

JAY

by Anthony Giardina

Character: Laurie

(She is on a train ready for departure at Penn Station NYC. She is confessing to a stranger on the train.)

I just left a guy. We were living together, I don't know, six months. That's over. I'm going home for awhile. I won't stay, don't get me wrong. I'll be back, right now I just can't stand the city.

(BEAT)

He was cheating on me like crazy. Jesus, you know, like I don't mind once, twice, ya gotta expect that, but with him, it was like, what was I doing there?

(BEAT)

He was a dancer. That's what I am, too, a dancer. Well, no, I'm not. I don't know what the fuck I am. The city will do that too you, you know? It's like this occupational hazard. I came here, I wanted to be a dancer. I didn't have any training. I thought you could just *dance*. And the thing is, you know, this place is so nuts you can *do* that: you can just *dance*. The troupe I'm in, the Joyce McVeety Dance Company, we do like two, three gigs a year where we actually get paid. Rumsen Community College, they want a dance company and they can't afford anybody else, so they get us. And the rest of the year, we *train*, on account of Joyce is real serious and you never know when Rumsen is gonna call again. Does that make me a dancer?

Anyway, that's where I met this guy and so now the whole thing is mixed up in my mind, like being a dancer and being with Joyce and being with him. Cause he slept with everybody else in the company and half the student body at Rumsen the last time we were there, so now there's a definite sleaziness attached to the whole business for me, not to mention various life-threatening diseases floating around. I feel like a Coke, you want a Coke?