT (O.S)

18

INTERCUT WITH:

19

INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY 12
KAT, SCOUT, CHRISTIAN

19

Corridor: Christian heads out the school. He stops for a moment as he hears something in the studio. Something unusual.

KAT (O.S.)

See the line your foot is making.
Watch the mirror.

SCOUT (O.S.)

I am!

He arrives at the studio door to see Kat with Scout in front of the big mirror, coaching her through grand battements. Scout has her scowl on. Then she spots Christian and grins - but holds her position. Christian looks at Kat: what's going on? She comes over to the door.

KAT

Have you come to help?

He pulls Kat out of Scout's earshot and into the CORRIDOR.

CHRISTIAN

(quiet)
What are you doing?

Inside the studio Scout concentrates on her exercise but Christian and Kat's voices carry over.

KAT

She's good. She deserves a second chance.

CHRISTIAN

And you're the feral godmother who's gonna give it to her.

KAT

What is your problem?

This conversation is going into uncharted and dangerous territory, but Christian is angry enough with Kat to spill.

CHRISTIAN

I've been the project okay. I know what it's like for people to come in and "help". But what happens to that kid when you get bored?

Christian hold's Kat's eye - she knows he's right. They are interrupted by a voice from the doorway.

SCOUT

Hey Christian. Thanks for giving me these shoes, bro. Look like a proper ballerina now, huh?

Scout keeps going, maintaining an innocent face. Kat turns to Christian. Busted.

KAT

You were saying?

CUT TO:

STUDIO, LATER: Scout's foot bangs into Christian's outstretched hand.

And again. And again. And again. Both Kat and Christian help Scout adjust her position, trying to help her get it right.

Finally Scout gives Christian a look of hatred and he holds her gaze. He knows what this means to her.

CHRISTIAN

Forget all that pretty tutu stuff. You're going to hurt in here like nothing else.

Bang - her foot connects again.

KAT

Do it slowly. Work through the pain.

19

CONTINUED:

19

Finally, Scout lifts her leg slowly, forcing it to be steady. Scout goes through a calm and controlled battement. Beautiful.

KAT

Like a ballerina.

Kat claps and Scout grins, pleased with herself. Even Christian smiles.

20

EXT. CENTENNIAL PARK/PINE FOREST - DAY 12

20

TARA, SAMMY, PETRA

Sammy, Tara and Petra walk into a pine forest with Tara in the middle. Sunlight dapples through the branches and a few birds rustle feathers up high. It's strangely quiet and peaceful.

Tara stops and bends over to tie up an imaginary undone shoelace. Sammy stops and glares at her. Petra keeps walking.

Sammy and Tara whisper to one another.

SAMMY

Okay, what do you think you're doing?

TARA

What are you doing.

She nods towards Petra - go for it...

SAMMY

What?

Tara can't believe Sammy has so much success with the girls given his complete idiocy today.

TARA

Honestly, how do you do it?
Petra... she likes you.

Sammy looks ahead to Petra. She is walking through the forest as if in a dream. She takes a deep breath and closes her eyes...

SAMMY

No really? You've made it obvious enough.

TARA

So?

Sammy can't tell the truth about Abigail - and it's killing him.

SAMMY

I don't... Look, I don't need your help okay.

TARA

Good.

She grins, stands up and heads off towards Petra.

SAMMY

That's not... (*what I meant*)
(to himself)
Oh crap.

He follows her to Petra, who is in a kind of trance.

PETRA

This is amazing, it smells just like home.

Sammy and Tara stop and smell.

PETRA

It's the forest in summer, just behind my house.

Suddenly black cockatoos call loudly. Petra's eyes open, surprised.

For a moment she looks at Sammy and Tara as if they're strangers. Then she smiles, but a kind of sad smile.

PETRA

I guess I'm actually a long way from home huh?

Tara takes her hand and gives it a squeeze. She glares at Sammy to take the other one, which he reluctantly does. Petra grins happily at him.

INT. BOARDING HOUSE/TARA'S ROOM - NIGHT 12

SAMMY, ABIGAIL

Abigail is painting her toenails when Sammy bursts in. He's determined this time.

ABIGAIL

Excuse me?

Sammy shuts the door behind him.

ABIGAIL

Open door policy. I don't want to get in trouble for breaking the rules.

Sammy ignores her, starts to pace the room.

SAMMY

Someone is interested in me.
Nothing's happened but, you should
be aware I have options.

Abigail tries to disguise her interest.

ABIGAIL

Good for you Sammy.

SAMMY

So I need to know what this is.

ABIGAIL

This?

Sammy can't stand it anymore.

SAMMY

Are we ever going public?

ABIGAIL

What? Like holding hands and
swapping chewing gum under the
monkey bars, public?

SAMMY

That's not... (*what I meant*)

ABIGAIL

Or matching public tattoos. Sammy
and Abi 4 eva. Spelt e.v.a. Even
better - in Chinese characters, so
it's cultural.

SAMMY

Maybe I should just go out with
Petra.

Abigail looks up - suddenly interested.

ABIGAIL

Petra?

SAMMY

At least I know where I stand with
her.

ABIGAIL

Don't let me stop you.

That's the last straw for Sammy, he gives up the pretense.

21 CONTINUED:

21

SAMMY

Why won't you admit that you like me? Am I that embarrassing?

ABIGAIL

You are at the moment.

Abigail goes back to painting her nails. Sammy leaves.

Abigail's hands are shaking too much and she throws the nail polish into the corner.

22 **EXT. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DANCE - DAY 13**

22

NIL CAST

A new day on the Harbour. The sun hits the Opera House as it breaks over the water.

23 **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 13**

23

TARA, PETRA, ABIGAIL, MISS RAINE

Tara and Petra turn up early to the junior auditions, only to find a stony-faced Miss Raine, with Abigail quietly helping her set up in the background.

MISS RAINE

And where were you two yesterday afternoon?

TARA

We're meant to be on today.

Miss Raine hands them a roster sheet.

MISS RAINE

Then how do you explain this roster?

Petra and Tara look at one another - how did that happen?

MISS RAINE

I'm especially disappointed in you Petra. I can see how it's better that you remain a student for a while longer, you're clearly not ready for adult responsibility.

PETRA

But we... (*read the roster*)

MISS RAINE

(*interrupting*)

Yesterday could've been a disaster. I'm just pleased Abigail was able to cover for you.

23

CONTINUED:

23

Petra and Tara look across to Abigail who brazenly returns their look - the picture of innocence.

24

INT. BOARDING HOUSE/KAT'S ROOM - DAY 13
KAT, SCOUT

24

A pink tutu lands on the bed, followed by a sequined mask, a program from the Royal Ballet in London - and then a much-worn teddy dressed in ballet shoes. Scout picks up the teddy curiously.

KAT

I know it's in here...

Kat has her head in a battered old travelling trunk. It's full of all Kat's childhood things, which are surprisingly girly and sentimental. Scout holds up a pair of fairy wings up, slipping them on over her tracksuit top. She picks up a framed photograph of Natasha in full ballerina mode, holding a perfect arabesque.

SCOUT

She is like the most beautiful mum I ever saw.

Kat is still hunting through stuff. She shrugs.

KAT

Natasha is a self-obsessed diva who has only ever loved her career.

Scout nods.

SCOUT

I get a card from my mum sometimes. Even money, if it's my birthday.

Kat stops what she's doing. She watches Scout studying the photo of Natasha.

KAT

So, who do you live with?

SCOUT

My sister. My half-sister actually.

KAT

I always wanted a sister.

Scout shrugs, guarded.

SCOUT

It's okay. Hey, what's this?

Scout pulls out a photograph of little ballerinas dancing on stage.

KAT

Oh. Some concert.

SCOUT

Which one are you?

KAT

Let me see...um...?

She can't distinguish herself among the tiny bunheads. Scout pushes her, laughing.

SCOUT

What a bun head!

Kat half-laughs, a little embarrassed.

Scout pulls on a tiara and assumes a regal, nose-in-the-air attitude and posh accent.

SCOUT

You can shove that pirouette right up your bum Miss Raine.

She and Kat fall about laughing. Until Kat spots what she's been looking for - her old pink leotard - exactly the right size for Scout.

KAT

So you really want to be a bun head?

CUT TO:

Kat puts the finishing touches to Scout's bun, then shows her in the mirror.

Scout now looks just like everyone else at the auditions - a perfect little ballerina in pink leotard.

SCOUT

Wow.

Kat stares at Scout's reflection in the mirror. It's like she's just re-created herself at the same age. She starts to undo Scout's hair.

KAT

Okay, I'm officially creeped out.

SCOUT

What are you doing?

Scout angrily pulls her head away, holding the bun in place.

24

CONTINUED:

24

KAT

You saw that picture. They just squash you down until everything you loved about dancing is gone.

But Scout's only ten. And fierce.

SCOUT

I'm not you, okay.

Looking at Scout's face, Kat knows she's tough enough to get into the place. And too tough to fight.

KAT

Well then, Operation Scout is go for launch.

25

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 13

25

MISS RAINE, TARA, SCOUT, N/S BALLERINAS

INTERCUT WITH:

26

INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 13

26

KAT, CHRISTIAN, SCOUT, PETRA, ABIGAIL, N/S BALLERINAS,
N/S PARENTS

STUDIO: A group of little girls curtsies to Miss Raine and files out.

Tara signals to Kat through the window - coast is clear.

CUT TO:

CORRIDOR: Kat slips Scout into the line of girls waiting anxiously to go inside.

Petra, seated at a desk near the door, hands Scout her number and stamps her registration form, she's enjoying this.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Tara leads some girls into the studio to wait for Miss Raine, giving Scout a surreptitious wink as she joins the group. Scout, wearing Kat's leotard, blends perfectly into the group.

TARA

Let's keep warm everyone. What about a Polka?

Tara counts out the steps as she leads the girls in the Polka.

CUT TO:

CORRIDOR: Kat stands at the window watching anxiously. Christian joins Kat and looks at Scout inside.

CHRISTIAN

She's in.

KAT

We make a good team.

(off Christian's look)

Not that kind of team... My party, the... (*kiss*). We never talked about it, mistake... obviously.

CHRISTIAN

Not that it was bad.

KAT

No not at all...

CHRISTIAN

But not...

KAT

Totally.

That sorted, they both get back to watching Scout - much safer ground.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Scout warms up by dancing a simple polka around the room with the other ballet girls following Tara. Tara spots Christian and Kat talking outside. When they turn to look back at her she quickly turns her attention back to the girls.

CUT TO:

CORRIDOR: Abigail takes a look inside the studio and starts to count heads. She looks down at a list she's holding a frowns, she's obviously spotted that Scout is throwing out the numbers. Before she can go in to inform Miss Raine, Petra grabs her by the elbow and steers her down the corridor away from the others.

ABIGAIL, PETRA

Abigail resists Petra, but Petra is firm.

ABIGAIL

Excuse me, I have to speak to Miss Raine, there's a problem with the head count.

PETRA

If you tell Miss Raine about Scout
I'll tell her you switched the
rosters.

ABIGAIL

You have no evidence.

PETRA

I know you did it. I'm just not
sure why?

ABIGAIL

What's the problem? Can't stand
not being the favourite?

PETRA

I'm not here to be the favourite.

ABIGAIL

Way I hear it, you're here to get
Sammy to be your boyfriend.

Petra's face registers the shock at the levels to which
Abigail will stoop.

PETRA

Do you know why I'm a better dancer
than you Abigail?

ABIGAIL

You're not better than me.

Petra knows that Abigail doesn't believe that.

PETRA

I dance because I love it and
because I can, not to be the best.

ABIGAIL

So you'd rather stay here for love
than dance professionally. I heard
you turned down the Company in
Berlin.

Petra can't believe that Abigail is mean at every
opportunity.

PETRA

The really sad thing is if you put
the same amount of effort into
ballet that you put into being
mean, you'd be a much better
dancer.

Petra walks away, Abigail shrugs it off - but this hits home.

28

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO/CORRIDOR - DAY 13

28

TARA, KAT, MISS RAINE, SCOUT, CHRISTIAN, N/S BALLERINAS

STUDIO: Music plays. Tara watches as Miss Raine takes the little ballerinas through the last steps of their audition sequence. Scout is doing very well.

MISS RAINE
... and count it out... three,
four, and complete. (adjust)

Scout finishes the floor adage so beautifully that Miss Raine stops to take a closer look.

Miss Raine puts her hand up.

MISS RAINE
Stop!

The music stops. She comes back to look carefully at Scout.

MISS RAINE
And you are?

SCOUT
Number Fifteen.

Miss Raine looks through her paperwork.

MISS RAINE
This is most unusual...Scout?
You're not on my callback list.

Miss Raine gives Scout her best x-ray-vision once-over.

MISS RAINE
Quite a transformation, I must say.

Scout slumps for a moment under the scrutiny, but then she catches the eye of Kat standing at the window in the CORRIDOR beside Christian and holds her posture straight and true, Miss Raine follows her gaze.

SCOUT
Are you going to kick me out?

Miss Raine considers her a moment - then looks right at Kat.

MISS RAINE
Well...perhaps there was an
administrative error... now you're
here, you might as well stay.

Scout grins at Kat. Kat smiles back.

29

INT. BOARDING HOUSE/Common Room - NIGHT 13

29

TARA, KAT, SCOUT, PETRA, N/S STUDENTS, TARA (V.O)

A giant piece of pizza is being consumed by a very happy Scout, her hair now freed from the constraints of the bun.

SCOUT

Extra pineapple rocks!

PETRA

Totally.

Petra, Tara, Scout and Kat sprawl around the coffee table, some on the floor, some on the couch, all eating the pizza.

KAT

I think I'll stick to the grown up side.

SCOUT

Anchovies? Gross.

KAT

At least the summer school will give you a chance to work out if you actually hate it here.

Scout considers this.

SCOUT

Like the pain. Christian said there was a lot of that.

TARA

Christian said that?

KAT

Uh-huh. He's the guru.

Scout nods. Tara chooses not to go there.

TARA

We'll be around. Me and Kat and Petra. We'll help.

PETRA

No. Not me.

Petra looks across the table at her friends. Kat and Tara stop chewing.

PETRA

I've made a decision. I'm accepting the Company's offer, I'm going back to Berlin.

29

CONTINUED:

29

KAT

What about our summer?

PETRA

I want to be near my family, and it's such a big opportunity, I might not get a second chance.

Tara reaches over and grabs her hand - she gets it.

TARA (V.O.)

At this exact moment, my friends back home are getting ready for the Year 10 formal.

30

EXT. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DANCE - DAY 14

30

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

Petra's bags are waiting outside the Academy. Petra is hugging her friends goodbye as they wait for a taxi.

TARA (V.O.)

It's all they've talked about for months.

Tara hands her a little gift.

TARA

Here. Sydney snow.

It's a snow dome with the Harbour Bridge and Opera House inside. Petra shakes it and the glitter sends out sparkles of light. She smiles at Tara.

PETRA

When you visit me in Germany, I'll show you real thing, promise.

Petra looks close to tears.

TARA

If you start, then I'll start and everything'll just get really soggy.

KAT

And no-one wants to see that.

Petra smiles at them and then crosses to give Sammy a friendly hug.

SAMMY

What's the first thing you do when you get home?

30

CONTINUED:

30

PETRA

Get a bike.

SAMMY

Every time you fall off you can
think of me.

She climbs into the taxi, but doesn't close the door...

TARA (V.O.)

*Sometimes I dream I'm back there
living my old life and when I wake
up, just for a second, I wonder if
I made the wrong choice?*

Suddenly she jumps out, pressing her camera/phone into Kat's hand.

PETRA

For my collection.

She grabs Sammy and plants a big kiss on him. Kat snaps a perfect PDA photo of Petra. Petra speaks quietly to Sammy.

PETRA

That's how I'll remember you.

Sammy watches Petra run into the taxi and shut the door. Abigail walks up next to Sammy. She talks to him without looking at him.

ABIGAIL

Enjoy that?

SAMMY

Yep. Are we going public now?

ABIGAIL

Nope.

She walks away as everyone waves and calls out to the taxi as it heads off towards the Bridge, Petra waving through the back window.

TARA (V.O.)

I don't think so.

31

INT. ACADEMY/STOREROOM - DAY 14

31

ABIGAIL, SAMMY

Sammy finds Abigail sitting by herself in the store room.

She looks at him, questioning.

31

CONTINUED:

31

He can't help himself and walks over to her. She kisses him -
happy to have her way, for the moment at least.

END OF EPISODE.