​**The Dancing Girl**

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By: Emmalisa Horlacher

Penelope was a little girl who wasn’t all that pretty, but what she didn’t have in looks she made up for in dancing. She was an astonishing dancer and she loved doing it.

One day Penelope’s parents took her to a dance concert where the Dance Company, Twinkle Toes preformed. Penelope loved it so much, she announced she was going to work for the company when she grew up.

Penelope told her best friend Victoria all about the concert and about her new dream of working for the Twinkle Toes Dance Company. Victoria concluded she also wanted to work for the company, so the two girls promised themselves that they would both work for Twinkle Toes together.

As Penelope and Victoria grew up, Victoria became exceedingly beautiful, but also incredibly self-centered. Penelope’s dancing improved, while Victoria’s dancing became lazy.

One day a new job opened up in the Twinkle Toes Dance Company. It was a paying, dancing spot in the show for a young, teenage girl. The only problem was that the job was for one person, and Victoria and Penelope would have to compete for the spot.

Penelope danced wonderfully for the Company and she tried her best. Victoria made many mistakes and was very sloppy.

Beauty was important for the Twinkle Toes Dance Company, so they choose Victoria for the job. They said they could make her improve in her dancing skills, but they really only chose her because of her pretty face.

Penelope was heartbroken. She wasn’t picked all because she wasn’t pretty enough. She wanted to quit dancing and give up on her dream, when a letter came. The letter asked Penelope if she wanted to join a different dance company called Light as a Feather. The scouts from Light as a Feather had seen her trying out for the Twinkle Toes job and they saw how devoted and talented she was. Penelope thought she would go see them perform before she made up her mind to forever give up on dancing.

The performance was amazing! They had different types of dances; dances Penelope had ever seen before, along with a few couple dances. Penelope noticed that in each dance the same faces kept showing up. After the last dance the dancers stood in front of the audience and announced their names. They were a small bunch, so it didn’t last long.

Then they said something that made Penelope change her mind about dancing.

They said, “Tonight we would like to dedicate our show to a new arrival. Her name is Penelope. During the entire show we hoped she was here, watching us. During each dance we did well because we wanted her to see how good we are and want her to join us. So, Penelope, if you’re out there, we would love to have you.”

Then the dancers took a final bow and the show ended.

The next day Penelope went to the Light as a Feather dance Company and accepted their offer.

At school Victoria would boast to Penelope about her spot in Twinkle Toes. She would tell her how fun it is and make Penelope really jealous and sad, but, in reality, Victoria was having a terrible time. The dance instructors were cruel and she had no friends. She knew Penelope should have gotten the job, but instead of feeling the guilt about it, she would pick on Penelope and tell her lies about the awful company.

At Penelope’s first day in the Light as a Feather Dance Company, she was welcomed like a member of a family. There weren’t a lot of people, so everyone knew everyone. The instructors were very nice, but also very demanding and determined. They made Penelope work hard. In the end, Penelope had a wonderful time and she decided to stay at Light as a Feather.

As the year rolled by, Penelope’s life changed. Her beauty had blossomed, so now she was very pretty and she had lots of friends, friends who didn’t judge people by their appearance. Her friends in the Light as a Feather were like family and if she had a problem she could go to them to cheer her up. She really felt like she was herself when she was around them. The instructors were now like parents and gave her counsel on almost everything. Penelope’s friendship with Victoria became a rivalry when Victoria saw how much fun Penelope was having at dance. Victoria got new, more popular friends, while Penelope stayed with her friends from Light as a Feather.

One day Penelope’s instructors told the company about a dance competition. They said that they would select one girl and one boy from each age group to compete. There was going to be people from all kinds of dance studios and companies at the competition, so the representatives from the Light as a Feather Company would have to work hard.

The employees from the Light as a Feather Company voted on who they thought should be their representative for each age group. Penelope was chosen for her age group, not because her age group was small, but because she was a good dancer. She practiced hard for the competition and did her best every day.

Finally the day of the competition arrived and, as it turned out, the chosen girl from the Twinkle Toes Company was Victoria. Victoria kept telling Penelope that she was going to lose and that Victoria would be the one who would win the competition.

During the competition, Penelope did her best. Her dancing had improved a lot in the last year and she was amazing. When it was Victoria’s turn, she was even sloppier and lazier then from what Penelope remembered.

The winner of the competition was Penelope. She was so excited and so proud of herself for doing a good job.

Victoria had the lowest score of all the other competitors. Twinkle Toes fired Victoria for not winning the competition.

When Penelope was catching up with her friends to celebrate her accomplishment, an agent from Twinkle Toes offered her Victoria’s old job. Suddenly, Penelope’s old dream flashed into her mind. But then she remembered why they had not picked her for the job in the first place. She remembered the fun times she had had with Light as a Feather and her wonderful friends she had made from there.

She asked the agent why they wanted her now and not then.

The agent told her it was because now she was beautiful, now she was talented, and now she had won the competition.

“So I was not beautiful back then?” Penelope argued. “You only noticed me now because I am pretty. I know I had talent, but you didn’t see it. I know I could have been an amazing asset to your company, but you didn’t even think about it. Now you come to me, realizing your mistake, and ask me to join a silly company like yours. I’ll

tell you my answer right now. My answer is no.

Then Penelope walked away from the agent and joined her friends to celebrate at her favorite ice cream shop.

The End