

Leap of Faith (Now)

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If someone had told you to follow your dreams and go for it, it would probably be Katie. She had a blast at the party last night, where she was the first to complete the dance mission. But who is Katie? Let me tell you the story.

Katie Stellerman was the best dancer in Infinite-Limit. Infinite-Limit is a school for kids who want to go further than the limit. Katie went to every single dance competition and dance performance. She's super nice and super pretty but she sometimes gets a little bossy. She is one of the prettiest girls in Infinite-Limit. She dances and practices all the time. And at every performance, she always wears the best clothes. Well, she WAS the best dancer. Until the last day of school. The last day of school was horrible for Katie. Maybe even worse than horrible. It all started when she was dancing with her dance team at the end of the year performance. As usual, she was dancing like a six-plumed bird of paradise. Everyone was staring in awe. Everyone was hypnotized by her dancing. Then the worst thing happened. Katie was in the middle of her dance stunt when she lost balance and she fell to the floor. Her arm twisted the wrong way. Her legs were wobbly and she looked like a wrecked balloon. All of her dance mates rushed to help her up. She still had a smile on her face and looked as positive as always. Well, maybe a little too positive.

"It's just a fall, I can keep going," Katie explained, unsure if she was making the right decision. Her teammates seemed worried. Everyone was worried.

"No. No. You have to go to the hospital now. It is a dangerous situation," team captain urged. Katie didn't really have an option. She knew that she was badly hurt but she didn't know how bad it was.

"Ok. Fine. If the doctor says I only have a bruise or I'm ok, I'm gonna come back right here and dance again. Do not leave this room!" Katie shouted. Even though Katie sounded very positive, she was actually biting her nails in the car. She was super nervous and wished a thousand times that she would be ok. She was super nervous when she got to the hospital and she almost wanted to run away. She knew she couldn't. The door opened to the doctor's room.

"She started off magnificent, ended up with tears," Katie's teammates who took her to the hospital explained. The doctor said nothing and just smiled.

"Come here, Katie. All I need to do is to check on your leg and arm. If it hurts, tell me immediately," the doctor warned. Katie took a deep breath and walked to the doctor. The door silently closed in front of her teammates. Her

teammates didn't know what was happening until they heard a scream coming from the room.

"Uh oh. This is going to be bad news," one of her teammates frowned. The door opened. Katie stepped out crying.

"Sad news girls. Your friend Katie was a magnificent dancer. But I'm afraid she can't dance for months because... Because she broke one of her arms and one of her legs," the doctor said sadly. Katie was heartbroken because she couldn't dance. All of her teammates tried to calm her down.

"Here is her medicine. Be sure to let her train her muscles with these moves. She should train every day starting tomorrow. I'm sure she'll get better in a month or two. All she needs is hard work of recovery and a bunch of nice friends," the doctor explained. Just then a girl ran down the hall of the hospital and stopped right in front of Katie.

"OMG! Katie! Are you ok?" The girl shouted. Katie realized it was her best friend, Ashley.

Katie didn't really say anything and just nodded.

It took weeks and months of recovery. Finally, Katie had recovered and she was ready to dance again.

Lucky Katie was ready to dance again. Correction. Lucky Katie can dance again but she wasn't ready. Katie was scared to dance again, as anyone would be. She was afraid that something bad would happen. Something worse. Something that would make her unable for the rest of her life. She did practice a little at home. But it's different on stage. And all of her friends wished she could start dancing again. Not just because that they wanted Katie to dance again, but also because there was another performance coming up. The performance was one of the most important performances of the year. Nobody wanted Katie to drop out. Katie didn't want to either, she was just scared.

Like any good friend would do, Katie's best friend Ashley went to persuade Katie. Surprisingly, the place where Ashley found Katie was the storage room.

"Katie, look, anyone would be afraid to dance again if they had just recovered from a bad injury. Anyone would hide away from the public. It's not just you," Ashley explained.

Katie was looking on the floor, emotionless. Ashley knew she was too sad to talk so she tried to persuade Katie with one of her best persuading talks.

"Katie. You know you are my best friend. A best friend would start to stand up and shine. I know you don't always do that but we should always try. I am spending my lunch time to convince you. I shine inside you. You try too," Ashley begged. Katie looked up at her. With tears in her eyes and a frowny face, Katie looked persuaded. Or not.

"I know, I know! I want to try. I do a lot! But I don't know when to shine,"

Katie replied. Ashley said nothing and just smiled. She walked out of the storage room leaving Katie alone to think. Ashley thought as a friend, she should help her make the decisions. As Katie walked out of the storage room, Ashley ran to tell Katie's dance mates that Katie was ready to dance again.

"She's ready to dance again?! That's great news!" the captain of the dance team gasped "Tell her to meet us at practice today.". All of Katie's dance mates were excited. Ashley thought that she did the right thing... Or did she? She was afraid Katie might burst into anger if she told Katie. Instead, she asked her dance mates tell Katie. She was still worried. What will happen? Ashley walked away from the dance team and started to walk to her homeroom. She was halfway down the hall when she heard a scream. Uh oh. It's Katie.

"ASHLEY! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!" Katie screamed. Ashley was speechless.

" I SAID I WASN'T READY! I AM NEVER GOING TO BE READY!" Katie kept screaming. Ashley was speechless but she also wanted to talk. Everyone around the hallway was also speechless.

"Look. I wanted to help you, ok? I want you to be ready. Everyone wants you to," Ashley said in a calming voice. Ashley was always so calm.

"I know! OK?! STOP GETTING IN MY LIFE!" Katie screamed again. Ashley felt hurt. She remembered the time when Katie told her that she was Katie's best friend. That Katie loved it when Ashley squished into her life. Now it was different.

"I have to leave," Katie explained, amazed by her own words. As she ran away from where Ashley was, she felt different.

Katie ran all the way back home with her eyes full of tears. She didn't know what had changed her. She usually liked Ashley getting into her life. Walking home, she realized that she couldn't go home yet. All she could do is go to the mall and walk around.

As she sat on a wooden bench at the mall, she thought about what she said. "*Everything is wrong,*" she thought. Even though maybe that was true, she thought that she couldn't go back and say sorry. Maybe Ashley was right. She felt lost.

It was almost time for the performance. She didn't know what to do. With a quick glimpse at the time, she ran like lightning to the school. Into the arts building, into the dance practice room and to the backstage area. No one was getting ready because everyone was worrying about Katie.

" Hello? Why worry when I'm here?" Katie asked. Everyone turned her way. Ashley had a nervous face on. She was worried about how Katie would react.

" Hey, Ashley... I'm sorry that I said that. I just went a bit over the top," Katie apologized. Ashley smiled. She felt much better.

" I'm also sorry. For telling your dance mates that you were ready," Ashley apologized. Katie smiled too.

“It’s ok. Anyways, I have to get ready, when does the performance start?” Katie asked. All of a sudden, Katie’s teammates interrupted the conversation.

“Katie! Great that you’re here! The performance is starting! Quick! Get ready!” the team captain shouted. Ashley smiled as Katie walked towards the dressing room.

three minutes later, Katie came out all ready to dance.

“You know when you said you didn’t know when to start dancing? Well, now. Now is the time for you to start dancing. Go,” Ashley exclaimed.

Katie heard her song start. As she waited for her cue to dance, her hands shook. She was afraid to go up there. She couldn’t run away. Her heart thumped. As her cue played, she danced onto the stage with music. Everyone burst into cheers. It was like the loudest day ever. On the inside, Katie still felt scared.

“It’s ok, Katie, It’s your dream. Go for it,” Katie thought. It was time for her to do the stunt. She couldn’t do it. Her legs melted, her arms shook.

“Be brave, Katie. Balance your legs, swing your arms, jump high and do a backflip,” Katie thought again. She balanced her legs, swung her arms, jumped high and did a backflip. As Katie danced, she felt free again. Free to do anything.

At the end of the performance, she had a surprise prize from the school to honor her dancing.

“Wow. I am so happy. I just want to tell you that there is something I learned from this. When you’re down, get back up. Because the moment you fail to get up is the moment you can feel a difference. The difference between starting and ending. Things never end. But things always start. I was broken. I had a broken leg and a broken arm. Now I’m standing on this stage. Why? Because everything you do is a leap of faith. Start now,” Katie explained.

Everyone could see her tears in her eyes. As Ashley went on stage to hug her and help her to not cry, Katie burst into tears. Katie did it. She stepped into a bubble full of fear and stepped out of the bubble.

Like Katie said, “Don’t be afraid. It’s just a leap of faith. Start now.”