

She's gone.

Dance Teacher Pat alone in his studio. It's late. He should pack up his things and head out for the night. But he doesn't feel like moving.

He sighs a world weary sigh.

DANCE TEACHER PAT
I guess I should go home

10

Philadelphia. The day of the competition.

All the girls in a different dressing room getting ready. They curl their hair, paint their faces elaborate colors, apply fake eyelashes. Connie is dressed like Gandhi. Zuzu is in a brilliant gold Spirit of Gandhi costume distinct from the Citizens.

All the girls still have their fangs.

SOFIA
If I have a child he is *not* getting circumcised

AMINA
Really?

SOFIA
Yeah

AMINA
Why?

SOFIA
Because it's barbaric to cut-off a piece of your baby's penis

CONNIE
My dad is circumcised

SOFIA
I'm not judging. Just not my kid.

Ashlee sneezes.

CONNIE
Luke are you circumcised?

ASHLEE
<sorry!>

LUKE

Um

Ashlee sneezes.

AMINA

Everyone is circumcised

ASHLEE

<sorry!>

SOFIA

Everyone is not circumcised!

ASHLEE

My kid's going to be circumcised because my mom is Jewish so I sorta have to

CONNIE

I'm not Jewish and my kid's going to be circumcised too

MAEVE

What about you Luke?

LUKE

Um

ASHLEE

The thing is – you have to think about the locker room. Because my dad says that boys who are uncircumcised get made fun of a lot in the locker room. And that's really not something you want to do to your thirteen-year-old kid, you know

SOFIA

Yeah but sex is better with an uncircumcised penis

ALL THE GIRLS

...

SOFIA

It's true

MAEVE

How do you know that?

SOFIA

Everybody knows it. It's like a fact.

CONNIE

I bet you're circumcised, Luke, aren't you?

SOFIA

It's like I will never, ever, ever, ever, ever marry a man who's going to make me circumcise my kid. That's just a deal breaker, you know?

MAEVE

Maybe Amina was circumcised when she was a baby and nobody told her and *that's* why she can't masturbate

CONNIE

What are you talking / about?

ASHLEE

No!

CONNIE

Maeve!

ASHLEE

That's just wrong!

CONNIE

You're crazy

AMINA (*despondent*)

Do you think there's something wrong with me?

SOFIA

Nah, you're probably just slow

ASHLEE

Yeah you're probably just developmentally delayed or something. Don't worry about it

SOFIA

Yeah, you're probably just a late bloomer, Amina

ASHLEE

Yeah. Everyone's on a different time frame

ZUZU

Hey Luke? Can you sew this into my head?

LUKE

Sure

Luke sews a flower into Zuzu's hair.

SOFIA

I bet you're not going to have any sex until you're like thirty-five and then one day you'll just explode with all these sexual feelings and you'll be like way more sexual than the rest of us and we'll all be married and you'll be like a sexy, older women with all these lovers

CONNIE

Totally. That's totally you, Amina

AMINA (*even more despondent*)

But I don't want to wait until I'm thirty-five

MAEVE

Maybe it's already happened

Maybe it just feels different for you

And you've already felt it

And you didn't even know

LUKE

Connie, did you bring your lucky horse?

CONNIE

Yeah, it's over there

There's a beautiful Appaloosa amidst the carnage of the table.

Sofia hands it to Luke.

LUKE

Okay, *phew!*

AMINA

I need to touch it, too

ASHLEE

What about you, Zu? When do you think you'll have sex?

ZUZU

I don't care

ASHLEE

What do you mean you don't care?!

ZUZU

As long as I can dance, then I don't care

SOFIA
She's lying

ZUZU
I've wanted to be a dancer since I was two years old. That's all I want

SOFIA
Two year olds don't even have wants

ZUZU
Yes they do
I was two
And I wanted to be a dancer
The best dancer
In the entire world
I wanted to be a professional dancer when I was two

CONNIE
Me too

MAEVE
I don't know what I wanted when I was two
I think I just wanted
You know
Water
And stuff like that

 Their faces are painted now – bright, freakish colors. They look like monster aliens with their little fangs.

CONNIE (*applying her eyelashes*)
I remember this dude from Germany who used to visit my parents
I don't even remember why he was there...
He was my parents' friend?
He was German?
He was only in town for a short while
This was like 3 years ago
I don't know
He would come and he would put his belly against my back and he would put his hand on my shoulder and he would sing along when I played the piano
Like is that normal?
I got very nervous that it wasn't okay
But no one said anything about it
My parents saw him do it and everything
So I guess it was okay?

ASHLEE
Did you see his penis?

CONNIE
No!

ASHLEE
Then it's fine

AMINA
I don't know, I find it all very confusing

SOFIA
What's confusing?

AMINA
I don't know

MAEVE
I saw this penis once

ASHLEE
What?

SOFIA
Was it romantic?

MAEVE
No

CONNIE
Was it your brother's penis?

MAEVE
Never mind

SOFIA
Was it your dad's penis?

MAEVE
I SAID NEVER MIND!

DANCE TEACHER PAT (*entering*)
Hey girls how's it going

ALL THE GIRLS AND LUKE
Good, Hi Dance Teacher Pat!, etc.

DANCE TEACHER PAT

Are you ready to go?

ALL THE GIRLS AND LUKE

Yeah we're ready, etc. pretty much!

DANCE TEACHER PAT

Let me see what you look like

They line up in their costumes, face paint, etc. They look good.

DANCE TEACHER PAT

You look good. Alright. Circle up

They do.

DANCE TEACHER PAT

Now I know there's a lot of pressure on you

But I want to take a minute

And I want you to close your eyes

They do.

DANCE TEACHER PAT

And I want you to forget about all the steps...

Everything we've worked on...

I want you to forget about being in Philadelphia, away from your families...

And Nationals and going to Tampa Bay...

It doesn't exist

...

...

Just breathe in

They do.

DANCE TEACHER PAT

And let it all go

They exhale

DANCE TEACHER PAT

Now I want you to take a moment

And I want you to think about *alllll* the people in the world

People who are struggling

People who aren't as fortunate as you

People who don't have parents like you do