

Resonance

written by

Sylvia Lanni and Meaghan Luong

adapted by

Emme DeVito and Emily Tomasetti

paired with the song "Grace"
by Arturo Cardelus

FADE IN:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY- DAY

It is ABBY's first day of third grade at a new school. The hallway is empty except for Abby and the PRINCIPAL, who is walking her to her new class. Abby is wearing a dress, a pair of flats, and her hair in a high pony with a ribbon or bow.

INT. ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM- DAY

Abby is standing in the doorway of the classroom with the principal. The teacher walks over to talk to the principal while Abby looks on. She looks nervous. The classroom is chaotic with many CHILDREN running around, throwing paper airplanes, etc. She watches on while the TEACHER talks with the principal.

INT. EMPTY ROOM- DAY

This is the first establishment of the dance.

The scene starts out with young girls discovering movement. The dancers resembling the main characters wear slightly different outfits than the background dancers in order to distinguish between them.

The movements of the two dancers may be individualized, but they should be similar and timid. It is as if they are testing out movement for the first time. By doing so, their dancing establishes this idea of exploring human connection. Partnering will help create a physical connection between the characters and other dancers.

INT. ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM - DAY

Abby stands in the front of the room while the teacher introduces her. The students in the classroom stop what they are doing and wave to her. A shot cuts between Abby looking nervous, and ZOE looking at her. The teacher directs Abby to an empty chair. The students go back to being chaotic.

Zoe approaches the empty chair across Abby and sits down with a container of markers and a pile of paper/coloring books. Zoe looks different from Abby. She wears jeans and a graphic t-shirt.

At the presence of another person, Abby briefly looks up, but she quickly looks back down. Zoe is smiling widely at her the whole time this happens.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The dancers continue to explore human connection.

INT. ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abby and Zoe remain seated across each other and they are both coloring.

Abby's markers are lined up perfectly straight in rainbow order. She fixes the one crooked marker at the end. A shot of her paper shows that she is coloring perfectly within the lines.

Zoe's markers are scattered across the table. A shot of her paper shows that she is doodling all over the page with little regard for the image.

Zoe finishes her drawing, folds it up, draws a heart on the outside, and gives it to Abby.

Abby opens the note from Zoe and giggles. She looks up at Zoe before sliding her drawing across the table. Zoe takes Abby's drawing and becomes excited. They both seem more comfortable around each other. They get up to go to lunch, and they stop at their cubbies. Abby carefully puts the note in her bag after taking out her lunchbox. The girls exit the room together holding hands/linking arms.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The dancers continue to explore human connection.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA - MIDDAY

The girls are now in their early teenage years. They still sit together at lunch, talking, laughing, and eating.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The dancers continue to explore human connection. All choreography is perfectly synchronized.

INT. MALL - DAY

It is the weekend and the girls are making their weekly mall trips. Although their fashion statements are distinct, the girls enjoy shopping together. They goof around while trying on different clothes in the dressing rooms. They look at earrings and accessories together. They take goofy photos.

EXT. WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The girls get out of Abby's mother's car. It is the first day of high school, and there are people walking into school. The girls look both nervous but excited. They stare at the big doors at the top of the stairs. They link arms and walk in together, similar to the elementary school scene.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The girls walk through the hallways looking for their homerooms. They wave goodbye to each other and each enter their respective homerooms.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Abby walks into the cafe with her lunch tray on the first day of high school, clearly nervous and is looking for Zoe. She spots her, but she is sitting at a full table with a group of girls who appear very different from Abby. Abby and Zoe have always sat together at lunch, and Abby is confused why Zoe didn't leave her a spot.

Zoe looks up and smiles and waves at Abby. She obviously does not think that anything is wrong. She then returns to telling an animated story to the girls she is sitting with, using lots of hand gestures.

Abby ends up sitting at the end of an empty table nearby and pulls out a book to keep her busy.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The dancers are older now. Zoe's dancer slowly starts to look less like herself and more like the background dancers. The choreography begins to become less synchronized. Some of the background dancers infiltrate between Zoe and Abby, showing the beginning of a divide in their relationship.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Zoe is surrounded by a group of people at her locker while Abby walks by in a hurry to get to class.

As Zoe leaves the circle of people at her locker, she attempts to get Abby's attention by waving at her and calling her name, but Abby continues walking. As a result of Abby's lack of acknowledgment, Zoe seems disheartened.

INT. ABBY'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Abby goes and texts Zoe asking her to hang out like they usually do on the weekends and go to the mall, but Zoe says she can't because she's helping her mom run errands. Abby puts the phone down and leaves to go to the mall instead.

INT. MALL - AFTERNOON

Abby tries on a bunch of goofy accessories and sends the picture to Zoe.

INT. ZOE'S HOUSE- AFTERNOON

Zoe is not running errands with her mom and instead is at a party with the other girls. She receives the picture of Abby and laughs at it with the other girls.

INT. DINNER TABLE - NIGHT

As the family gets up to clear the table, Abby goes on Instagram and sees that Zoe posted a picture with the new girls she has been hanging out with. Zoe looks more like the girls she was sitting with and no longer dresses with graphic t-shirts and jeans. Abby feels hurt because Zoe clearly lied to her.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Abby walks by Zoe and her new friends in school and make fun of her and her outfit. Abby, who is hurt, walks by them while Zoe does nothing.

INT. ABBY'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Later that day, the two girls are working on a project together. Zoe is cutting out a printed picture from a piece of paper to place on the poster board that lays in front of them, but then picks up her phone

Abby is leaning her back against the couch and is on her laptop researching. She looks up and tells Zoe to get off her phone multiple times and finally takes the phone to see who she's texting.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The dancers are very aggressive, both in their movements and towards each other. Their dancing creates a tug of war effect. Simultaneously, Abby is trying to pull off Zoe's new layers so she turns back into the person she was before.

INT. ABBY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abby gets frustrated she's texting the girls, while Zoe does not like how controlling Abby's acting. The girls start to argue. Zoe yells something hurtful at Abby. Abby retaliates with talking about their relationship and asks why Zoe's new friends are so mean to her. Zoe admits what happened.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA, HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY, ABBY'S ROOM, CLASSROOM- DAY - FLASHBACK

Abby's reaction to Zoe's comment is to think about her time with Zoe. We see flashes of previous scenes. The first scenes are those where Zoe has left Abby alone (high school cafeteria, at the lockers, and ditching her to hang out with the other girls).

Simultaneously cut to quick clips from dancing in between each of the flashbacks to create tension and suspension. The dancing gets more aggressive and angry now all in sync while the two principal dancers fight with each other.

INT. ABBY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS (BACK TO PRESENT DAY)

Abby clearly has pent up frustrations and screams out one line of dialogue.

ABBY
(screaming)
Friends don't make fun of each other
with other people, Zoe. Don't you see
that you aren't my friend anymore. Get
out.

The music track cuts out and Zoe and Abby stare at each other.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The dancers stop dancing and stare at each other as well. The background dancers slowly begin to move out of frame leaving the two isolated. The music is still cut out.

INT. ABBY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS (BACK TO PRESENT DAY)

Abby has tears in her eyes. Zoe gets up and walks away. Abby tries to apologize, but Zoe slams the door.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zoe moves out of frame still dressed like the background

dancers. By moving out of frame, she leaves Abby and accepts being with her new friends over Abby.

INT. ABBY AND ZOE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Both girls are looking outside of their windows, reflecting on what just happened between them.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

When switching to each girl looking outside their windows, include quick clips of a solo part from each girl to show their loneliness and isolation.

INT. BIOLOGY CLASSROOM - DAY

Students are getting out of their seats and pairing up with each other for an activity. Abby remains seated with the intent of working by herself, while Zoe joins another group of girls.

Zoe looks over at Abby before looking away.

Abby keeps her eyes focused on the paper in front of her but looks up to see if Zoe notices her.

INT. ZOE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Abby is sitting on her bed. She unlocks her phone and is going to send a text to Zoe.

INSERT - THE TEXT MESSAGE FROM A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO

"The door is open."

INSERT - THE NEW TEXT MESSAGE FROM PRESENT DAY

"Can we meet up?"

BACK TO SCENE

The bubble pops on the screen. The response from Zoe says "I thought we weren't talking."

After learning of Zoe's response, Abby has her head on her knees. She gets up and rummages under her bed, looking for something. After some searching, she pulls out the card from the beginning of the film. She leaves the room anyway disregarding Zoe's message.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Both girls are back in the frame positioned on opposite corners of the frame. They are facing each other while one half of the dancers stand behind one girl and the other half stand behind the other. The girls slowly begin to move towards each other doing the same choreography.

EXT. ZOE'S FRONT PORCH - DAY

Abby stands outside of Zoe's front door. She holds the picture from the beginning of the film behind her back. Abby rocks back and forth waiting for Zoe to answer the door after ringing the doorbell.

Zoe opens the door and begins to shut it, but Abby pushes it open. The two stare at each other. Abby slowly pulls the picture from behind her back to show Zoe. It is a peace offering. Zoe sees the picture and suddenly hugs Abby. Abby seems surprised but then accepts the hug.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Both girls dancing together tentatively. They begin more partner work while Abby takes off Zoe's layers. Zoe returns to her old clothing (and colors). They eventually bring each other into an embrace while the background dancers form a circle around them. The camera pushes in focusing on the two girls' embrace.

FADE OUT