

*Dance  
away  
lover* 1

FADE-IN:

INT. RETIREMENT HOME - COMMON AREA

A sign on an easel: Dance Tonight.

Decorations adorn the space complete with a mirror ball.

HATTIE

What is this place?

RALPH

Hattie, it's the common area.

HATTIE

Are you going to ask me to dance tonight, Marty?

A flicker of hope glows briefly in Ralph's eyes.

RALPH

Hattie. It's Ralph. I don't know who Marty is.

Hattie gazes past Ralph.

HATTIE

Oh, it's so beautiful. The girls really outdid themselves this time.

Ralph stands by her a look of concern on his face.

RALPH

We should go. You need to rest.

HATTIE

Marty, tell me you're going to watch me dance tonight.

He shrugs but his eyes keep fixated on her face.

RALPH

I won't leave your side.

Ralph steps on something. He adjusts his glasses.

A jump rope lays on the floor.

HATTIE

What is it?

RALPH

A jump rope.

Ralph picks it up.

RALPH

Probably left by some kid who  
couldn't figure out you need  
friends to play with it. When did  
the Internet steal a child's  
imagination?

HATTIE

That's not an innertube!

Hattie grabs at the jump rope but Ralph pulls it back.  
Curious, Ralph gives it to her.

HATTIE

I know what this is for.

A smile. She leans toward Ralph and whispers.

HATTIE

I'll show you how to use that jump  
rope later.

Concern shows on Ralph's face.

HATTIE

Marty, make sure you're coming to  
the dance.

She wraps the jump rope around her neck like a scarf. Hattie  
spins on her heel and leaves the room.

RALPH

You are one perplexing and vexing  
lady, I'll give you that.

the dance

was

was, say

the dance