



following summer.

And they did.

Misty became a member of the corps de ballet. She was the only African American woman out of eighty dancers. She worried

that she would never fit in.

The days were long and hard. Misty took a ninety-minute ballet class every morning and then rehearsed for seven hours.



At night the dancers performed.

By the end of her first year, Misty was beginning to work her way up in the company. Then one day while she was dancing, pain exploded in her back. The stress of dancing had injured a bone in Misty's spine. For the next year she wore a back brace for twenty-three hours a day and couldn't dance.