

S C E N E 1

A dance competition is finishing up. A little girl Maggy raises a trophy. The audience cheers wildly. She's the winner... no question about it. In the audience we notice another girl Lisa. Lisa who is eight years old is not too happy about Maggy having won. Lisa is pretty sure that Maggy did something dishonest. She's sure it was Maggy and nobody else who put the soap flakes on the floor just before Lisa was to perform her dance number. Of course it was Maggy.

S C E N E 2

A year later. We see posters being put up. The posters tell that the annual dance contest is coming up again... shortly. A photo of the last years winner Maggy is on the poster. Lisa is putting them up. Everyone is encouraged to take part.

S C E N E 3

Music. Lisa walks past Joe's repair shop. We see Joe and Birdy. Joe is a good friend of Lisa. He is the miracle-man about town a real "jack of all trades". Joe has a repair workshop on the corner and fixes just about everything – from mixers to drive shafts and tractors. Mostly though he fixes lights and lamps. Joe is an electrician.

Birdy is Joe's grandmother. Birdy who has never married lives with Joe. They too are rehearsing for the competition. Joe is a skilled dancer but Birdy is not. Yet she tries her best and it is at her instigation that they are taking part in the competition this year... like every other year, actually. Yet somehow they've never made it to the finals.

Lisa watches them rehearse a jolly dance number on the workshop floor. No, they definitely won't be taking the trophy home this year either. For that to happen, some miracle will need to take place... at least where Birdy is concerned. Lisa is amused.

S C E N E 4

And then we have Maggy. As stated earlier Maggy won the competition last year. She's an excellent dancer. Maggy lives next door to Lisa. But Maggy and Lisa are no longer friends. Lisa is positive that it was Maggy who ruined things for her last year. What's the point of winning if you have to do so by cheating? It's not good to get ahead in life by being dishonest – at least that's Lisa's opinion. Lisa doesn't trust Maggy and wouldn't put it past her to try something similar again this year. Maggy is rehearsing. She's dancing salsa ... and she's good.

S C E N E 5

Lisa is back home. And she's in the mood! This year she will surely win! Lisa may not be the best dancer in town but she's so determined and works so hard that it would not be surprising if she managed to land first place this year. The problem is... she is not sure what style of dancing to choose. Lisa listens to some classical music and even considers a ballet number.

S C E N E 6

Again we see Maggy. But what's this... she's not alone. Someone is with her. Tommy. Should have known ... Maggy has a secret weapon up her sleeve. So it's Tommy who's supposed to secure her the trophy this year. That's it, ... that's why Tommy decided not

to be Lisa's partner. They had talked about dancing together and had started rehearsing a little bit but suddenly Tommy pulled out. Typical. That's what Maggy is like. The worst thing is that they're good. They're really good.

S C E N E 7

Lisa continues dancing and has not slowed down. Lisa demands a lot of herself and makes a lot of wide turns. But oops... she gets tangled in a cable, the cable belonging to her mother's beautiful big lamp... the one she inherited from granny Hanna. We have a crisis coming on... the lamp is pulled from the table falls to the floor and smashes into little pieces. Lisa is in shock. At first she doesn't know what to do but then she starts trying to piece the lamp back together again. Which is not easy because it is virtually pulverized.

S C E N E 8

Lisa's mother is on her way home from work. She's been working late – she works at the fish freezing plant. She's also the superintendent of the little community centre in town. That's because Lisa and her mother live in the flat above it.

S C E N E 9

Lisa hears someone downstairs. Her mother is home. Lisa is flustered. She grabs a box and puts the lamp in it. Runs and puts the box in her room. She takes a few books from the bookcase and stacks them one on top of the other then puts the lampshade on the stack so that... well, it may not look like a lamp but maybe her mother won't notice. Oops... that was close. Mother comes up the stairs. Lisa runs to her and gives her a big hug. Just then Lisa sees to her dismay that the lampshade is leaning... and then it falls to the floor. The doorbell rings.

S C E N E 10

Lisa runs downstairs. It's Maggy. She's come to return the trophy from last year. It's a stunning trophy... a travelling trophy. Lisa reaches out to take it but Maggy won't hand it over asks for Lisa's mother instead. She has no intention of letting Lisa have the trophy. She's far too proud for that. Lisa's mother comes downstairs and takes the trophy. After all Lisa's mother is not just the community centre superintendent she's also the main instigator behind the dance contest. Maggy leaves.

S C E N E 11

Lisa's mother places the trophy in a glass cabinet next to the stage. Lisa watches and then stays behind when her mother goes upstairs. Lisa admires the trophy.

S C E N E 12

Lisa runs up to her room. To get there, she needs to pass her mother who is sitting in a chair and reading a newspaper. Just as Lisa is about to sneak behind her her mother reaches for the lamp cord. She's about to switch on the lamp. Lisa thinks fast. Quickly she grabs the cord from the floor lamp and puts it into her mother's hand. Her mother

switches it on and doesn't appear to notice that the wrong lamp has lit up. Lisa is relieved. She creeps into her room... takes the box with the broken lamp and tiptoes outside.

S C E N E 13

Lisa is on her way to see Joe... to Joe's workshop. She's placed the box on an old child's buggy. An ambulance passes by. Lisa wonders what's happening but when she enters... Joe isn't home and neither is Birdy. Where can they be? All the doors are open but nobody is there.

S C E N E 14

A little while later. Lisa continues rehearsing... now up on the stage. Lisa imagines that the auditorium is already full of people and that the dance contest has begun. But suddenly Lisa stops and looks into the auditorium. There is Maggy along with a handful of friends. She has been watching Lisa. They make fun of her. They laugh. Then they leave. Lisa is upset. Being made fun of is not... fun. Typical for Maggy. But maybe she was right. Maybe her dance number isn't all that good. Lisa is sad. Lisa is pissed off.

S C E N E 15

Mother has finished reading the magazine and is about to switch off the lamp. But where is it! Books... a stack of books. Wait a minute... where is the real lamp!

S C E N E 16

Mother goes downstairs to ask Lisa about the lamp but when she gets there she finds Lisa asleep. She's snoozing in an old armchair holding the trophy in her arms. Mother smiles.

S C E N E 17

Early the next morning. An alarm clock. Lisa wakes up and sets the calendar to 11 August. Only one day until the big day. She takes the box with the lamp and sneaks out.

S C E N E 18

Lisa goes to see Joe. She tells him what has happened and asks him to please help her fix the lamp before her mother finds out. Birdy comes in. She walks with crutches. A very disappointed and tearful Birdy tells Lisa that she twisted her ankle last night when they were rehearsing. Meaning they can't take part in the dance contest this year. She was so hoping they would win this time! Birdy was almost positive that they would finally make it.

Lisa feels sorry for them and tells Birdy she'd be prepared to abandon her own number and dance with Joe if that meant he would win. Birdy thinks this is a great idea. That way "they" can win. She's always had a soft spot for Joe and it would make her so happy if he won the competition.

Yes, Lisa is a good girl. Seeing as how she needs Joe to help her the least she can do for him and Birdy is to return the favour.

Before Lisa leaves we see her and Birdy talking secretly without Joe knowing. They're up to something the two of them. We see Birdy sneak the cassette with the music that she and Joe were dancing to into Lisa's pocket. Lisa leaves.

S C E N E 19

Later that same day. It's time to register for the contest. A long queue has formed and there have never been so many participants. Lisa helps her mother with the paperwork. Everyone has to be registered and everyone has to receive a number. When the queue comes to Maggy and Tommy Lisa gives Maggy the number 13. Maggy however does definitely not want to be number 13 and makes a fuss about it. Lisa doesn't budge... but mother hears what's going on. Mother gives Maggy a different number because she never wants there to be any trouble. Lisa is not happy but Maggy leaves triumphant after having stuck her tongue out at Lisa.

S C E N E 20

That same evening. Lisa is rehearsing by herself a new dance number. This one is to the music that Joe and Birdy were dancing to. She is managing all right.

S C E N E 21

Joe is fixing the lamp. Birdy is with him... puttering around a bit. Then she puts on her coat without Joe noticing.

S C E N E 22

Lisa is dancing. Now she brings on the colourful spot light used at the contest. Lisa is not supposed to play with it at all but she is trying to immitate the contest and why not go all the way.

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S C E N E 24

Joe is getting on well. He will have the lamp finished by tonight if nothing unexpected comes up.

S C E N E 25

But wait a minute. Lisa is not alone. She has got someone helping her. Who! It's the one-and-only Birdy and she's enjoying herself tremendously. The two of them are convinced that if Lisa manages to learn the dance well Joe will be persuaded to dance with her and then they'll win... for sure.

Suddenly Joe has turned up at the community centre. He has the lamp. He's surprised to see Lisa dancing to the music that he and Birdy used and even more surprised to see how well Lisa dances and most surprised to find Birdy there urging Lisa on. Joe realizes how

important the competition is to Birdy and for “them” to win. He also senses that Lisa is going to give her all so that “they” can achieve their aim.

Joe hands the lamp to Lisa and Lisa thanks him. She puts it on the edge of the stage. Now she’s more determined than ever to return the favour. Lisa turns up the music and drags Joe onto the dance floor. Joe goes along and soon the dance is really “happening”. But then disaster strikes. In all the excitement they bump into the spot light and it topples over... crashes to the floor... and smashes into pieces. Sparks fly... there’s an explosion and lots of smoke. What a mess! They’re certainly not having much luck these days.

S C E N E 26

A new day. A calendar. It’s 12 August. The day of the dance contest. Lisa wakes up and checks the clock. She is late.

S C E N E 27

Lisa runs out. When she arrives at Joe’s she finds him busily fixing the spot light. Birdy is helping furiously assembling the pieces and gluing them together. It’s only a few hours to competition time and the spot light must not be absent. Birdy is having trouble. She shows Lisa that there is one piece missing. Until it is found the job cannot be completed.

S C E N E 28

Lisa runs back to the community centre to look for the missing piece. They’re putting the final touches on the preparations her mother taking the lead. They’re sweeping, moving tables and chairs around and setting up the sound system. The trophy is on display in a prominent place. Suddenly Lisa’s mother sees her lamp on the stage where Lisa left it. Mother is about to ask Lisa how it happened to get there when Lisa finds the missing piece and takes off running to Joe.

S C E N E 29

All of a sudden we’re at the community centre and the competition is about to start. Just a moment before it does Lisa and Joe manage to sneak in and set up the spot light. What follows is a sequence of events where each scenario is more fun than the last. Lisa sneaks a note onto the judges’ table announcing her participation and up next are Maggy and Tommy. They give an excellent performance and receive an extended round of applause. More dance numbers and... there they are Lisa and Joe. Birdy is thrilled. Lisa’s mother, on the other hand is surprised. This is something she knew nothing about. The number is fantastic... and Maggy is not pleased. She sneaks around the back and fiddles with the electrical box. The lights blink on-and-off and the music becomes distorted and slows down. But Lisa and Joe refuse to be thrown off and dance to the beat irrespective of how it changes. Lisa realizes that Maggy has been trying to sabotage their number ducks out the side of the stage and reconnects a loose electric wire. Everything is set in motion again... the lights come up and the dancers blossom like never before.

And now something really unexpected happens.. Lisa and Joe’s costumes light up. There are dozens of little lights on them and the audience cheers wildly. Yes, they’re a true hit and there’s no question... they are the evening’s winners. To loud cheers and applause

Lisa and Joe accept the trophy. As Maggy hands the trophy over to Lisa, Lisa wants to share it with her... her after-all-best-friend, Maggy.