



Dance Nation

Clare Barron

Zuzu is part of an American dance group led by Dance Teacher Pat. They are devising a new routine to Perform at the Nationals, and thirteen-year-old Zuzu is auditioning for the role of Ghandi. In this speech, she reflects on her dance skills before her audition.

(Zuzu alone.)

ZUZU: People say I dance with a lot of grace and that I'm beautiful and above - average and stuff.

Here's what they don't say.

They don't say I'm sensational.

They don't say I take their breath away.

They don't say they could watch me forever.

They don't say they cry when they watch me dance.

When they watch Amina dance, they cry.

I know. Because I cry when I watch Amina dance.

My Mom asked me to dance for her cancer. She saw a documentary about this woman who did a dance and it cured her cancer and so she asked me if i would do a dance for her and my Mom is not normally like that but she was feeling really emotional at the time and she kept breaking down all the time so i did this solo at the year end recital for my Mom and her cancer. And I tried to make it the best dance I had ever done. I tried to like feel things with my arms and my legs. I tried to make people feel things with my arms and my legs... But it was just an ordinary dance, really. A lot of people didn't know it was about Mom's cancer at all. They thought it was about whatever our dances are usually about. Flowers,. Or sailors, you know. Not cancer. I didn't make them cry. I didn't make myself cry. I don't even think I made my Mom cry. She told me that she liked it. But she didn't cry. And it didn't cure her cancer, so. Her cancer actually got worse after that, so. It was just an ordinary dance.

Luke says I'm a genius dancer but he's lying to me because he's in love with me. Luke has dandruff. I know this because I was playing with his hair the other day and at the base of his hair near his scalp were all these flakes of scalp sitting in his hair like dead ants that had just crawled out of a hole and died.

(Zuzu dances the audition part for Ghandi. She's not that great.)

Scene 5