

PRODUCTION SCRIPT

SANDY AND THE DANCE OF FAITH

A Duo Play for Two Females

by J. D. Newman



Newport, Maine

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Sandy and the Dance of Faith
A Duo Play for Two Females

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ORDER #3254

Sandy and the Dance of Faith
A Duo Play for Two Females
by J. D. Newman

ACTING CAST: (two females)

SANDY HUNTER GENTRY (woman, late 40s)

Enacts the role of: YOUNG SANDY (age 12)
 ROXIE HUNTER (age 14)
 FATHER JOSEPH (at least 30s)
 THOMAS (age 12)
 MS. GRIMSHAW (at least 30s)
 AUDITION LADY (at least 20s)
 AUNT LILY (70s)
 MR. ROLAND (60s)

CLARA GENTRY (girl, 12 years old)

Enacts the role of: ROXIE HUNTER (age 14)
 YOUNG SANDY (age 12)

SETTINGS: In the parlor of the old family home where Clara and her mother Sandy live.

TIME: The frame is set in 2015 with the action of the play in the late summer and early fall of 1978.

SANDY AND THE DANCE OF FAITH by *J.D. Newman*. Episode 2 of the Sandy Hunter Saga. About 50 minutes. 2f (1adult[40s], 1teen[12]) Sandy Hunter's entrance essay has earned her admission to Memorial Catholic School. However, as she begins her seventh grade year, Sandy feels intimidated by the other students who all believe strongly in something. Sandy struggles to live up to the declaration she made in her entrance essay that she exercises her faith through dance. She continues to explore the Catholic, Mormon, and Unitarian faiths practiced by her great aunts. Sandy strives to connect with her older sister Roxie who has always walked in their father's footsteps but is beginning to define her own path. As Sandy finds her place in the realm of ballet and the world of faith, she discovers her potential as a dancer and a believer. This second book in the Sandy Hunter Saga follows the spirited twelve-year-old through the autumn after the summer she spent with her three great aunts, who she playfully calls "The Weird Sisters," in the book "*Sandy and the Weird Sisters.*" **Order #3254**

J.D. NEWMAN — Dr. Newman is a professor of theatre at Utah Valley University and the Director of the Theatre for Youth and Education (TYE) Center, and currently serves as Chair of the Theatre Department. He lives with his family in Sandy City, Utah. Dr. Newman became the first recipient of the Reba R. Robertson Award from the Children's Theatre Foundation of America. At UVU, Dr. Newman has directed such plays

as *The Secret Garden*, *Princess Academy*, and *Androcles and the Lion* in the Bastian Theatre. He has also served as the director of the Noorda Theatre Summer Camp and has produced or co-produced touring productions including *A Village Fable*, *The Princess and the Goblin*, *Honk!*, and *Pedro's Magic Shoes*. As a playwright, he has adapted scripts for Newbery medalists including Avi, Paul Fleischman, and Richard Peck. Newman taught and directed at Highland High School for eighteen years, from 1991 to 2010 with a sabbatical to Texas in 1998-99. He served as Artistic Director of the Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts during the 2009-2010 school year. Newman earned his B.F.A. and M.Ed. from the University of Utah, his M.A. from the University of Texas, and his Ph.D. from New York University. With Judy Matetzschk-Campbell, he co-authored *Tell Your Story: The Plays and Playwriting of Sandra Fenichel Asher*, and his book *Playwriting in Schools: Dramatic Navigation* received the 2020 Distinguished Book Award from the American AATE. Dr. Newman chairs the Playwrights In Our Schools Project and served three years on the board of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education. *Sandy and the Weird Sisters*, his first novel, has been followed by 2 sequels, *Sandy and the Dance of Faith* and *Clara and the Mermaids*. His stand-alone young reader's story, *Make-Believe Twins* is also published by Leicester Bay Books

Sandy and the Dance of Faith

SCENE A: ALBUM

AT RISE – 12-year-old CLARA GENTRY sits on a love seat in the parlor of old family house intently examining a photo album while listening to Swan Lake on a CD player or record player. She wears a neutral top and white leggings that will allow her to take on roles and put on costume pieces over them. There is a hope chest in the space out of which props will be drawn, and a coat rack with a suit jacket and a formal coat. SANDY HUNTER GENTRY, Clara's mother, enters and startles CLARA, who tries to hide the album she was studying.

SANDY: Hey, Clara. What are you looking at?

CLARA: Some old scrapbook. My phone's recharging.

SANDY: Can I see?

CLARA: I was bored...

SANDY: *(takes the album)* My dance album! Aunt Lily put this together for me.

CLARA: *(regretfully)* You won't get to make a dance album for me, will you?

SANDY: You don't want to dance, and I don't want to push you.

CLARA: *(unbelieving)* You don't?

SANDY: Not anymore.

CLARA: Thanks.

SANDY: But why are you interested in my dance album? And why are you playing *Swan Lake*?

CLARA: Oh, is that what that music is?

SANDY: I'm sorry. Pretending is private.

(starting to exit)

I'm intruding.

CLARA: *(turning off the music)* No! Stay! Please...

SANDY: *(returning)* Anything you'd like to share?

CLARA: *(after a beat)* I was trying to imagine I loved dancing. *(beat)* I was trying to imagine I was you.

SANDY: I see.

CLARA: You dreamed your daughter would love dancing, like you did.

SANDY: I dreamed my daughter would love doing something as much as I loved dancing.

CLARA: You're not disappointed?

SANDY: Not with you.

CLARA: Why did you want to do dance?

SANDY: Because my dad wanted me to do sports.

CLARA: *(understanding)* You wanted to do your own thing.

SANDY: *(smiling)* Dance was my passion. I even considered it my faith.

CLARA: How could dance be your faith?

SANDY: I didn't grow up going to church. Dance was the first thing I believed in.

CLARA: Aunt Roxie played sports. Was she the "good daughter" and were you the "bad daughter?"

SANDY: *(smiling mischievously)* I was the rebel, but Roxie rebelled after I did. She didn't understand my "faith of dance," or my "dance of faith," but she supported her little sister.

(SANDY turns on the music and pulls a program from a performance of Swan Lake from the album.)

SANDY: Roxie went with me to *Swan Lake*, the night before I started seventh grade.

(handing the program to CLARA).

I saved the program.

(CLARA examines the program and then spies a small notebook in the album, which she pulls out and opens.)

CLARA: What's with this little notebook?

SANDY: Roxie used it to write notes to me during the show.

CLARA: Like texting?

SANDY: *(nodding)* The closest thing to it in 1978. My sister wore the only dress she owned. Dresses were new to me too.

(CLARA imagines donning an imaginary dress, going into role as Roxie. SANDY does the same, going into role as her younger self.)

We both wore shoes with heels, which neither of us was used to.

(CLARA puts on imaginary heels and struggles to walk in them, and SANDY follows suit.)

The bus was running late, so we ran down the sidewalk, stumbled up the stairs, and scrambled to our seats as the second scene began.

SCENE B: SWAN LAKE

(Music continues as SANDY, as her younger self, and CLARA, as ROXIE, portray their awkward walk from the bus, up some stairs, and into their seats in their theatre. The iconic music swells and they imagine seeing the swan ballerinas emerge from the lake. SANDY moves sympathetically to the music, imitating some of their movements in her seat. CLARA, as ROXIE, stares at the stage in confusion. She opens the notebook and pretends to write what was written in it years ago. CLARA and SANDY voice what they pretend to write, perhaps starting as a stage whisper until the convention is established. SANDY tries to absorb herself in the music, but she is jarred out of her reverie when the notebook is thrust at her.)

CLARA AS ROXIE: Are those maidens or swans?

SANDY AS YOUNG SANDY: Swans by day, maidens by night.

ROXIE: Who's the one wearing the crown?

YOUNG SANDY: Odette. She was enchanted by an evil musician.

ROXIE: What about the other swans?

YOUNG SANDY: They were maidens too.

ROXIE: No male swans?

YOUNG SANDY: No!

ROXIE: Too bad.

YOUNG SANDY: Watch the ballet.

(Music continues. YOUNG SANDY notices ROXIE's confusion and writes to her.)

YOUNG SANDY: The Prince is hunting and sees Odette. If he loves her enough, he could break her spell.

ROXIE: Does he love her enough?

YOUNG SANDY: Watch and see.

(The music comes to an end. YOUNG SANDY stands and applauds. CLARA stays seated.)

YOUNG SANDY: It's intermission. The Prince left Odette, but he'll be back.

ROXIE: Did a *man* write this ballet?

YOUNG SANDY: Well, yeah!

ROXIE: Figures!

YOUNG SANDY: What do you mean?!

ROXIE: He made the women all delicate.

YOUNG SANDY: Ballerinas look delicate but they're strong as steel. I've seen them in rehearsal.

ROXIE: Then why do they have to be rescued by a man?

YOUNG SANDY: Would you prefer that they be rescued by Wonder Woman?

ROXIE: They could fly away.

YOUNG SANDY: They're held to the lake as long as the magician is alive.

ROXIE: They could swarm the magician.

YOUNG SANDY: What?!

ROXIE: They could take him. There's one of him and a dozen of them.

YOUNG SANDY: This is Peter Tchaikovsky, not Alfred Hitchcock!

(The music swells against.)

YOUNG SANDY: The second act is starting. You'll see what happens.

(SANDY and CLARA take their seats for the second half. CLARA writes again and passes the notebook to SANDY.)

ROXIE: Is that Odette in disguise?

YOUNG SANDY: It's Odile, but she's played by the same dancer who played Odette.

ROXIE: Who's Odile?

YOUNG SANDY: The magician's daughter. He tried to make her look like Odette.

ROXIE: He did a good job of it.

YOUNG SANDY: Watch the ballet!

(The music continues. CLARA writes again.)

CLARA: The Prince proposes to Odile? Not Odette?!

YOUNG SANDY: Odile looked just like Odette.

ROXIE: She was dressed in black and she came with the evil magician!

YOUNG SANDY: Watch the ballet!

(The music continues. SANDY writes to CLARA.)

YOUNG SANDY: See! He realizes his mistake! He's apologizing to Odette.

ROXIE: And Odette forgives him?!

YOUNG SANDY: The Prince was tricked!

ROXIE: He only loved her beauty. He didn't love her. I know! Watch the ballet!

(SANDY stands and applauds as the dancers bow or curtsy and exit, but CLARA remains seated. They improvise in role without the notebook.)

ROXIE: What happened to Odette?

YOUNG SANDY: She... died.

ROXIE: The Swan Princess dies?!

YOUNG SANDY: She went to Heaven. That was her up in the cloud. Come on. We need to catch our bus.

ROXIE: *(refusing to go)* What kind of ending is that?!

YOUNG SANDY: A different one. The lovers usually live happily ever after.

ROXIE: Why did they change it?

YOUNG SANDY: It's a Russian company. Maybe they were trying to make a political statement.

ROXIE: Like what?

YOUNG SANDY: Like that even if we're not free in this life, we can be free in the life to come.

ROXIE: So it's a religious statement?

YOUNG SANDY: Maybe.

ROXIE: You say that dance is your religion?

YOUNG SANDY: More like my belief system. It gives me comfort and answers.

ROXIE: I play rugby. Could rugby be my religion?

YOUNG SANDY: I guess so.

ROXIE: Rugby has rules and teaches us to work together.

YOUNG SANDY: Dad probably sees it that way. Do you?

ROXIE: I act like I believe in the game. Maybe I will someday. *(beat.)* Do you think Mom is out there like Odette? Floating around on a cloud?

(SANDY is quiet.)

Why did she have to die? It didn't do anyone any good. *(beat.)* So, you want to be a ballerina!

YOUNG SANDY: I want to dance. I want to be free. I want to be... beautiful!

ROXIE: You want to be a swan instead of an ugly duckling like me.

YOUNG SANDY: I don't want to be any kind of duckling, following you around like you're my mother.

ROXIE: And I don't want to be Dad's duckling! But if you leave the nest, someone has to follow him. I've always been Daddy's girl, and you... you would have been Mom's. *(beat.)* No, you're your own person. You've chosen your own school, your own teachers, your own faith...

YOUNG SANDY: You could choose too!

ROXIE: No. I'm like Odile. I have to be what Dad wants me to be.

SCENE C: UNIFORM

(YOUNG SANDY and CLARA as ROXIE look at each other and go out of role. Music ends, on its own or with one of them stopping it.)

CLARA: I think I understand Aunt Roxie now. I still want to understand you.

(SANDY nods and goes over to the hope chest and pulls out her a plaid jumper.)

SANDY: Would a costume help you pretend to be me?

CLARA: Is this your old school uniform?

SANDY: *(nodding)* The one I wore when I started seventh grade at Memorial.Catholic School.

(CLARA accepts the jumper, feeling regret and guilt.)

CLARA: I know how much you wanted me to go there.

SANDY: I know how much you want to stay with your friends.

CLARA: Sorry I disappointed you.

SANDY: I may have been disappointed, but I'm never disappointed with you.

CLARA: I didn't want to wear a uniform!

SANDY: Do you want to try it on?

CLARA: Okay... but I'm not going go to Memorial!

(CLARA puts on the jumper over her top and leggings.)

CLARA: Why did you want to go there?

SANDY: At Memorial, I wouldn't be "Roxie's little sister." I took Aunt Mary's summer English class there, and I liked it. People there believed in something, and I was trying to figure out what I believed.

(CLARA moves around the room in the jumper, exploring how her mother moved and felt when she wore it, looking at herself in an imaginary mirror.)

SANDY: How does it fit you?

CLARA: Better than I thought it would.

SCENE D: MIRROR

(CLARA goes into role as YOUNG SANDY and inducts SANDY into the role of ROXIE. SANDY catches on and goes along with it.)

CLARA AS YOUNG SANDY: Roxie?

(SANDY grabs a sports cap from the trunk and puts it on as she goes into role.)

SANDY AS ROXIE: What do you want, Sandy?

YOUNG SANDY: How do I look?

ROXIE: *(looking at the mirror from behind CLARA)* Not like me. A uniform makes you a part of a team, a different team than mine.

YOUNG SANDY: I hope I'm ready for this. I've done well in school because I've worked hard, but everyone at Memorial works hard.

ROXIE: You're also smart. You did well in that summer literature class.

YOUNG SANDY: Aunt Mary taught it. She might have been going easy on me.

ROXIE: Aunt Mary never goes easy on anyone. She was harder on you than she was on anyone else.

YOUNG SANDY: Most of the students have been together since kindergarten. I'll be the newcomer.

ROXIE: It's what you want, isn't it?

YOUNG SANDY: Of course it is! *(beat.)* I don't belong there. I'm not like them. They know what they believe, and me...

ROXIE: You have your "faith of dance," or you're doing the "dance of faith."

YOUNG SANDY: *(wincing)* I thought I was so clever when I wrote that in my entrance essay. Now I have to live my words.

ROXIE: You need to go. Dad's waiting for you in the car. He told me to tell you to hurry.

YOUNG SANDY: I'd feel safer if I were going with you.

ROXIE: You've outgrown me.

YOUNG SANDY: Maybe this is all a mistake!

ROXIE: Dad's waiting.

YOUNG SANDY: *(after a deep breath)* I've chosen my path, and now I have to follow it.

SCENE E: THEOLOGY

CLARA: *(out of role)* What's my first class?

SANDY: *(also out of role)* Theology, taught by the headmaster, Father Joseph.

(SANDY turns up her collar or places a white scarf around her neck to identify her as the priest.)

CLARA: Do I have a Bible?

SANDY: *(handing CLARA a bible from the trunk)* A Gideon Bible I took from a motel.

SCENE F: GENESIS

(SANDY goes into role as FATHER JOSEPH. CLARA, who remains in role as SANDY, takes her place in the imaginary class.)

SANDY AS FATHER JOSEPH: Let's start at the beginning, or rather, "in the beginning" Sandy, will you turn to the first chapter of the first book, called Genesis, and read the first verse.

CLARA AS YOUNG SANDY: *(after a little scrambling to find the passage)* "In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth. And the Lord declared that it was good."

FATHER JOSEPH: Thank you, Sandy. What do you think we should learn from this?

(Long pause.)

YOUNG SANDY: *(after raising her hand and being called on)* It claims God created the world we live in.

FATHER JOSEPH: *(nodding)* Does it tell us how he created the world?

(Another long pause. FATHER JOSEPH points to an unseen THOMAS.)

FATHER JOSEPH: That's right, Thomas. It doesn't tell us how he created the world. It only says that he did it. So why did God create a world for us? What did he want us to do in the world he created? I believe that God has a reason for putting each of us here. With faith, you can discover what that purpose is. The majority of you follow the Catholic faith. Others follow other Christian faiths. We even have one student...

(CLARA [as SANDY] begins to squirm and look away)

...who declares that she exercises her faith through dance. With the person next to you, discuss your personal faith and how you exercise it.

(CLARA takes a suitcoat from a coatrack in the parlor and places it over a chair to represent THOMAS. SANDY voices for THOMAS.)

YOUNG SANDY: *(offering her hand)* Hi, Thomas. I'm Sandy. You were brave to answer.

SANDY AS THOMAS: You were brave to declare that you exercise faith through dance.

(She is shocked, almost denies it, then shrugs.)

YOUNG SANDY: I guess everyone guessed who Father Joseph was talking about. I grew up playing sports, so I like the idea of exercising faith.

THOMAS: So, you're a dancer.

YOUNG SANDY: When I'm dancing, I feel like I'm a part of something greater, if there is something greater.

THOMAS: Oh, there is. That much I believe. I'm Catholic.

YOUNG SANDY: Have you been Catholic all your life?

THOMAS: Once a Catholic, always a Catholic, as they say

YOUNG SANDY: Are you a believer?

THOMAS: I was, and I still am, mostly, but I'm questioning.

YOUNG SANDY: I don't think Father Joseph wouldn't scold you for that.

THOMAS: My family follows the Catholic faith, and I follow my family.

YOUNG SANDY: Can you choose whether or not you want to go to church?

THOMAS: No, but I did choose to go to Memorial.

YOUNG SANDY: I chose to go to Memorial too!

THOMAS: Good luck, Faithful Dancer.

YOUNG SANDY: Good luck, Questioning Thomas.

SCENE G: INDEPENDENT STUDY

(CLARA sets the jacket aside, or back on the coatrack. SANDY goes out of role as FATHER JOSEPH and into role as MS. GRIMSHAW, perhaps with a change of accessory or prop.)

SANDY AS MS. GRIMSAW: Sandy Hunter, I want to talk to you about your career interest survey.

(YOUNG SANDY looks at her.)

CLARA AS YOUNG SANDY: Yes ma'am, Miss...

MS. GRIMSHAW. I'm Ms. Grimshaw, your independent study teacher. Your survey responses show that you have a strong interest in pursuing a career in the arts.

YOUNG SANDY: Yes, that's true.

MS. GRIMSHAW: So, is dance your career, your hobby, or your faith?

YOUNG SANDY: How did you know --

MS. GRIMSHAW: Entrance essays are placed in your file and teachers and staff members can read them.

YOUNG SANDY: *(struggling for an answer.)* I didn't grow up with religion, so I don't understand faith, but I believe that dancing makes me a better person. I don't think I'll always consider it my faith. I'm not even sure if dance will be my career.

SANDY AS MS. GRIMSHAW: I've spoken about you with your dance teacher. Sister Elizabeth was a professional dancer, but her dancing career ended suddenly.

YOUNG SANDY: What happened to her? Did she hurt her leg in an accident?

MS. GRIMSHAW: Is that what she told you?

YOUNG SANDY: It's... what we imagined.

MS. GRIMSHAW: Is Sister Elizabeth pursuing a career in dance, even though she's a nun, and even though she's not dancing on stage?

YOUNG SANDY: I hadn't thought of that.

MS. GRIMSHAW: Dance might be your destination, or it might be a road to a different end. Either way, you should pursue it seriously. Sister Elizabeth teaches Intermediate Ballet this period, and there is an opening in the class. In certain cases, I have allowed students to take a class during Independent Study to help them reach their career goal. Seventh graders don't take arts classes because they need to build an academic foundation.

YOUNG SANDY: I can't imagine you'd make an exception for me.

MS. GRIMSHAW: Do you want to take Intermediate Ballet or not?

YOUNG SANDY: Of course I do! But I just started this summer, and the other girls have been dancing since they could walk.

MS. GRIMSHAW: They're diligent and disciplined, but most aren't as passionate as their mothers.

YOUNG SANDY: But will Sister Elizabeth --

MS. GRIMSHAW: She was the one who suggested it. She says you have the gift, the build, the strength, and the drive. As a professional dancer, she should know. Of course, your grade in Independent Study will depend on it. The Civic Ballet has auditions for *The Nutcracker* in October. That will serve as an impartial judgment of your progress.

YOUNG SANDY: The Civic Ballet?! Am I ready for that?!

SANDY AS MS. GRIMSHAW: Next!

SCENE J: DANCE-CLASS

(CLARA removes her jumper. Her base costume is reminiscent of dancewear, and she dons her mother's first dance skirt that she finds in the trunk.)

CLARA: So you got to take intermediate ballet as a seventh grader?

SANDY: It made me feel special and gifted. It also made me feel inferior. The other girls were so much more experienced.

CLARA: Your dance teacher was a nun?

SANDY: In full habit.

(SANDY removes a black graduation robe from the hope chest and puts it on. She might cover her head with a black shawl from the trunk.)

Her name was Sister Elizabeth. We all called her Sister Libby when other adults were listening.

(SANDY goes into role as SISTER LIBBY. She guides the class, gliding gracefully despite a slight limp.)

CLARA: Did she dance with you?

SANDY: No, but she guided us.

CLARA: Why didn't she wear dance clothes?

SANDY: She had her reasons. How gentle were Sister Libby's commands, and we followed like obedient Christians.

(SANDY as SISTER LIBBY turns on dance music, and CLARA as YOUNG SANDY follows her through a dance class warmup, ending in a graceful curtsy.)

SCENE K: GEOMETRY

(SANDY removes the graduation robe and any head covering and CLARA removes the dance skirt and puts on the school uniform jumper.)

CLARA: So you loved your dance class. What about your other classes?

SANDY: I enjoyed them, all except math. Sister Deborah taught it with religious fervor, as if St. Peter would ask us story problems before he'd let us through the pearly gates. He might send me to Hell if he asked about geometry. They started us on it in seventh grade!

SCENE L: POSTULATES

(CLARA goes back into role as YOUNG SANDY. She takes the sports cap and puts it on SANDY's head, inducting her back into the role of ROXIE.)

CLARA AS YOUNG SANDY: Geometry in seventh grade math! Can you believe it, Roxie?

SANDY AS ROXIE: I guess they're preparing you for ninth grade Geometry, like I have to take this year. Lines and angles and shapes make sense; it's the proofs that I struggled to figure out.

YOUNG SANDY: What are proofs?

ROXIE: They prove a statement is true based on something we've decided to believe.

YOUNG SANDY: What do you mean?

ROXIE: You start with postulates. These things we believe are true, even though we can't prove them.

YOUNG SANDY: You mean you have to accept them on faith?

ROXIE: *(considering)* I guess you could think of it that way.

(She marks two dots on a page in the notebook.)

Okay, how many lines could you draw through those two dots?

YOUNG SANDY: Lots of them.

SANDY AS ROXIE: But remember lines have to be straight.

YOUNG SANDY: Oh. Then I guess just one. But I can't prove it.

ROXIE: That's right, but what would happen if it wasn't true?

YOUNG SANDY: I guess it would go up through one and then down through the other.

ROXIE: But the line wouldn't be straight, so it wouldn't be a line.

YOUNG SANDY: I guess not.

ROXIE: So it seems reasonable to believe that there's only one line that goes through two points.

YOUNG SANDY: Does that make it true?

ROXIE: There are things that make sense that you can't actually prove. My teacher calls them "postulates."
If you can believe just 24 postulates, you can prove everything else in Geometry. *(Beat)* What are the postulates of the Catholic faith?

YOUNG SANDY: I'm still learning them from Father Joseph.

ROXIE: Then what are the postulates of your "faith of dance?"

YOUNG SANDY: Well, dance helps me appreciate my body and my body is a gift from God.

ROXIE: Is that what you believe?

YOUNG SANDY: Yes, but I didn't know it till I said it.

ROXIE: Okay. What else do you believe about dance?

YOUNG SANDY: Well, we came to this world to get a body and to learn to take care of it. By taking care of my body through dance, I'm learning to take care of my soul.

ROXIE: You're on a roll, Sandy!

YOUNG SANDY: Dance is done with others, and by dancing together, we help each other believe in something glorious! *(Beat.)* Wow! Where are these ideas coming from?

ROXIE: I don't know much about faith, but I know it's not supposed to be easy. What do you have to do to exercise your faith in dance?

YOUNG SANDY: I have to work at it every day, even if we're on vacation, and I have to become the best dancer I can be!

ROXIE: And what happens if you're injured, or if you get too old to dance?

YOUNG SANDY: I guess I could teach others to dance, like Sister Libby does. I wonder why Sister Libby became a nun...

ROXIE: Dad's home! I need to talk to him!

YOUNG SANDY: Do you want me to leave you alone?

ROXIE: No! Stay!

(They react to their unseen father.)

ROXIE: Hi Dad.... My first day was fine...

YOUNG SANDY: Mine? Theology. Science. Math. English. Dance --

ROXIE: Dad, Coach Wagner wants me to try out for volleyball. She gave me the schedule. It wouldn't interfere with rugby... I know, there's a tournament fall break. I'd have to miss one game, but it would let me play another sport, and with girls! I could earn a scholarship in volleyball. Rugby's not a women's sport in high school or in college.... I can do both... and if I can't.... *(beat)* I know. Rugby.

(They watch their unseen father exit.)

YOUNG SANDY: I'm sorry, Roxie.

ROXIE: He lets you make your own choices, Sandy. But I'm his apprentice. I have to follow in his footsteps, and his feet are bigger than mine.

SCENE M: UNDERSTANDING

(CLARA pulls off the jumper and SANDY takes off the sports cap.)

CLARA: Mom, you understand your sister pretty well.

SANDY: I used to imagine what it would be like to be her.

CLARA: The two of you aren't that different. You both like to compete.

SANDY: *(considering)* Roxie was a fierce competitor in rugby. I played on a recreation soccer team. But when I auditioned for *The Nutcracker*, I fought hard to join that team of dancers!

17 MORE PAGES TO THE END