

SECRET DIARY OF A BALLERINA

芭蕾女孩的祕密日記

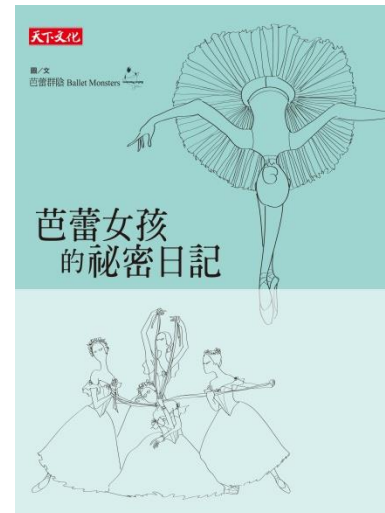
Ballet Monsters has a passion for all things ballet that includes designing clothes and drawing pictures inspired by his favourite dance. Encouraged by friends, he started a Facebook page and began posting his pictures. They were a huge success, gaining him over thirty thousand fans. This is Taiwan's first illustrated book about ballet.

The book takes one illustration per page and with short, to-the-point text, opens up a world of young dancers, their fears, their hopes, their struggles and their triumphs. While the book centres on no fixed main character, the reader follows in the footsteps of all young ballet dancers, from first practice to first performance and all the small competitions along the way. Princesses in tutus, crazy mothers, strange exercises, the constant jockeying for position, it's all here, described with warmth and humour. The inner dramas rarely seen underneath the graceful exterior.

Those who are themselves intoxicated with the ballet will chuckle with recognition, while those who have never tried will understand the lure of this most beautiful dance.

Ballet Monsters 芭蕾群陰

Ballet Monsters studied ballet under the illustrious Mr Vedio at the Google University Dance Department. Upon graduation, Ballet Monsters joined the Pluto Dance Troupe, taking part in Uranus organised competitions, winning first place many times. Invitations to take part in shows on Mars and Jupiter followed. Ballet Monsters lives on Pluto, acting as Creative Director for the Pluto Dance Troupe.



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(Commonwealth)
violet@cwgv.com.tw
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By Ballet Monsters. Translated by Pamela Hunt.

A Size Too Big

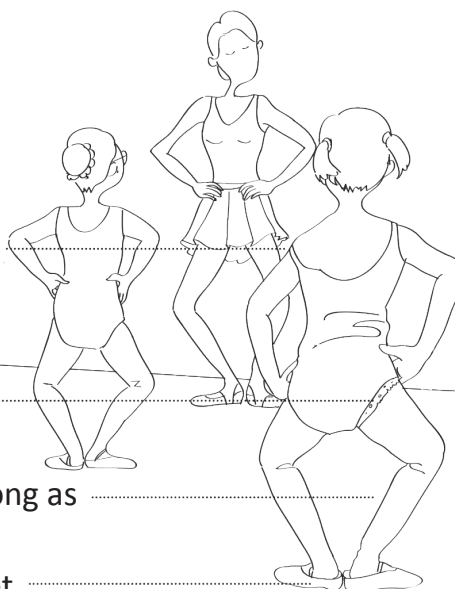
Why does Ma have to buy my tights, my leotard and my shoes all a size too big?

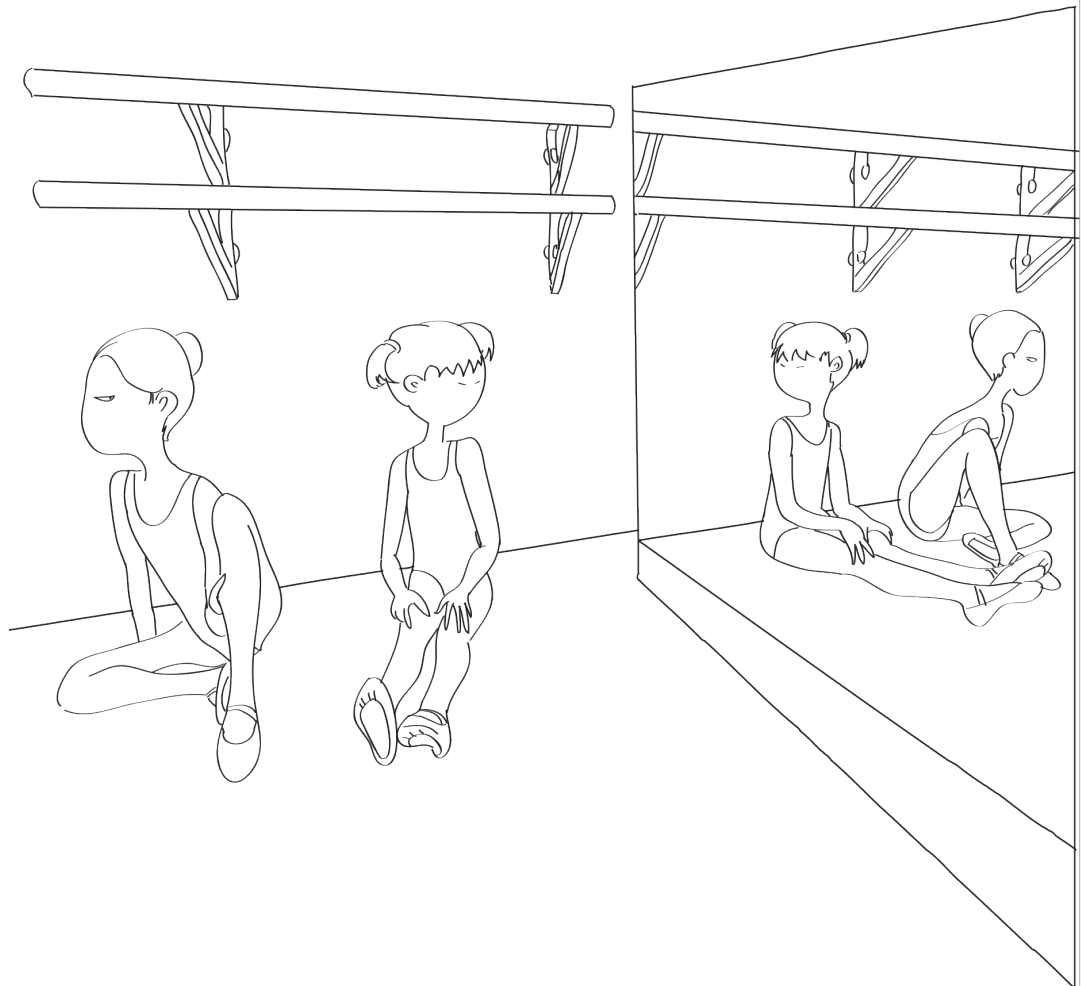
Leotard too baggy, always slipping off my shoulders

You can see my cartoon knickers!

Tights are basically as long as my entire body

Shoes so big they fly off my feet all the time





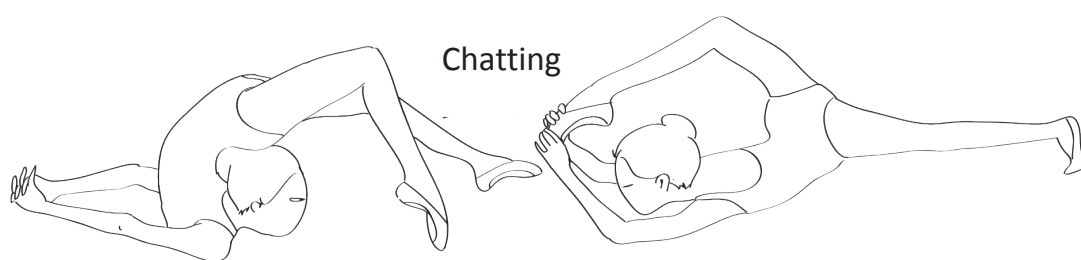
Narcissism

I definitely have this tendency.

Luckily, when I was older I realized that every dancer is the same... so I stopped worrying about it.

Conversations

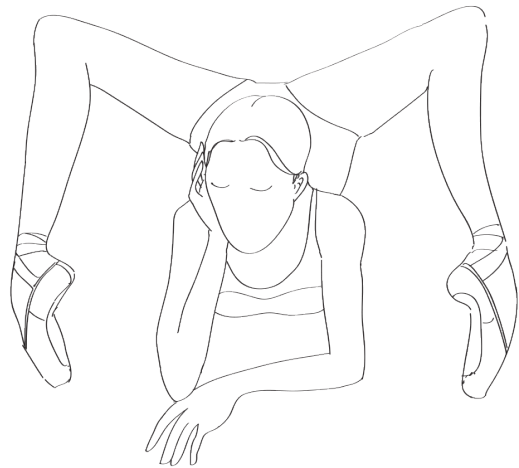
After class, toes love to talk to each other



The Most Annoying Girls in Class: A Survey

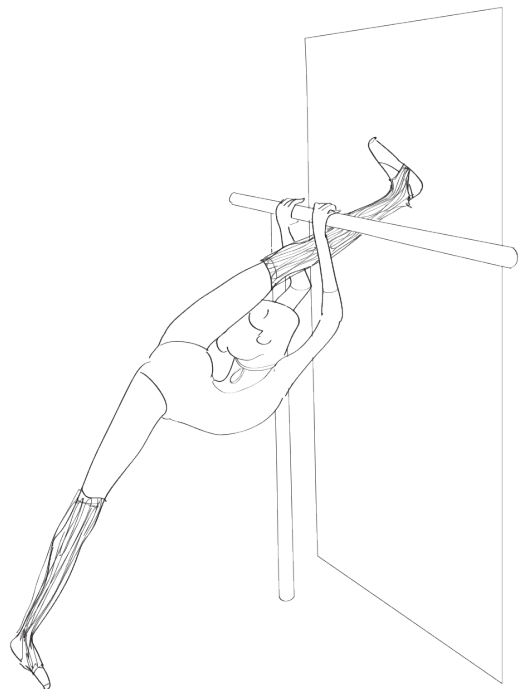
Annoying Classmate no.1

Yawn! As soon as I start stretching I just want to sleep!



Annoying Classmate no.2

My waist is OK, I suppose. But I am just so inflexible! My splits will never get wider than this! (Angry face)



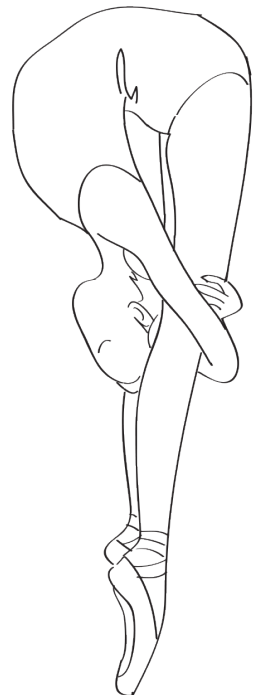
Annoying Classmate no.3

Oh... I just have no turnout at all!



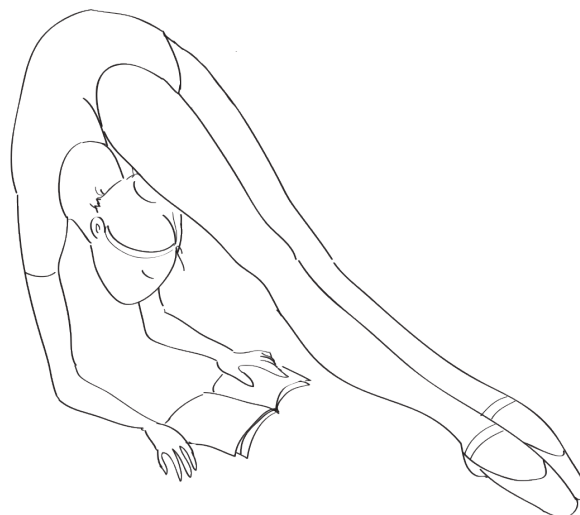
Annoying Classmate no.4

But Madame... I don't want to do a handstand! I don't have any upper body strength. Can't I just do this instead?



Annoying classmate no. 5

It's hard to find the time to do all this schoolwork! I'll just have to do it when I rest after dance class.



Annoying Classmate no. 6

A: What shall we do after class? Get a coffee?

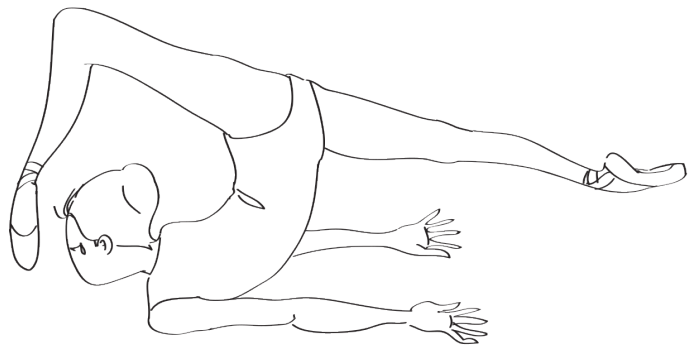
B: No! I need to do my stretches!





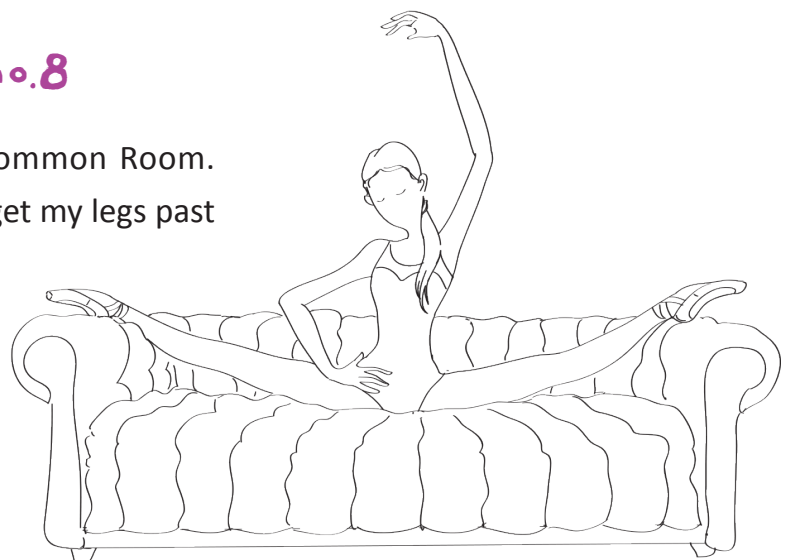
Annoying Classmate no.7

Every time I try and do that, I fall over! Poor me... my arms just aren't as muscly and strong as everyone else's...



Annoying Classmate no.8

I just love stretching in the Common Room. This way everyone can see me get my legs past 180 degrees!



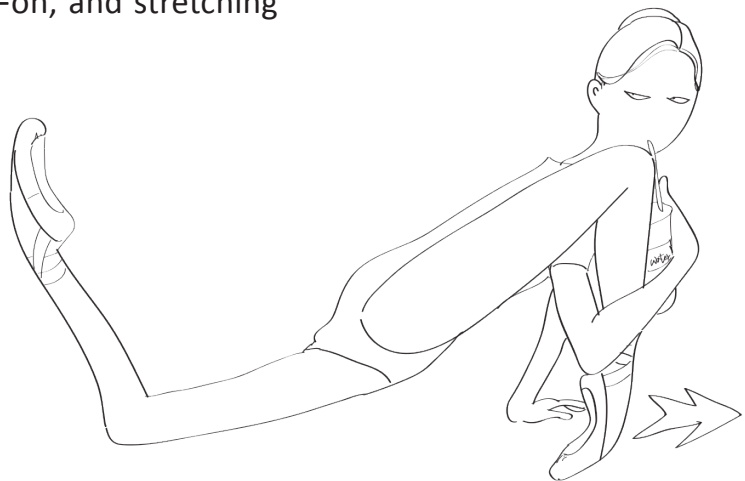
Annoying Classmate no.9

Ugh... This class is so boring I could fall asleep at the barre!



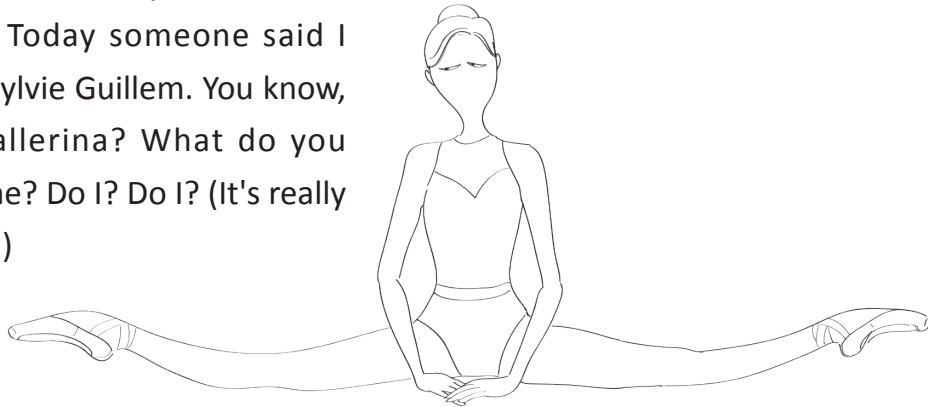
Annoying Classmate no.10

Just drinking some water—oh, and stretching out my arches a bit.



Annoying Classmate no. 11

Star pupil: I shared this picture of me on my page. Today someone said I had legs like Sylvie Guillem. You know, the prima ballerina? What do you think, everyone? Do I? Do I? (It's really bothering me.)



Annoying Classmate no. 12

These aren't annoying classmates... they're freaks of nature.

