

The Show Jumping Competition

By: Diksha R.

“Ugh” Jessie moaned. Now the flyer was stapled to her home. Mom must've seen it by now, Jessie thought. She took a second to gaze at the paper. The girl dressed in red on top of her horse. She was holding an umbrella at the tip of her fingers and had a leg lifted above to make it look like she was dancing on a beautiful horse. Oh what she wouldn't give to be that person, Jessie dreamily sighed. No, Jessie thought, it would be too difficult and how would she make time for such a big thing. She used all her energy to shove the thought out of her mind.

She slid her hand underneath the carefully stapled paper and ripped it out in a second. Tiny pieces of paper were still attached to the wall but she was too annoyed to bother the rest of the paper. Using both hands she smashed the paper into a ball smaller than the size of her fist.

Hiding the ball of paper in her hand, she used her other hand to quietly open the door hopefully not letting anyone know she was there. She tip-toed to the other side of the room to where the recycling bin was and quickly dropped the paper inside the bin.

“Whatcha doing” Anna said even though it was none of her business. Jessie considered ignoring her but Anna's smile was way too confident.

“Hey Anna,” Jessie replied in an extremely shy voice. “Nothing much.”

“Uh-huh, okay but mom wanted to talk to you about something. She's using the restroom so you might have to wait.” Anna smirked and skipped all the way into the living room. Anna flopped onto the couch and Jessie guessed she would watch T.V.

Jessie's head was filled with ideas about what she wanted to talk about but forced herself to calm down and breathe in and out like a normal person would. She walked to the kitchen island and pulled out her homework. Almost in every subject. great, just great, Jessie thought.

“Hey Jess,” mom exclaimed.

“Hi Mom,” Jessie responded. “Anna told me you had something to tell me.”

“Oh, right how could I forget” Mom replied and it got her heart pounding.

Mom took something out of her purse and it looked like a piece of paper. “Here, I saw this outside at work and I figured you might want to try it.”

Mom handed the paper to Jessie “It’s a show jumping competition and I want you to try it. You used to love taking Zorro to these things but not since she broke her right ankle. She’s fine now and it would be so much fun.” Mom informed her.

Zorro was the best but the accident really scared Jessie. Zorro was always so gentle and sweet with her that she didn’t want to be anything but that to him. Jessie also was scared about what if something happened even by accident it would be very frightening for everyone.

“I’ll think about it mom” Jessie lied. There was no way she was doing it, so she picked up her stuff and headed straight for her room. She did not want anything to change her mind.

Her heavy books were making her shoulders slump but she wanted to go as fast as possible. No matter how much she wanted to do the competition, she wanted Zorro to be safe even more.

Her shoulders finally relaxed when she dropped the books on her bed. Her heart thumped with uncertainty. On one hand it would mean so much to everyone to have their best show dancer back but Zorro should also be able to be happy. And if she was being honest she thought Zorro should not have any other problem because he hasn't been through enough because of her. Jessie saw a shadow behind her door.

“Who is it?” Jessie yelled.

“It’s me” Anna said coming into her room

“Oh, what do you want” Jessie murmured

“Why do you think I want something?” Anna replied looking genuinely confused. “ I wanted to tell you that you and Zorro should do it.”

“Do what?” Jessie said trying to act like she didn’t know a thing.

“You know what,” Anna insisted. “You should do the show jumping competition.”

“I don’t think I’m going to do it,” Jessie muttered. “Zorro’s been through enough.”

“Did you ever think that Zorro might want to do it?” Anna suggested. She turned around and walked out.

Jessie was too confused. I’ll sleep on it, Jessie thought

Her evening nap was quite relaxing, she didn’t want to get up. But she had also finally made a decision. Even though her body fought her from getting up she got up and changed. She was refreshed and wanted to see Zorro.

“Hey mom,” Jessie said, enthusiastically. “I’m going to see Zorro.”

“Okay, be home soon,” Mom said, not moving her eyes off her favorite show.

“And also,” Jessie remembered. “I’m going to do the show jumping competition.” closing her door on the way out.

Her face turned into a smile. Maybe that flyer wasn’t so bad after all