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Dance Academy

SERIES ONE

EPISODE 7
BLOCK 1

"Crush Test Dummy"

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INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 10

1

TARA, CHRISTIAN, KAT, ABIGAIL, SAMMY, ETHAN, SEAN, HIP HOP TEACHER, N/S FIRST YEAR STUDENTS (MALE AND FEMALE), TARA (V.O.)

Hip-hop music plays over as the HIP-HOP TEACHER moves among the class.

HIP-HOP TEACHER

Hip-hop is not about steps... It's not about technique.

The students are working on the same routine of dynamic, energetic hip-hop steps. Having fun.

TARA (V.O.)

In ballet you always know what the next step is, the rules haven't changed for the last hundred years.

Tara is a picture of concentration. While she is really trying hard, this is all completely new to her. Her body just isn't used to moving this way.

HIP-HOP TEACHER

I don't want you to look perfect. I want you to be real.

TARA (V.O.)

And there's something comforting about that. Even when you're not getting it right, you know what you're getting wrong.

Christian however is enjoying the class. Hip-hop is his world.

Kat too is having fun, taking risks, pushing her body, even Sammy seems to be getting somewhere - he adds a comic flourish to the routine, much to the amusement of Tara and Kat.

TARA (V.O.)

But things can't stay the same forever, we all have to learn new tricks, even when every fibre of our being is screaming out against it.

The hip-hop teacher focuses his gaze on Abigail who is having a hard time. Her body is tight and rigid. Like always, she is trying to make it look pretty and perfect.

HIP-HOP TEACHER

Your upper body looks like a stick. There's no groove in it.

1

CONTINUED:

1

ABIGAIL
(offended)
That's because I'm a ballet dancer!

HIP-HOP TEACHER
Don't tell me your problems.

The teacher points to Christian.

HIP-HOP TEACHER
Show her, Christian.

Abigail sizzles as she watches Christian hurl himself about fearlessly. If her lips were any thinner, she could slice him open.

Christian finishes with a big explosive trick. Show off. The teacher loves it. Abigail couldn't hate him more.

HIP-HOP TEACHER
Did you see the way he owned it?
Try it again.

Abigail does it again. Better, but she's still too tight and upright. The other students continue with the routine as the teacher singles out Abigail to repeat the move.

HIP-HOP TEACHER
Looser.

And again. She's a bit looser but still not loose enough.

HIP-HOP TEACHER
I said looser!

Tara has also been watching Christian, tries to do what the teacher says at the same time as Abigail. With more success.

ABIGAIL
(protesting)
If I was any looser I'd fall over!

HIP-HOP TEACHER
Good.

Tara looks up, sees Ethan looking in.

Ethan is watching Christian. He likes what he sees. Christian is the clear standout.

2

INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 10

2

TARA, ETHAN, CHRISTIAN, KAT, SAMMY, N/S STUDENTS

Kat and Sammy chat as they head down the corridor.

SAMMY

For a middle class Jewish boy from
Rose Bay, I reckon I'm getting the
hang of this hip hop.

Ethan squeezes past as he hurries after Christian.

KAT

You know, it's kinda wrong even
hearing you say the words "hip
hop".

SAMMY

Hip. Hop.

Kat covers her ears. Tara hurries past wagging a CD in her
hand, eyes never deviating from Ethan.

TARA

Ethan!

Kat and Sammy look round just in time to see Tara give Ethan
the CD. There's a swirly girly drawing on the cover.

TARA

(babbling)

I made you a mix CD. It's just a
few tracks. A bit of contemporary
and classical. You've probably got
them already.

Ethan takes the CD, clearly distracted.

ETHAN

Um... yeah, OK. I'll give it a
listen.

As all this is going on, Sammy and Kat speak among
themselves.

KAT

(aghast)

She isn't.

Sammy is equally aghast.

SAMMY

She is.

Ethan sees Christian has gone and takes off after him without
a backwards glance.

TARA

OK great... That'd be great.

Sammy and Kat step into her view.

2

CONTINUED:

2

KAT

Did you just give my brother a mix CD?

Tara squirms, tries to downplay it.

TARA

It was just some dance tracks ...

Kat just looks at her. Pu-lease.

TARA

I'm only being friendly ...

Even Tara knows how lame she sounds, finally caves in.

TARA

I tried. I really tried not to think about him. I can't help it.

Sammy and Kat look at Tara in disbelief.

SAMMY

She did try.

KAT

Not hard enough.

3

EXT. ACADEMY/BACK OF SCHOOL - DAY 10

3

CHRISTIAN, ETHAN

Ethan calls out as he runs after Christian who is now on his skateboard.

ETHAN

Christian! Stop! Wait up!

Christian grudgingly comes to a stop. Used to being in trouble, he assumes the worst.

CHRISTIAN

What?

ETHAN

I'm doing this piece for the showcase tomorrow and one of my dancers got injured. There's some hip hop. You up for it?

He flashes Christian the perfect smile of the privileged. That Christian might turn down his request is not even on his radar.

3

CONTINUED:

3

CHRISTIAN

(no thanks)

I don't do extra. I just do class work.

Ethan is not used to people saying no, can't believe Christian knocked him back.

ETHAN

Any other first year would kill for this.

CHRISTIAN

So ask one of them.

Christian flips his skateboard to his hand.

Ethan is starting to get annoyed.

ETHAN

I didn't say you could go.

Christian turns around, glares at Ethan. Ruling class pratt, just like the rest of them here.

Ethan pulls out his trump card.

ETHAN

I could have told Kennedy about the wallet. You owe me.

The two boys glare at each other. Neither one will budge.

Ethan pulls back, realises he has made a strategic error by leaving Christian no wiggle room for dignity.

ETHAN

I should have said - if you do this you get to blow off classes for the rest of the day.

4

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 10

4

KAT, TARA, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, N/S FIRST YEAR STUDENTS (MALE AND FEMALE)

Kat, Sammy and Tara warm up for a mixed ballet class. Abigail warms up nearby, completely disdainful of their conversation, but eavesdropping nonetheless.

SAMMY

To be fair, you can't control a crush.

TARA

That's all I'm saying.

KAT
(not getting it)
But it's not actually real.

TARA
It is to me.

KAT
Okay, but do you have to be so open
about it?

TARA
If I didn't do anything, nothing
would ever happen.

KAT
Tiara, you can burn as many mix
CD's as you like, the fact is, if a
guy likes you, he'll make the first
move.

Tara is incredulous.

TARA
That's so last century!

KAT
And yet, real.

Tara turns to Sammy - is that right?

SAMMY
It's true T.

Abigail can't help it - she snorts in derision.

ABIGAIL
Like you'd know Lieberman.

Sammy hadn't noticed that Abigail was so close.

SAMMY
Hey I'm a guy, I've got moves!

As Abigail snorts derisively, Tara heads to the barre - she's heard enough.

TARA
I'm surprised at you Kat. Did
feminists fight... and die and...
burn underwear just so we could
wait by the phone?

Kat shrugs - she knows what she knows. Sammy sneaks a look at Abigail, she's moved on, totally focussed on her stretch.

5

INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY 10

5

ETHAN, CHRISTIAN, ISABELLE

Ethan talks through the story as he and Isabelle demonstrate the part Ethan wants Christian to dance for his hip-hop workshop choreography.

ETHAN

We're in the middle of a turf war.
Only one of the gang leaders -
that's you - has a thing for a girl
in the other gang - that's Belle.

Christian smirks to himself. Isabelle and Ethan dance a truncated version of the piece.

All the moves are heavily influenced by American dance videos. It's gangsta hip-hop. All that's missing is the bling.

ETHAN

She's dancing in a club when he
sees her, likes her moves.

Isabelle tries some floor moves. It is all too clear to Christian. Ballet dancers can't do hip hop.

ETHAN

And so he dances with her and in
the club they're hot, but they can
never be together because of the
gang war. This night is all they
have.

Ethan and Isabelle look to Christian for a reaction. They're both thrilled with it, think what they're doing is great.

CHRISTIAN

I can't do that.

ETHAN

Sure you can. I've seen you dance -

CHRISTIAN

I don't want to do that. It's crap.

Ethan flushes angrily.

Isabelle looks at Christian in contempt. What would he know?

ETHAN

What's wrong with it?

CHRISTIAN

Turf war? Dance off in a club?
When does that happen?

5

CONTINUED:

5

Ethan tenses. But he is listening.

CHRISTIAN

(making fun)

And no offense Isabelle but you
sure ain't got no booty.

ISABELLE

I should hope not!

CHRISTIAN

It's like some bad LA wannabe rip
off.

ETHAN

Well that's hip hop.

Christian stops - it's a challenge.

6

EXT. HOUSING COMMISSION - DAY 10

6

ETHAN, CHRISTIAN, N/S FLATLAND BIKER, EXTRAS

A tricked up car cruises past, its sound system blasting out
full volume doof doof.

Apartment buildings loom around a scrappy courtyard - built
with good intentions, now a holding place for abandoned
shopping carts and young kids with nothing much to do.

Ethan takes in this totally new world as he and Christian
head down the street past the flats. He has never seen a
place like this before.

A kid flies past on a flatland bike, almost knocks Ethan off
his feet.

CHRISTIAN

After this we're square. I owe you
nothing.

Ethan nods, caught up in his surroundings.

7

EXT. HOUSING COMMISSION/OPEN AREA- DAY 10

7

ETHAN, CHRISTIAN, TWEAK, KAYLAH, N/S FLATLAND BIKE RIDERS,
N/S HIP HOP DANCERS, EXTRAS

A crappy old boom box blares out hip-hop beats. (No music,
only beats.)

The kid on the flatland bike speeds past, joins a group of
fellow bike riders practising stunts.

A solidly built guy, TWEAK, stomps and chest pops with a
couple of mates on a makeshift, cardboard "dance floor".
While the others are good, Tweak is the standout.

7

CONTINUED:

7

Kaylah stands to one side, waits her turn.

Christian and Ethan look on. Ethan is impressed.

ETHAN

He's awesome.

Ethan pulls out his new digital video camera and starts to shoot. Christian is uncomfortable but doesn't stop him.

Kaylah spots Christian, waves and sends him a friendly grin.

KAYLAH

Hey Ballet Boy.

ETHAN

Who's that?

CHRISTIAN

Kaylah. She's the one you should be watching.

Tweak pulls out. Kaylah steps in, starts dancing. Straight up with a knock out move.

Ethan can't take his eyes off her. She is fantastic.

8

EXT. ACADEMY CAFE - DAY 10

8

TARA, SAMMY, KAT, N/S STUDENTS

Sammy and Kat take their lunch to a table.

SAMMY

It's not going away.

KAT

Sad, but true.

SAMMY

So why hassle her?

KAT

If Ethan had even noticed Tara, he'd have made a move by now. I'm just trying to save her the pain.

SAMMY

Let her have her crush.

KAT

(exasperated)
I so don't get the whole crush thing.

SAMMY

Really? You've never had someone really close, someone you see everyday, you're sitting beside them, you're working together, you're breathing in the air they breath out...

Kat stares at Sammy - suddenly worried.

KAT

And you know all this because?

SAMMY

All I'm saying, we're not always in control of these feelings, even when they're wrong.

He looks at her meaningfully.

SAMMY

Sometimes they just eat away at you.

Kat leans back - oh no, he doesn't mean... Is he talking about her?

KAT

Sounds painful.

SAMMY

It's torture.

Luckily for Kat, just then Tara arrives and sits down.

TARA

What're you talking about?

Both Kat and Sammy look guilty - Tara's phone beeps with a message alert. She checks the message. Quick as a flash starts to head off.

TARA

Gotta go.

KAT

Where?

TARA

Rehearsal studio.

SAMMY

(suspicious)
Why?

KAT
(equally suspicious)
Yes why?

Kat grabs Tara's phone, checks the message. Tara is furious, tries to snatch her phone back.

TARA
That's my phone!

Kat turns her back on her, blocking her.

TARA
No way!

SAMMY
What is it?

Kat tosses it to Sammy, Tara runs between them - piggy in the middle, not happy. Kat is completely shocked by what she's found.

KAT
Ethan's schedule. Every class he goes to, where he has lunch, the whole thing.

Tara tries to grab it from Sammy.

KAT
This is way more than disturbing.

SAMMY
This is psycho stalking.

Tara cries out in dismay as Sammy deletes the schedule.

TARA
No!

SAMMY
It's gone.

Tara snatches back her phone.

EXT. HOUSING COMMISSION/OPEN AREA - DAY 10

ETHAN, CHRISTIAN, TWEAK, KAYLAH, N/S FLATLAND BIKE RIDERS,
N/S HIP HOP DANCER, EXTRAS

Ethan's camera POV as he films -

- Hand held. A bit shaky. Tweak and Kaylah are dancing. Kaylah is pulling some really great moves.

- Zooming in on Kaylah's feet as she pulls a complicated dance step.

ETHAN (O.S.)

Amazing.

Christian stands beside Ethan as he films from the side lines.

Kaylah waves to Christian. It's his turn.

KAYLAH

You're up.

As Kaylah joins Ethan, we stay with Christian as he takes Kaylah's place dancing alongside Tweak.

Tweak glances up, watches Ethan filming.

TWEAK

We're gonna be YouTube stars, bro.

Christian pulls a great move, laughs. Oh yeah.

CUT TO:

Kaylah recovers her breath.

ETHAN

You've got some great tricks. How'd you do that freeze on the windmill? (adjust) I love that.

KAYLAH

I dunno.

Ethan puts down his camera as he tries to analyze the move, break down the step.

ETHAN

So this arm counter-balances the turn, right?

KAYLAH

(laughs)

It's just how I feel. I don't pick it to pieces like that.

ETHAN

How about I just try it and you tell me where I'm going wrong.

Ethan starts trying to emulate Kaylah's move.

Kaylah stops him, corrects him, laughs at his mistakes.

They're both having fun, enjoying each other's company.

As Tweak looks up, he catches Kaylah touching Ethan. Tweak tenses, abruptly stops dancing.

He watches Ethan and Kaylah, laughing, chatting. Kaylah touching Ethan as he keeps attempting Kaylah's move.

Tweak does not like this one bit.

Christian looks round, notices Tweak watching Ethan and Kaylah. He can see Tweak is jealous, doesn't want any trouble. He stops dancing, calls out to Ethan.

CHRISTIAN

Come on. Let's go.

ETHAN

Why?

Christian grabs Ethan by the scruff of his jacket and drags him away.

CHRISTIAN

We're done here.

Tweak and Christian share a silent nod of mutual understanding as Christian heads off. Ethan gives Kaylah an over the shoulder farewell.

ETHAN

Maybe catch up some time?

Which Tweak does not miss.

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO/CORRIDOR - DAY 10

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

Girls ballet class. Tara helps Kat rip out the soles of her pointe shoes to convert them into demi-pointe. It's tough work and Tara has to tug hard to free the leather.

All around them girls cut and sew their pointe shoes, it's more like a shoe-maker's workshop than a ballet warm up.

KAT

Have you noticed anything weird about Sammy?

Through the window Sammy walks past and gives them a silly waves as he goes.

TARA

Apart from the usual?

KAT

I have this...

She stops - forget it.

KAT

It's nothing.

TARA

What?

KAT

It's just a feeling... maybe I'm reading it wrong...

TARA

Use your words.

KAT

I hate to use this one... but I think he's got a crush on me.

Tara sits bolt upright, shocked.

TARA

What?!

Sammy comes back in the other direction - this time he does the fake elevator walk, starting low then smoothly going upwards as he moves across the window.

Tara and Kat talk through their smiles.

KAT

He pretty much admitted it at lunchtime.

TARA

Are you sure?

Once again, Sammy goes past the window outside. This time he does the fake "walking down the steps" move. Tara and Kat smile encouragingly at him.

KAT

I'm getting all the signals.

TARA

(about Sammy)

Is that flirting?

Outside, Sammy is doing blow fish mouth against the window. Miss Raine appears behind him but he hasn't seen her. Tara and Kat start laughing. Finally Sammy smears the window as he turns to see Miss Raine.

MISS RAINE

Mr Lieberman?

TARA

This is bad.

10

CONTINUED:

10

KAT

I know. Never ever date a friend.

TARA

Even I know that.

Miss Raine enters the class.

MISS RAINE

Ladies.

Class is about to begin.

11

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 10

11

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

INTERCUT WITH:

12

INT. ACADEMY - MONTAGE - EXISTING FOOTAGE EP 1/2/4

12

TARA, ETHAN

Girls ballet class. Tara stands at the barre doing her strengthening exercises. Kat dances nearby, en pointe, like the rest of the girls. The class is doing an exercise that brings Kat close to Tara and then moves her away. They speak in hushed voices in between movements.

TARA

Maybe it's not a real crush.

Kat looks puzzled. Huh? What does Tara mean?

TARA

Like is it just a passing thought,
or is it a real, in your DNA,
internal GPS that tells you
whenever they're close by, full
blown obsession?

KAT

Sounds complicated.

TARA

Not really. Okay, do you know if
he's doing the whole fantasy thing?

KAT

Oh... Eww!... I hope not.

Tara gets what she's talking about.

TARA

No! Not like that. I meant crush
movie.

12

CONTINUED:

12

Kat looks blank.

TARA

You know...

CUT TO:

CRUSH MOVIE MONTAGE:

1. The moment Ethan took off his T-shirt.

TARA (O.S.)

...when you replay every significant moment you've ever had with the object of your crush.

2. The moment Ethan pulled Tara from the water and said her name for the first time.

TARA (O.S.)

Which in my case is...

3. The moment Ethan held her in the *pas de deux* for the first time.

KAT (O.S.)

(interrupting)

- I know who it is!

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Miss Raine spots them talking at the back of the class.

MISS RAINE

Katrina!

13

INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY 10
ETHAN, CHRISTIAN

13

INTERCUT WITH:

14

INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 10
TARA, KAT

14

INTERCUT WITH:

15

INSERT FOOTAGE: ETHAN'S TAPE FROM HOUSING COMMISSION
KAYLAH

15

SFX: The beat box beats from the skate park play over.

Close on the TV monitor as Ethan replays his FOOTAGE of Kaylah dancing.

Ethan tries to copy Kaylah's moves. It's tricky.

Close by Christian scans through the list of music contents Ethan has stored on his laptop. He is unimpressed with Ethan's collection.

CHRISTIAN

Is this your mum's collection?

ETHAN

You can't insult me. I'm not listening.

Christian notices Tara's mix CD sitting on top of Ethan's computer bag, reads the tracklist.

Ethan looks round as Christian loads the CD, starts shuffling through the tracks.

SFX: The beat box beats from the skate park continue to play over.

CUT TO:

CORRIDOR: Kat and Tara head down the corridor shouldering their large dance bags, feet in stockings with no toes. They slide slowly along the shiny floors, with no traction because of their stockinged feet, walking with something more like a shuffle/waddle than actual steps.

TARA

Okay, what about the fight fantasy?

KAT

I'm almost too afraid... *(to ask)*.

TARA

It's good. There's been a fight - over you of course.

KAT

Of course.

TARA

Trust me...This is one of my favourites.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Christian plays a classical track from Tara's CD mix. He likes the way the beat box beats play over the classical track. He starts working a little hip-hop shuffle to it.

CHRISTIAN

What's this?

15

CONTINUED:

15

ETHAN
Prokofiev. (ADJUST)

Ethan suddenly looks up. That's it! He knows what to do now!

ETHAN
It's from *Romeo and Juliet*, the
ballet, the moment when they first
meet.

SFX: The classical music builds as it plays against the beat
box beats.

TARA (O.S.)
So he's been in this big fight...

16

INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 10

16

TARA (O.S.), ETHAN

SFX: The beat box / classical music surges.

TARA (O.S.)
And he's pretty hurt, cut lip, torn
shirt...

Out of the light at the end of the corridor comes Ethan. He
has a cut lip and tousled hair. His clothes are ripped and
tattered.

TARA (O.S.)
Which is when we both realise...

He looks up, makes eye contact with -

17

INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR (VENDING MACHINE) - DAY 10

17

TARA, KAT, N/S STUDENTS

SFX: The music stops.

Tara and Kat are now standing at the vending machine. Kat
fights with the machine - a chocolate bar is stuck just above
the vending slot and she pushes the machine and tries to
reach her hand in from the bottom to get to it.

KAT
That you are in desperate need of
help.

18

INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY 10

18

CHRISTIAN, ETHAN, ISABELLE

Ethan tells Isabelle and Christian their roles as he
rehearses them for his choreography workshop piece.

ETHAN
 (to Isabelle)
 Okay, so you really dig this guy,
 but he's wrong for you, from the
 streets.

Not hard for Isabelle to imagine. Ethan turns to Christian.

ETHAN
 And she just stops you in your
 tracks, this gorgeous rich girl,
 way out of your league...

Christian smiles at Isabelle, not intimidated.

ETHAN
 But you both know that all that
 doesn't matter - you have to be
 together. You break the rules and
 start something new.

The three of them work together on the steps of a mismatched
 love story - Isabelle dancing classical, Christian hip hop.

Isabelle and Christian's dance styles gradually get
 stylistically closer as their characters start to fall in
 love.

Christian and Ethan are a real team. They're working well
 together.

INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 10

TARA, KAT, ETHAN, CHRISTIAN, ISABELLE, N/S STUDENTS

Kat and Tara head down the corridor - Kat has her chocolate
 bar. Tara suddenly freezes.

TARA
 He's here.

KAT
 Who's here?

TARA
 Ethan. I told you, it's the
 internal GPS - there's this
 magnetic pole inside me that swings
 towards him. Seriously it can be
 like, kilometers.

Kat can't stand it anymore.

KAT
 Okay enough, he's my brother. No
 more Ethan!

Just as Ethan rounds the corner, followed by Christian and Isabelle as they head out from rehearsal.

Kat rolls her eyes. Ethan gives her a casual nod of acknowledgement but grins at Tara.

ETHAN

Hey Tara, thanks for the CD. I'm using one of the tracks tomorrow.

He walks on by, followed by Christian and Isabelle.

Tara stops and watches their backs recede down the corridor, then turns to Kat with a gleeful grin. Kat drags her away.

KAT

Doesn't change anything.

KAT, SAMMY

Kat sits alone on the stairs taking a Polaroid picture of her feet - blisters from the pointe shoes, a bit of blood. She lays it on the stair next to a series of feet shots from different days - an art project.

Sammy appears at the base of the stairs.

Kat is suddenly nervous. So is Sammy.

SAMMY

There you are.

KAT

Here I am.

He sits next to her and picks up the latest shot.

SAMMY

Is this today's? Nice.

Kat tries to put him off.

KAT

Ugly dancer's feet. Look at them, that's a whole semester right there. Blisters, blood... nasty.

Sammy shrugs, he's seen Kat's feet before. He's nervous.

SAMMY

I need to talk to you about something. This is a bit out there... but I've been putting it off... and...

(MORE)

20

CONTINUED:

20

SAMMY (CONT'D)

I don't want to make things awkward
between us so I thought I'd just
jump in and tell you how I'm
feeling...

Kat groans.

KAT

Stop!

Kat takes a deep breath.

KAT

I love you Sammy - just not like
that.

Sammy is shocked - where on earth did that come from?

SAMMY

What?

You? And me?

SAMMY

Gross.

Sammy exits leaving a dumbfounded Kat. Oh.

21

INT. BOARDING HOUSE/Common Room - Night 10

21

TARA, KAT, N/S STUDENTS

Kat races into the common room and finds Tara playing pool.

KAT

Tara!

Kat runs over, drags Tara away from the game.

KAT

(back to Tara's pool
partner)

Sorry.

Kat talks privately to Tara. Urgent. Hushed.

KAT

I just spoke to Sammy.

Tara's eyes widen. What did he say?

KAT

I was right. He has got a crush on
someone. Only it's not me.

TARA

So who is it then?

KAT

You.

Tara laughs.

TARA

No way.

KAT

When he first spoke to me he said something about breathing in the air that the other person breathes out.

TARA

That sounds like something I would say.

On Kat - exactly.

TARA

Oh no.

KAT

Oh yes.

Tara takes it in - Kat might be onto something here.

TARA

Crap.

Tara steels herself, knocks on Sammy's door.

Sammy opens it. He's in his PJ's. Christian's in the room but Tara doesn't see him (he's behind the door).

TARA

Before you say anything let me just say this. Things look like they could be progressing with Ethan. I'm not saying we're going to get together right away but I think he's starting to... You know... So, I'm really flattered but we're just so similar... which makes us really good friends...

SAMMY

Which is exactly why I'm not interested in you... or Kat.

And he shuts the door on her.

22

CONTINUED:

22

Oh.

IN HIS ROOM Sammy shakes his head at Christian.

SAMMY

Women.

IN THE CORRIDOR: Tara hesitates, not quite sure what to do.

She heads back down the corridor. Now completely confused.

23

EXT. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DANCE - DAWN 11

23

NIL CAST

Dawn has barely risen. The birds are just beginning to chirp.

24

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 11

24

ABIGAIL, CHRISTIAN

Christian is alone in the studio, practising his barrel turns (adjust). He's working hard, really into it. Abigail comes in with her bag and shoes.

ABIGAIL

I booked this studio.

CHRISTIAN

I'll just be a couple of minutes.

ABIGAIL

There is a reservation form you know.

CHRISTIAN

Whatever.

He keeps going - ignoring her.

ABIGAIL

It doesn't matter how much you practise.

She starts to stretch at the barre.

ABIGAIL

Being good at hip hop's never going to make you a better ballet dancer.

Christian laughs.

CHRISTIAN

What makes you think that's what I want?

Abigail is disdainful.

24

CONTINUED:

24

ABIGAIL

So why are you here? It's Sunday,
you're doing extra. Who are you
trying to impress?

Abigail gets back to her practice, unaware of the shadow that
crosses Christian's face.

CHRISTIAN

You know what, the studio's yours.

He grabs his gear and heads out.

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EXT. BEACH - DAY 11

25

CHRISTIAN, N/S BEACH GOERS

Christian stands on the shore. Wet suit pulled down to his
waist, board on the sand beside his feet. He bends down and
attaches his leg rope. Amongst his stuff, his phone rings.
He looks at the screen. It is Ethan.

Christian ignores the call.

Then he takes his board, heads into the surf.

26

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO/CORRIDOR - DAY 11

26

ETHAN, ISABELLE, MR KENNEDY, N/S STUDENTS (MALE AND FEMALE)

Ethan hangs up his phone. He's embarrassed.

ETHAN

I don't know what's happened to
him. I don't understand. He was
really keen -
(turning to Isabelle)
Wasn't he, Belle?

Isabelle can't quite fake her enthusiasm.

ISABELLE

He came to rehearsal.

Ethan turns to Mr Kennedy, tries to sound confident and cool.
He's not.

ETHAN

Doesn't matter. I just need a bit
more time to get another dancer.

In the background N/S students are starting to slope in, sit
down, chat as they wait to see the day's choreography
showcases. Some are spectators, some are dressed for their
own performances.

MR KENNEDY

I'll change the list, put you down at the end of the day. That's all I can do.

ETHAN

Thank you sir.

He starts to walk away - only Mr Kennedy hasn't quite finished with him.

MR KENNEDY

Choreography isn't just about the steps, Ethan. It's also about casting, about choosing the right dancer for the right role.

Ethan tenses as he walks out of the studio. He knows he has been ticked off badly. He is furious.

Isabelle hurries out after him. She is equally furious but not at Christian. She blames Ethan.

ISABELLE

I can't believe he did this, you should never have trusted him.

Ethan is in no mood for an argument with Isabelle, keeps walking.

ETHAN

The girl from the video. She could do it easy. I'd just have to cut out the ballet moves.

ISABELLE

Isn't it supposed to be a love story!

But Ethan's already gone. On Isabelle - she's not happy.

EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 11
TARA, KAT, SAMMY, ABIGAIL

Tara and Kat have got Sammy pinned down. Sammy squeals and screams as struggles to get the girls off him. Not that he's trying too hard. He's really having just as much fun as them.

SAMMY

Get off me!

KAT

Not till you tell us.

SAMMY

Tell you what?

KAT

Who you've got a crush on.

SAMMY

No.

TARA

If it's not me and it's not Kat,
who else could it be?

Sammy suddenly sees Abigail approaching with her dance bag,
post practise.

SAMMY

Let me go.

He tries to pull free, only this time he means it. Somehow he
manages to extricate himself from under the girls.

He dusts himself off, sits up properly, watches Abigail as
she walks past.

SAMMY

Hi Abigail.

Abigail gives them a disdainful look as she walks past. She
does not approve of their juvenile behaviour.

Kat notices Sammy's love struck gaze. So does Tara.

She and Kat look at each other in horror.

TARA

You can't be serious.

Sammy looks sheepish. It's true.

TARA

No...

KAT

Traitor.

SAMMY

I didn't mean for it to happen.

Kat looks away in revulsion.

SAMMY

I'm sorry. What can I do? She
drives me crazy. The heart just
goes where it goes.

Kat and Tara move away - they don't want to touch him now.

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EXT. HOUSING COMMISSION/OPEN AREA - DAY 11

28

KAYLAH, ETHAN, TWEAK, N/S TWEAK'S MATES, N/S FLAT LAND BIKERS, EXTRAS

The same old boom box blares out the hip hop beats.

Flat land bikers cruise in the background.

Kaylah works on a few dance steps as she talks to Ethan. While she's thrilled Ethan has asked her to be in his choreography workshop, she does have some misgivings.

KAYLAH

I dunno. I mean, I know I can do it. I just don't know if I can learn it in two hours.

ETHAN

It's all your steps, Kaylah. I based it all on what you were doing yesterday.

KAYLAH

(chuffed)
Serious?

Ethan is on a deadline, checks his watch as he pulls off his expensive designer jacket, tosses it on the ground.

ETHAN

Come on. I'll show you quickly, but then we really need to get back.

As Ethan starts to demonstrate the dance to Kaylah, we hear the grinding of skateboard wheels.

Tweak slams to a halt beside them. He is smiling, but it's not entirely friendly.

TWEAK

It's the rich boy. Come back for another visit to the people zoo have you?

Ethan looks up at Tweak - this is seriously going to slow down his schedule.

29

EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE- DAY 11

29

ISABELLE, CHRISTIAN, N/S STUDENTS

Christian wanders around the side of the school. Isabelle sees him. She is furious.

ISABELLE

Where've you been?

Christian just shrugs.

CHRISTIAN
Good surf.

ISABELLE
What about Ethan, you let him down.

CHRISTIAN
I don't owe him anything anymore.

ISABELLE
So that's it?

She can't believe him.

ISABELLE
Fine. He's got someone to take
your place anyway. He's due back
with her any minute.

CHRISTIAN
Her?

ISABELLE
Afraid she'll be better? You'd
know, you introduced them.

Christian realises Ethan has gone in search of Kaylah, is
alarmed. He hesitates, doesn't want to get involved, then
against his own judgement - takes off down the street.

Isabelle just shakes her head and checks her watch.

EXT. HOUSING COMMISSION/OPEN AREA - DAY 11

ETHAN, KAYLAH, TWEAK, CHRISTIAN, N/S FLAT LAND BIKERS, N/S
TWEAK'S MATES, EXTRAS

Tweak picks up Ethan's jacket, puts it on, models it for
Kaylah.

TWEAK
What do you think?

Bike riders hang out in the back ground, Tweak's mates come
closer.

Tweak is seriously annoying Kaylah.

KAYLAH
I think you look stupid.

TWEAK
I think it suits me.
(to Ethan)
(MORE)

TWEAK (CONT'D)

What do you think? Think it suits me?

Ethan's not scared - he just wants to leave.

ETHAN

It looks brilliant, it looks awesome. You keep it, it's all yours.

KAYLAH

Give it back.

ETHAN

He can have it, let's go.

In the background Christian arrives.

From Christian's POV he sees Ethan being taunted by Tweak. Senses trouble and edges closer but doesn't interfere.

Ethan checks the time. He's got a deadline, has to get back for the showcase.

TWEAK

(noticing)

You bored with us already?

Tweaks grabs Ethan's wrist, takes a close look at his watch.

TWEAK

Nice watch. What is it? A Rolex?

ETHAN

It's a pirate idiot. It's a fake, just like you.

Tweak gets a look on his face - now there's going to be trouble.

KAYLAH

Tweak, just leave it.

But Tweak won't step down now. Christian sees it and steps up, grabs Ethan's arm. Kaylah shoots him a hopeful look.

CHRISTIAN

(to Ethan)

Okay, we're gone.

Nice try.

TWEAK

So I'm a fake am I?

ETHAN

Total hip hop wannabe.

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CONTINUED:

30

Two boys shape up to fight. On Christian as we...

CUT TO BLACK

31

EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 11
 ETHAN, CHRISTIAN, N/S STUDENTS

31

A mangled and battered Christian and Ethan chat happily as they approach the Academy.

Ethan has a few cuts and his hair is tousled, t-shirt ripped - Christian is in the same state. Ethan noticeably doesn't have his jacket. They feel alive - their blood pumping through their veins, ear to ear grins - friends.

ETHAN

What about when I had that guy on the ground?

CHRISTIAN

He tripped.

ETHAN

He did not.

CHRISTIAN

So did.

Ethan stops - sees where they are.

ETHAN

What do you reckon? Do we have to tell them we lost?

Ethan looks at Christian.

CHRISTIAN

Nah.

Christian and Ethan turn and head to the school.

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INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO/CORRIDOR - DAY 11
 KAT, TARA, SAMMY, ETHAN, CHRISTIAN, ABIGAIL, ISABELLE, MR
 KENNEDY, N/S STUDENTS, TARA (V.O)

32

Tara peers into the studio.

Students chat as they sit and wait. Isabelle paces anxiously.

Mr Kennedy checks his watch. He's not happy.

Tara suddenly stiffens. She can feel something. She turns to Kat and Sammy, waiting behind her.

TARA

He's coming.

Kat looks at her quizzically. How can she tell?

TARA

GPS.

The door at the end of the corridor bursts open. At the end of the corridor comes Ethan.

Tara blinks, it's her fantasy come alive.

Ethan has some cuts. His clothes are ripped and tattered.

Kat gasps as barely a beat behind Ethan -

Christian steps into the corridor. He too looks like he has been through the wars.

Not that Ethan and Christian know that, they hurry past Sammy, Kat and Tara, enter the studio.

TARA (V.O.)

The first rule of ballet is to make every single movement as beautiful as possible.

As Tara and Kat hurry in after them, take their places on the floor, Kat whispers to Tara.

KAT

You know that fantasy thing when he's been fighting for you? I totally get it.

Tara nods - she knows. It's powerful.

TARA (V.O.)

But sometimes breaking the rules is the only way to get it right.

Sammy sits down in between Kat and Tara, they both make room for him, friends. He looks across to Abigail, she is watching the bedraggled Christian with utter disdain.

TARA (V.O.)

And once they're broken, you can start to make your own. It's not ballet, it's something new.

Mr Kennedy isn't impressed by Christian's appearance.

MR KENNEDY

Are you sure you can go on?

Christian just looks at him - and grins.

CHRISTIAN

Absolutely.

The music starts - a mix of classical and beats - Christian's cut face and messy hair contrasts perfectly with Isabelle's immaculate ballet grooming.

And they start to dance.

END OF EPISODE.