\*\*1. What happens in the story?\*\*

A teenage girl accompanies her HIV-positive gay father on a 1991 Caribbean cruise populated by hundreds of gay men. She navigates her complex feelings about her father's identity, which she hides at school, while experiencing acceptance in this community. She develops a crush on a young crew member named Tom, befriends a shop worker Claire, and ultimately finds freedom dancing with her dying father at a Laura Branigan concert, eighteen months before his death from AIDS.

\*\*2. What is the theme?\*\*

The story explores acceptance, identity, and belonging amid societal stigma. Central themes include the tension between hiding and authenticity, the search for community during the AIDS crisis, and the bittersweet nature of joy in the face of impending loss. It examines how marginalized communities create spaces of freedom and celebration despite persecution, and how a daughter reconciles her father's dual identities while discovering her own sense of self.

\*\*3. Does it propose other interpretations, in addition to the literal one?\*\* Rating: 5 (Totally agree)

\*\*4. Which interpretation is it?\*\*

The dance floor serves as a metaphor for liberation from societal constraints and mortality itself—a sacred space where identity transcends judgment. The cruise ship becomes a floating sanctuary, temporarily separated from mainland prejudices. The daughter's coming-of-age parallels the gay community's struggle for visibility during the AIDS crisis. Her movement from observer to participant mirrors acceptance of her complete identity. The "last dance" symbolizes both literal farewell and the ephemeral nature of joy carved from suffering.