

KIM:
I'm not hungry.

HÀ:
You haven't eaten all day.

Kim shakes her head

KIM:
This song. We danced to this. Will you dance with me, Hà?

HÀ:
I...I don't know...

KIM:
Come on. It'll be good for you too.

HÀ:
I can't.

KIM:
Why not?

HÀ:
I don't dance. I don't know how.

KIM:
It's easy. I'll teach you.

Kim leads Hà in a slow dance. Kim exits. [Switch to Hà and Mai.]

MAI:
I'm surprised you danced.

HÀ:
I want to help Kim forget. But I not good dancer. Too shy, too clumsy. Not for many year later, in Canada, that I learn to have fun, to laugh, to dance.

Hà laughs as she twirls.

MAI:
We weren't allowed to go to school dances. Do you remember the time me, Linh, Huynh and Chinh snuck out to a dance? You caught us coming in through the window. You were so mad. Me and Linh were grounded for a month.

HÀ:
That keep you out of trouble.

MAI:
But you never said a word to Chinh or Huynh.

HÀ:
Boy different.

MAI:
How? They got into more trouble than we ever did.

HÀ:
That because I keep you safe. Girl need rules. Need to be protect. You and Jamie raise Jadyn different. She have everything, more than you had. You never need that.

MAI:
I want Jadyn to have a childhood I never had.

HÀ:
You don't teach her how to speak Vietnamese.

MAI:
She doesn't need to speak Vietnamese. It's more important that she tells me about her day. That I know when she's happy, or sad.

HÀ:
Why she be sad?

MAI:
Mom. Kids get sad. We were lonely kids. Outcasts. Did you know we were bullied? Almost everyday. I didn't have anyone to talk to.

HÀ:
You have your brothers and sisters.

MAI:
We didn't have friends. We didn't fit in. We didn't feel Canadian or Vietnamese. You never knew because you never asked me how my day was. Not even once. You didn't even ask about my grades.

HÀ:
I working at three job. I not have time to ask you about your day. But I sign your report card.

MAI:
It's not the same thing, Mom. I would've liked to learn more about Vietnam growing up-]