

EVIE AND HER JOURNEY



By: VIVIAN LEUNG

MEET EVI



Evi is a Filipino teenage girl who loves listening and dancing to Kpop music whenever she has free time. However, her mom doesn't like her wasting her time dancing and wants her play a sport or learn to play an instrument.



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Evi doesn't want to disobey her mom, but she also wants to continue to dance. She goes to a secret room in her house where her mom can't hear the music and she can practice the choreography.



Evi and her best friend Meg see a flyer for the school talent show that will be in two weeks.

Evi says longingly, “Man, that looks like it would be so much fun”.

Meg replies, “You should totally participate, Evi! You have so much talent; you might even win first place”.

Evi responds, “I don’t know... My mom might get really mad at me and end up grounding me for life”.

Meg laughs, “That could happen, but take the risk! It could lead to something great”.

Evi says, “Alright, alright. I’ll think about it”.



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With additional encouragement from Meg, Evi decides to sign up for the talent show and spends the next two weeks practicing her self-choreographed dance routine to a medley of her favorite Kpop songs. She has to be extra careful around her mom so that she won't mention anything about being in the talent show.

NIGHT OF THE TALENT SHOW



Evi is super nervous as she waits backstage by herself. Before she went on stage, she peeked out from behind the curtain and spotted Meg with her other friends. All of them gave her two big thumbs up and silently cheered. She laughed and was grateful for her supportive friends.

When her name is called, she takes a deep breath and puts on a big smile as she stepped onto the stage. Evi's routine is executed flawlessly with a great amount of energy. After the end of her performance , the audience roars with applause, which almost makes her cry.



Evi joins her friends in the audience and cheers on the other performers. When it was time to announce the winner, she nervously bounces her leg and fiddles with her fingers.

The host announced, “The judges have made their decision. In third place is Alex, who juggled 3 mini watermelons. In second place is Lisa, who did gymnastics and ballet.

Meg holds her hand tightly and whispers, “You deserve first place. You did amazing!”



“And in first place is, drumroll please...” the MC paused. **“Evi who wowed us with her dance routine!”**

Evi and her friends screamed out in joy and jumped up and down together. Evi went up to the stage to accept the trophy. As she was finishing up her speech, she saw her mom at the far back of the auditorium. She said a few more words before quickly moving off of the stage to her friends.

“Evi, what’s wrong?” Meg asked.

“My mom watched me dance,” Evi said in disbelief. **“I have to go talk to her; I’ll text you later.”**



Evi makes her way to the back of the room where she found her mom was looking at the talent show booklet.

“Mom! Before you yell at me...”

**“I’m not mad at you,” her mom calmly said.
“I’m more angry at myself for not
letting you do something you love, and for that
I want to say sorry.”**

**Evi hugs her mom tightly. “It’s okay, mom.
I know you just want the best for me.”**

**Her mom responds, “That was my mistake.
I shouldn’t have forced you to do something
you weren’t interested in. I’m very proud of
you for putting so much work into dancing”.**



“Thanks, Mom. I really appreciate that.”

“Now, go find your friends and let’s celebrate at your favorite restaurant!”

“Evi, you should post some dance videos onto Youtube,” her mom said. “I think it’ll you should show your talent to people around the world.”

Her friends also voiced their agreement, so Evi said, “It sounds like a good idea! I’ll start doing that tomorrow. We’ll see where it goes.”



ABOUT THE MENTOR

VIVIAN LEUNG is a second year student at UC San Diego from the San Francisco Bay Area. Her favorite colors are black, grey, and blue. She likes chocolate fudge brownie and cookies and cream ice cream. She enjoys playing basketball, skating, finding new places to eat, and watching movies in her free time. She also likes to hangout with her mentees, Edwin and Evitha.