

FIRST POSITION

Episode 1

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TEASER

INT. THE ROYAL LONDON - NIGHT

A BBC 2 REPORTER speaks directly into camera.

BBC 2 REPORTER
Tonight marks the final performance
of Vanessa Hillcrest, prima-
ballerina of the Royal London since
2011.

Fade to performance footage of VANESSA, beautiful ballerina.

BBC 2 REPORTER (CONT'D)
A career filled with some of the
most captivating performances seen
on the Royal stage, Miss Hillcrest
became equally famous for her
notorious personal life,

Fade to Vanessa vomiting in the tube, falling off bar tables,
and licking her own nipple in a cafe.

BBC 2 REPORTER (CONT'D)
culminating in a bizarre "public
indecentcy" arrest in 2013.
Expectations are high this evening,

Backstage at the Royal, Vanessa stumbles out of the loo with
a cigarette, downs a coffee and SWALLOWS A VARIETY OF PILLS.

BBC 2 REPORTER (CONT'D)
as patrons await their last glimpse
of the tortured, 28 year old
ballerina, before her late-career
retirement.

AS Vanessa walks to the wings she STUBS HER TOE ON A SET
PIECE. A young dancer, BRITTANY (19), sneaks up behind her.

BRITTANY
What do you plan to do after this?

VANESSA
I have no idea.

BRITTANY
Don't worry, you look great for
your age.

Vanessa seethes. She approaches the stage, takes a deep
inhale, then lets out a giant belch. Even she is shocked.

Finally, she enters and executes an elegant routine.

An audience member sighs, the BBC Reporter wipes a tear.

Mid-routine, VANESSA GRABS HER STOMACH, MOANING. Audience members grimace and mumble.

A MALE DANCER lifts Vanessa and throws her into a tour l'air, audience gasping as she executes the impressive spins.

Suddenly, the male dancer SHOUTS! Patrons in the audience SHRIEK, a few of them laugh. One patron LIFTS HIS IPHONE AND RECORDS THE DISASTER.

Vanessa hits the ground as she lets out a HUMILIATED SCREAM.

The lights on stage are shut off - BLACKOUT.

END OF TEASER - TITLE SEQUENCE

INT. DANCE SCHOOL - TOWER HAMLETS - AFTERNOON

A shabby office. Colorful handmade decorations fall off the crumbling walls. AMBER (35), spray tan and tacky jewelry, stares at a darkened Vanessa.

AMBER

What makes you think you're qualified to teach at Tinkly Toes?

VANESSA

I've danced professionally since I was 9?

Amber writes in a hot-pink notepad, furiously.

AMBER

What do you plan to contribute to the organization?

VANESSA

Dance lessons?

AMBER

Tell me about a situation where you disagreed with a superior, and how you handled it?

VANESSA

The lead soloist in my first show in Russia wanted to bang the guy I'd been sleeping with, his name was Sirgey or something, he ran a disco so I took the girls to his club one night. She threw a glass at my face but I caught it and sliced her Achilles and afterwards she couldn't dance and that's how I got my first big number. I was her understudy.

(beat)

(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

It never occurred to me until just now how smart that was.

AMBER

Sorted! Your first class starts in an hour. Beginning Ballerinas, ages 5 to 6. Congratulations.

VANESSA

Excuse me?

AMBER

Your salary will be 35 pounds per class.

VANESSA

Can I think about it?

AMBER

What's there to think about?

(beat)

Look, I never made as far as you as a dancer. I chose to use my mind and start a business. But I know the dance world. I know what your options are.

VANESSA

But I've never even been around kids. 6 year olds? Can I start with teenagers who already -

AMBER

You are going to be fabulous. I know these things. And someone with your accreditation is exactly what this institution needs.

(yells out a tiny window)

Emily, can you bring in the paperwork for Miss Vanessa?

VANESSA

Paperwork? Like tax forms? My visa situation is a little...

AMBER

Documentation certifying you aren't a pedophile.

EMILY (29) has rolled into the room in a wheelchair, wearing a full tutu. She dumps A STACK OF PAPERS onto Vanessa's lap.

EMILY

Thanks to new policies, we only had 2 kidnappings on the premises last year, down from 7.

VANESSA

Oh my god.

EMILY

We're so excited to have you here.
The Royal! Wow! I'm surprised you
aren't teaching there, or the
London Russian, or the English Nat -

VANESSA

Yeah, me too. 35 pounds. Fantastic.
Can I get that money right now, or -

AMBER

You'll get your first payment in 7
weeks once the council funding has
come in.

EMILY

We're a community based
organization! Isn't that wonderful?

VANESSA

Oh, hell no.

(She gets up to leave)

No offense to your Tinkly Toes, but
I am a professional dancer. I have
been paid thousands of pounds to
perform on stage.

AMBER

Then you should go back to doing
that.

EMILY

I bet lots of schools are
interviewing you. You must have so
many opportunities.

Beat. Insert Flashback of the audience members shrieking and
laughing. Montage of posh dancers and patrons laughing and
shaking their heads at her.

Cut back to Vanessa staring at Emily, stone faced. She had no
other opportunities.

VANESSA

Give me the pedophile form.

AMBER

That's what I thought.

EMILY

(handing her the papers)

Welcome to the family!

INT. DANCE STUDIO - AFTERNOON

Vanessa stands in front of a group of squirmy LITTLE GIRLS, ages 5 to 6, ethnically mixed. Among them are CHLOE, MAKENA, and PERIN.

Chloe picks her leotard out of her bum.

VANESSA

Good afternoon, I'm Miss Hillcrest, your new instructor. I was trained at the Joffrey in New York, studied under Ratmanskyy in Russia, then joined the Royal London where I was a soloist for 3 years.

PERIN

Our last teacher danced at DISNEYLAND!

MAKENA

Miss Kaitlin also once got a callback for Step Up 3D.

CHLOE

And she was in a music video with Justin BEIBER!

VANESSA

And Miss Kaitlin is now doing musical revues on a cruise ship for grumpy old gits injecting Viagra into their eyeballs.

MAKENA

Why don't you dance at Disneyland?

VANESSA

Why don't you go fuck yourself?

PERIN

We're 5!

VANESSA

Um, I'm sorry, that was not appro-

PERIN

Do you ever dance on the pavement for tourists?

VANESSA

No, I do not! I am a prima-motherfuuuflipping- ballerina! I enjoyed a very successful career, reaching the heights of my profession.

MAKENA

Did you make lots of money?

VANESSA

Of course I did. Which I used to travel the world and buy myself luxuries. Europe, in fact -

INT. FLASHBACK - CAR - AFTERNOON

Vanessa drives down a roadway in a Smart Car convertible. She turns up the classical music then swerves into another lane, narrowly avoiding a collision.

The TRUCK DRIVER screams out.

TRUCK DRIVER

(in French; English subtitles)

You're gonna get yourself killed!

VANESSA

My life is already over! WOOWOO!!!

Montage of Vanessa smoking hash in Amsterdam, crashing on a snowboard in the Alps, and dancing on Spanish bar tables.

Cut to the Czech Republic. Vanessa lies on her back. A SLEAZY SURGEON holds two D-CUP BREAST IMPLANTS.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

At last.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

The little girls stare at Vanessa's enhanced bosoms.

VANESSA

It was an enlightening adventure in which I experienced a lot of personal growth.

CHLOE

So you're rich and famous?

VANESSA

Rich in talents and famous for -

MAKENA

Then why are you teaching? Those who can, do, those who can't -

VANESSA

Have kids who quote George Bernard Shaw.

CHLOE

Who's he?

VANESSA

Read a book!

CHLOE

I don't know how.

VANESSA

Right.

(beat, to Makena)

I'm in a transitional period. Life
threw a few difficulties my way.

INT. FLASHBACK - VANESSA'S LONDON LOFT - LATE MORNING

A swank loft cluttered with stuffed animals, a ceramic ballerina doll, and sex toys. Vanessa stretches on the window while smoking weed.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

VANESSA

No cleaning!

The doorknob shakes and a MALE PROPERTY MANAGER rushes in with TWO MOVERS, who gather Vanessa's bizarre belongings.

PROPERTY MANAGER

Miss Hillcrest, your cheque for
rent has bounced. We informed you
of this 10 days ago.

VANESSA

Oh, I'll grab a credit card.

Vanessa knocks a lamp off the table with her new tits.

PROPERTY MANAGER

You've given us 2, both were
denied. Then you tipped the lift
operator with an ecstasy pill.

VANESSA

He liked it.

PROPERTY MANAGER

Indeed he did. Later he was
discovered rubbing his bum cheeks
against the braille buttons. You
can no longer pay and you're an
embarrassment to the property. You
must evacuate immediately.

VANESSA

I've nowhere to go!

INT. DANCE STUDIO - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

The little girls are bewildered.

VANESSA

So children, this is where you end up if you practice every day and become the best dancer you can be. Here. In front of a bunch of living, breathing STDs who think they're better than you.

CHLOE

No one said that.

MAKENA

We are better than you.

VANESSA

Ok! There's 7 mins of class left. Everyone in first position.

The girls put one hand on their hips and make a peace sign with the other hand.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

PERIN

Now we pop and lock!

The girls start popping and locking.

VANESSA

Stop! Did you not learn traditional ballet positions?

MAKENA

Miss Kaitlin made up her own.

VANESSA

Good God. Put your feet like this.
(girls can't do it)
Seriously? You've been alive for 4 goddamn years and can't turnout!

PERIN

I turn out!

Perin turns around in circles. Vanessa grabs her.

VANESSA

We aren't moving yet! We must first learn to hold positions.

PERIN

NO! No positions!

Perin BITES HER! Vanessa drops the girl, who starts crying.
Amber walks by the classroom window.

AMBER
Class time's over!

The upset girls run to the door, PARENTS rush to greet them.

VIC LYDON (40), security uniform and spiked hair, picks up little Chloe.

VIC
You alright, Chloe?

CHLOE
I don't wanna dance anymore!

VIC
Of course you do.

CHLOE
Dancing turns you into a sad lady
with fake boobies who smells like
crisps.

PARENT 01
What did you learn in class today?

PERIN
Mind who you give ecstasy to.

PARENTS
Oh my God! / Outrageous. / Get her
away from my child!

AMBER
Everyone, this is our new teacher.
A soloist straight from the Royal
London!

PARENTS
How wonderful! / The Royal? / Crack
on!

VIC
Looks like you've got quite a
qualified teacher, Chloe.

VANESSA
Thank you.

VIC
Perfect person to prep her for a
life in show business.
(he raises his eyebrows)
Vic Lydon.
(Vanessa has no idea)
(MORE)

VIC (CONT'D)
Former supporting cast of The Only
Way is Essex. And I monitor the
CCTVs at Tesco's.

VANESSA
Ok.

PARENT 02
You gotta coach our kids to get on
Britain's Got Talent.

VANESSA
That show's for slags.

PARENT 03
Watch your language around the
children!

VANESSA
Suck my cunt!

AMBER
-trymen! Oh, Americans! Ha ha HA!
(beat, parents stare)
Miss Hillcrest is a colorful
individual, but she is incredibly
talented and very graceful.

Vanessa trips over Makena and face-plants into the stereo.
She storms off, limping. The parents stare at Amber.

EXT. STREET - MINUTES LATER

Vanessa hops into her SmartCar and peels away, parking
tickets flying off the windshield.

The car makes awful noises and smokes.

INT. AMBER'S OFFICE - LATER

Emily and Amber argue in the office.

EMILY
Please give her another chance!
It's a challenging position. The
girls have never had proper
instruction.

AMBER
Age 6 is too early to expose
children to an existential crisis.
They want to come to a place that's
fun.

The door swings open. DELROY (23), a beautiful yet awkward man with no idea how handsome he is, shuffles in. His svelte muscles burst out of a TACKY T-SHIRT, PUFFY-PAINTED with the "TINKLY TOES" LOGO and a badly drawn HIPHOP DANCER.

DELROY
Just finished the new shirts!

He throws a bag of t-shirts to Emily and Amber.

EMILY
(lying)
These are lovely, Delroy.

DELROY
That's me on the front doing the
Robocop!

Delroy demonstrates the ROBOCOP, it's been bizarrely updated.
Just then the PHONE RINGS.

AMBER
Tinkly Toes dance studio. (beat)
How wonderful to hear from you,
councilman! (beat) Yes, the school
is doing marvelously, the children
could not be getting a more perfect
physical education. (beat) Indeed,
we have found qualified
instructors. Our hip-hop teacher
can put his leg around his neck.
(Delroy does just that)
Qualifications? They've received
instruction from
YouTuu....biversity. It's in Wales.
(beat) I assure you the council
money is being put to good use, I
am employing a cripple.
(Emily looks up)
Of course our instructors have real
credentials, I have just bagged the
former Prima-Ballerina of the Royal
London! (beat) She'll be teaching
on Tuesday next. (beat) Suuure, you
can come audit her class. I'd be
delighted! (beat, terror) Ok
councilman, see you next Tuesday.
(hangs up the phone)
We're going to lose our funding.

EXT. AUTO REPAIR GARAGE - SAME TIME

A MECHANIC, thick cockney accent, stands over Vanessa's car.

MECHANIC
You need a new gearbox, the tyres
replaced, and a wheel realignment.
(MORE)

MECHANIC (CONT'D)
Car's only three years old, what
you been doing to it?

INSERT: VANESSA DRIVING DOWN THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD,
SKIDDING AROUND A CORNER, THEN PULLING UP ONTO THE PAVEMENT.

VANESSA
I have no idea what words you've
just spoken. How much is it gonna
cost to fix?

MECHANIC
With parts and labor, about 1000
quid.

VANESSA
How bout work out a deal where I
dance in the parking lot to attract
new customers? Kinda like the wacky
wavy inflatable tube men but
elegant.

RING. Vanessa answers her mobile

VANESSA (CONT'D)
Vanessa Hillcrest, prima-ballerina.

Cut to A RECEPTIONIST from the plastic surgery office.

RECEPTIONIST
You're 3 weeks late on the payment
for your breast augmentation.

VANESSA
Can I get a waiver?

RECEPTIONIST
This is not a student loan! If you
don't pay the remaining 600 euros
by next week, we take them back.

VANESSA
Both of them?

RECEPTIONIST
If you remove just one, you'll walk
in circles all day.

VANESSA
You're going to repossess my tits?

The mechanic looks at her, confused.

RECEPTIONIST
Strap you down and rip them out.
(surgeon holds a knife)
You've got 7 days.

VANESSA

No! I'll get you the money. Soon.

Vanessa hangs up and GRABS HER KEYS from the mechanic.

MECHANIC

This thing ain't safe to drive. You
gotta get the work done!

Vanessa leaps over the door of the convertible into the seat, throws her hair back, and lifts her keys... but is on the wrong side. The mechanic shakes his head as she moves to the driver side.

INT. HOSTEL - LATER

Students, hippies, and foreigners bustle in and out of a hostel. Vanessa digs through her pockets.

VANESSA

7 pounds a night? Rock. On.

She empties out her handbag. A HOSTEL MANAGER totals the crumpled up cash.

HOSTEL MANAGER

22 pounds. So you'll be out in
three days?

VANESSA

Yeah. Plenty of time.

HOSTEL MANAGER

Here's your change.

The Hostel Manger hands her ONE POUND. Vanessa puts the last of her money into her expensive, yet empty, handbag.

INT. DANCE STAGE - NIGHT

A spotlight. Vanessa steps on stage in rehearsal clothes. Classical music plays as she begins an elegant routine.

She twirls past... a STRIPPER POLE. The music transforms to a pop song. Vanessa grabs the pole and starts swinging.

Pan out, SHE'S DANCING AT A STRIP CLUB. Other girls give lap dances to grizzly men. Vanessa falls off the pole. THUD.

The men boo. Vanessa stands, stricken. She does an advanced ballet move. No one's impressed. She grabs the straps of her leotard and starts to reveal her breasts before -

INT. VANESSA'S HOSTEL ROOM

Vanessa bolts up in bed. Sweaty and terrified. She looks down: flannel pajamas. It was just a dream.

Vanessa rolls onto her side and fights back tears.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - NEXT DAY

A group of small children sit in chairs and contort their faces. EMILY is at the front in her wheelchair.

EMILY

Imagine your lips are waves in the
ocean, each lip a current in
opposing hemispheres.

The children move their mouths around in a bizarre fashion.
One child is quite confused.

Amber storms in.

AMBER

Get out of the chairs!

CHILD

The ocean doesn't stand.

The kid flops onto the floor and waves.

AMBER

Emily, you used to dance ballet.
You know the jargon. Just tell them
what to do.

EMILY

I know you want my assistance, but
I can't, Amber. I've only recently
recovered. It may instigate a
relapse.

AMBER

When's the last time you set fire
to something?

EMILY

17 days ago.

AMBER

It's just for one class! I'll give
you anti-depressants an hour
before.

EMILY

Spirituality is my anti-depressant.

AMBER

You are going to tell the council
that you used to dance at The
Royal, and that you are teaching
the children with video
demonstrations.

EMILY

I won't lie. It goes against my
treatment. And teaching ballet may
trigger the trauma.

AMBER

You WATCH ballet all the time!

EMILY

But I keep myself physically
distant from it. Yoga of the face
is the only movement discipline I
feel comfortable embracing.

(beat)

Now children, we're all flickering
particles in a great universe!

The children and Emily move their heads in circles while
blinking their eyes.

AMBER

This school is your universe and it
will be shut down if I don't
produce a real ballet teacher!

Emily looks into Amber's eyes.

EMILY

Then bring back Miss Vanessa.

INT. AMBER'S OFFICE

A disgruntled Vanessa creeps into Amber's office.

VANESSA

I'm here for the next class.

AMBER

That last one didn't go so well,
did it? How do you plan to rectify
upsetting my clients?

VANESSA

By saying I'm sorry?

AMBER

That'll work.

VANESSA

Really?

AMBER

I'm going to be up front with you.
A dancer with your credits brings a
lot of clout to our school.

VANESSA

Of course it does. Great! Um, this
may be a bit forward, but... could
I get an advance? Like, 400 quid?

AMBER

If you don't have money for rent I
will sort you out accommodation.

VANESSA

I have to pay off my tits.

AMBER

You paid far too much. They squeak
when you ronde de jamb.

VANESSA

They're not supposed to? I've never
had boobs before.

AMBER

The answer is NO.

VANESSA

C'mon Amber! You need me!

AMBER

I need you until someone in the
council sees THIS.

Amber holds up an ipad. It plays Vanessa's shameful last
performance, recorded on the iPhone, now on YouTube.

Zoom into the video. As the Vanessa spins in the air, she
grimaces. Present-day Vanessa panics and hits the stop button
repeatedly. It won't stop. She SLAMS DOWN the ipad and grabs
her pills

AMBER (CONT'D)

2.3 million views. Well done.

(beat)

I am giving you one more
opportunity. Someone from the
council is coming to review the
next class. If you manage to keep
the children alive and not mention
drugs or sex, you get keep your
job, and I'll give you an advance.

VANESSA

I will not let you down.

AMBER

I need to figure out how to explain your return to the parents. Use the "eccentric star" angle. Your past is all you've got going for you.

Amber exits.

Vanessa looks into the classroom from the office window, disdain enveloping her face. Emily wheels in.

EMILY

I'm so happy you've returned. I made you some treats.

Emily hands Vanessa a plate of cookies with Vanessa's name written on them.

VANESSA

I don't do sugar.

EMILY

It's an all natural recipe using honey and marijuana.

(beat, they eat the cookies)

This must be such a rough transition for you.

VANESSA

Sister, you have no idea.

EMILY

Actually, I do -

In an ill-fitting neon tracksuit, Delroy busts in.

DELROY

I hear we got a famous person coming today. WOT!

VANESSA

Yes, I've been here before actually. I'm guest teaching.

EMILY

He's referring to the councilman.

DELROY

The chap's gonna watch my class, right?

VANESSA

You teach?

EMILY

(to Vanessa)

Delroy is our hiphop instructor.

(MORE)

EMILY (CONT'D)

(to Delroy)

Delroy, THIS is Miss Vanessa. Our new ballerina. The councilman is only coming to view her. She's a professional dancer!

DELROY

I'm a professional dancer! I made 40 quid outside Buckingham Palace spinning on my head for 6 minutes.

EMILY

And you threw up on a Guardsman after. Besides, tourist change doesn't count as income.

DELROY

But I practiced a new move for him.

Delroy jumps onto the desk, and leaps off kicking one leg in the air, knocking a framed FROZEN poster off the wall.

EMILY

Don't take it personally, dear. The little girls love you and that's why they keep coming back! But we need an instructor with credentials to appease the council.

DELROY

But I wanted him to invite me onto the local tele. Like, the news or sum'mit.

VANESSA

It's just a stupid pen-pushing politician who's got jurisdiction over about 3 blocks of the ghetto! Who cares? You teach the class. I can't do this shit anyway!

EMILY

Yes. Yes, you can Vanessa.

VANESSA

I've never been around kids. EVER. Not since I was one. I've spent my entire life only learning ONE thing. This is my only career option and I can't do it.

EMILY

What is that ONE thing you've spent your entire life learning?

VANESSA

How to dance.

EMILY

And what are these little girls
coming to learn?

DELROY

It's easy, like. It ain't about
what you done or where you been, or
who gave you those credentials.
Just show the kids what you can do.

EMILY

These girls have never seen big
stages before. They know nothing of
the professional dance world. Why
don't you show them what that's
like?

Vanessa cracks her toes, puts on a face made of steel. She
looks as if she's about to go into battle.

INT. DANCE STUDIO

The same 4 year olds chatter in the classroom. Vanessa rushes
in, taking a shot from a flask.

VANESSA

Ok, kids! Let's DANCE!

CLASS

Yay! / Weee! / Can I potty first?

VANESSA

Hold it in, sister. Shit's about to
get real.

Vanessa looks up out the window to the hallway. AMBER, with
her characteristic phoney smile, chatters to an EFFEMINATE
MALE COUNCILMAN (55). They look back at her.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - LATER

Vanessa does a CRACKING ROUTINE in the front of the class.
The girls attempt to replicate behind her. Horribly.

Vanessa repositions their bodies as they scream and protest.

VANESSA

No crying! Pick up those bums!

CLASS

Bums! / I'm sleepy. / Twerk time!

VANESSA

Here's a short piece I learned in
Poland. Everyone in 2nd position.

Vanessa demonstrates a complex pointe routine, then nods.
The little girls attempt the piece, it's a disaster.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Again!

While they try again, Vanessa glances out the window and catches the councilman nodding, taking down notes. Amber tries looking at the notes over his shoulder.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

(to the class)

That was pathetic. I've watched
cockroaches move more gracefully.
From the top! I wanna see you FLY!

The girls attempts the routine again. They TOPPLE ONTO ONE ANOTHER.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Clearly you do not yet have the
strength for this level of dance.
It is my duty to prepare your
bodies for the torture and
mutilation of classical training.
We'll start with this position.

Vanessa does the splits.

The girls only get about half way down. Vanessa pushes their legs as they grimace, one starts to cry.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

We'll be holding this till the end
of the session.

MAKENA

I'm hungry.

VANESSA

(evil whisper)

Food is the devil.

The alarm goes off. The Councilman, Emily, and Amber enter.

AMBER

(beaming)

Class times's over. Look at that!
Everyone is still alive.

VANESSA

Yes they are! Ladies, that was
awful but we're getting somewhere.
(The class CHEERS!)
Everyone practice at home. See you
next Thursday if I don't decide to
kill myself.

COUNCILMAN

I don't think that will be necessary.

AMBER

What? But they've just received a tremendous physical education?

PERIN

I learned that I've got premature cellulite.

COUNCILMAN

This is a community supported project. The institution should be bestowing the children with confidence.

VANESSA

The only thing that ever gave me confidence was meth but I only tried it once because I found out it wrecks your skin.

COUNCILMAN

You need to find a new job!

The girls all start LAUGHING!

VANESSA

Yeah, yeah, eat it up.

MAKENA

Chloe pooped herself!

The girls giggle at sniffing Chloe, her bottom all poopy.

VANESSA'S FACE FALLS. She walks over to Chloe, bends down, and whispers.

VANESSA

Hey girl. Don't listen to these b-words.

CHLOE

I forgot to go earlier.

VANESSA

Look, poo happens.

MAKENA

You're a baby, Chloe!

VANESSA

You're a whore!
(beat, to Chloe)
(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I've never said this out loud to anyone, but I'm gonna confess something to you.

(beat)

I once pooped myself in front of 1,300 people.

CHLOE

Really?

Insert flashback to Vanessa's final performance at The Royal. As she spins in the air, she grimaces and suddenly defecates on stage. The dancers run, the audience gasping in horror, the iPhone rising.

VANESSA

I'd mixed up my pills. It's online now. So could crap your leotard 2.3 million times and still not be as pathetic as I am.

Chloe smiles and hugs Vanessa. She then puts her tiny hands on Vanessa's face, looks her in the eye, and whispers:

CHLOE

You're prettier than Miss Kaitlin.

Vanessa looks like she just heard the words of the Dalai Lama. The two women embrace.

AMBER

That was beautiful.

COUNCILMAN

My word. I have never seen anyone less qualified to work with at-risk youth as this woman. I am immediately cutting of all -

WHOOSH. Delroy enters and the room erupts.

DELROY

How's my ladies?

CLASS

Delroy! / Hooray! / Hip-hop time!

The kids hug Delroy as Emily wheels in and whisks Chloe away.

AMBER

(to the Councilman)

Sir, please, just witness one more class.

COUNCILMAN

I'm afraid that won't be -

Delroy takes his shirt off. The Councilman stares at his abs.

COUNCILMAN (CONT'D)

I suppose a quick viewing wouldn't hurt anyone.

The Councilman loosens his tie, steps to the back.

MAKENA

Hey Miss Vanessa, I bet you don't know how to street dance.

VANESSA

I bet my experimental hiphop moves would blow your mind.

MAKENA

Do one of Delroy's! Show her the turtle twirl, Delroy.

DELROY

That one's tricky, babes. I ain't warmed up yet.

PERIN

You can do it! You always can!

Delroy demonstrates a spinning move with his bum in the air.

MAKENA

Try that, Miss Vanessa.

PERIN

Ya! Pick up that bum!

Vanessa attempts the move and FAILS WICKEDLY. The girls howl.

DELROY

Next time we'll do something easy.
Let's go, class.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Emily and Vanessa watch Delroy's hiphop class. The girls follow his lead PERFECTLY. The Councilman is salivating.

EMILY

Isn't he amazing? The girls just adore him.

VANESSA

Why the hell didn't they dance like that for me? Philistines.

Vanessa continues to watch as Emily wheels away.

The girls are attempting a galloping step Delroy demonstrates, Perin can't do it and trips. Before the other kids can tease, Delroy picks up Perin.

DELROY

Hey P, what's your favorite animal?

PERIN

My Little Pony.

DELROY

Which pony you like best?

PERIN

Pinkie Pie.

DELROY

Show me how Pinkie Pie runs.

Perin DASHES forward and twirls like Pinkie Pie from My Little Pony. The girls giggle.

DELROY (CONT'D)

Killa, P! Ladies, we got a new move. The Pinkie Pie! Everybody try it!

The class twirls, doing Perin's new dance move.

In the hallway, Vanessa looks either to side. No one is watching. She looks back and DOES THE PINKIE PIE.

EMILY

Fun, in'it?

Emily and Chloe stare at Vanessa, Chloe wrapped in a towel.

CHLOE

Can I go in and dance now, Miss Emily? He's my favorite!

EMILY

Darling, you're naked. You need to go home and put on new clothes.

VANESSA

I thought I was your favorite!

CHLOE

I'm not a lezzie. I just like to hug.

The ALARM goes off, the girls and Delroy all MOAN that class is over.

DELROY

Ah, sugar! That's all we get to do today. See you next week, ladies.

MAKENA

One more move, Delroy!

Delroy looks over to the Councilman, now dripping in sweat, and executes a backflip. Part of his buttcrack becomes exposed. The Councilman nearly faints.

COUNCILMAN

Amber!

(knocks on the window to

Amber's office)

This is exactly the kind of institution the council wishes to support! We'll keep the funding flowing. I will be attending future sessions to make sure it's running smoothly.

Emily SQUEALS! Delroy hi-fives all the children.

DELROY

(to the councilman)

Sir, can you put me on the local telly or sum'mit? Maybe a poster round town?

COUNCILMAN

I will assist you in whatever ways you wish.

The councilman adjusts his trousers and leaves.

EMILY

(to Vanessa)

Isn't this wonderful!

VANESSA

Yeah. I get to make enough money for a weekly meal.

AMBER

(re-enters with a check)

Vanessa, though you failed us all, we get to keep going. I need a ballet teacher. Here's an advance.

VANESSA

(grabbing her boobs)

TITTTTIES!

Vanessa grabs the cheque and looks at it.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

27 pounds?

AMBER

Enough for a padded bra.

Vanessa stuffs the cheque into her shirt and storms off.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Vanessa jumps into her smart car. It won't start. Dead.

INT. BUS - MOMENTS LATER

Vanessa steps onto a bus, holds her Oyster card over the scanner. It blinks red. She tries 3 more times, red red red.

The bus driver stares her down.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Vanessa walks down the pavement, crying. EMILY rides by on her wheelchair.

EMILY
Need a lift?

CUT TO VANESSA RIDING SIDE-SADDLE ON EMILY'S WHEELCHAIR. Both woman dressed in their ballet gear.

EMILY (CONT'D)
You really see London a lot better
this way.

VANESSA
At 2 kilometers an hour.

Emily hits a button on the wheelchair AND IT TAKES OFF!

VANESSA (CONT'D)
Holy shit!

EMILY
This is the new high-powered model.
Much fancier than walking, wouldn't
you say?

VANESSA
I'm guessing you've never walked
before.

EMILY
I walked until age 19. I was
performing the lead in Cinderella
when the scaffolding broke and I
fell into the orchestra. An oboe
right to the lumbar.
(beat)
I struggled with anger for many
years after. Went through a phase
of setting musical instruments on
fire. But now I recognize that my
accident was a gift.

VANESSA

You get a huge settlement or something?

EMILY

Well yes, but not the money. The perspective. I understand the world in a whole new way.

Emily's wheelchair GPS speaks.

GPS

Turn left.

Emily pushes a button and the wheelchair turns.

EMILY

And I still get to be around ballet by working at the school.

VANESSA

Does that not cause bad memories?

EMILY

Occasionally, but I've got it under control.

VANESSA

Jesus. I apologize, Emily. My problems are not so bad.

EMILY

No, they're not. You accomplished their childhood dreams. Only about 1 percent of the population ever does that, y'know.

VANESSA

And now I can't afford bus fare.

EMILY

So perhaps it's the time to set some grown-up dreams.

Beat.

GPS

You have reached your destination.

EMILY

No we haven't Global Positioning Service! Vanessa still has lots of soul searching to do! But yes, here's your flat, love.

VANESSA

Thank you. It's been an experience.

EMILY

I'm happy. I think you're going to be good at this. You're talented and pretty and ambitious, you just have to put all the gifts you've been given to good use.

VANESSA

Why are you giving me advice?

EMILY

It's what we do in this country, even when no one has asked. Besides, I am so glad we finally have a real ballerina teaching the girls. A famous one I used to watch! I hope you'll stay.

VANESSA

I'm living in a 7 pound a night hostel. I'll be around.

EMILY

How wonderful. See you soon! Weeee!

Emily wheels off into a puddle.

INT. BBC NEWSROOM

Vanessa sits behind a desk.

VANESSA

And that concludes our coverage of Arts and Entertainment in London. Thank you and goodnight.

Pan out, revealing the set of the BBC. Vanessa stands, she wears a tutu on bottom and a news agent suit on top. A cameraman whistles and she winks at him.

RING. Vanessa answers her mobile while exiting the building.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Hello, Gerry. (beat) Tell Scorcese I'm more than happy to come on board but he has to wait until I'm finished with the tour of Japan, I promised Beyonce ages ago.

A limousine pulls up, Vanessa steps inside.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

One second, I've got another call. (beat) Yes, Barack?

(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)
(beat) You're very welcome, please
send each of the former hostages a
bottle of champagne and a "welcome
home" card from me. Glad I could do
my part.

The limousine pulls up in front of a CASTLE. Vanessa steps
out and greets A HALF NAKED EWAN MCGREGOR AT THE ENTRANCE.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
You're home early.

EWAN MCGREGOR
I've packed our things for Monaco.
Wanted to leave time to make love
before the journey.

Ewan lifts Vanessa off her feet and carries her up the
stairs. She looks out the window and watches baby Unicorns
grazing on her estate. Ewan and kisses her. She moans...

INT. VANESSA'S HOSTEL ROOM

Vanessa in her hostel, moaning. She bolts up out of bed.
Looks down: the same flannel pajamas.

She steps over the snoring hippie in the next bed and grabs
her ceramic ballerina doll from off the night stand.

EXT. WINDOW LEDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Vanessa smokes on the edge of her windowsill. She holds the
ceramic doll in one hand and talks to it.

VANESSA
Grown-up dreams. I don't think I've
ever had one of those.
(beat, smokes)
I'm not stupid. I can learn
something new, I can become good at
something else.

VANESSA TOSSES THE CERAMIC BALLERINA DOLL OUT THE WINDOW, IT
SHATTERS ON THE STREET. She takes a determined breath.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
What can you teach me, London?

Vanessa stares out her window at a particularly ugly stretch
of South London. A guy with no pants on runs by. He cuts his
foot on the ceramic doll.

THE END