

Here is how it is with you. You come to me so I can show you something, and I show you, and you say, no, that's not what we want you to show us, show us something else, and I tell you, come back tomorrow. When you do, I show you the same thing, and you say, no, that isn't what we wanted, and I say, come back tomorrow again, and when you do, I show you the same thing, the same thing happens all over. Then I say the next day, okay, I will show you something different now, and so I have your attention, and I show you the same thing I showed you yesterday and the day before, and the day before that, and you say, oh, look at this, this is what we needed you to teach us all along, why did you have to take four days? The answer to your question is, you never had training when you were younger, before you came to me, and so naturally, you act like you are squid, without a backbone.

We say, if we ran away anywhere, we would run to a circus. There are first-rate circuses all over the world that would want us, and she says, life itself is a circus although you're still too young to understand this. She says, what would you do in a circus?

Be acrobats.

She says, come back tomorrow. When we do, she shows us something new, and we say, that's not what we want you to show us, Mrs. Kamsky, there's no jumping in what you show us, we want to jump.

Come back tomorrow, she says, and we do, and as soon as we see what she shows us, we tell her, this is the same thing we saw already, and we never said to you, a bunch of clowns. We said, acrobats.

She says, first we must know what it means to stand still. Any old thing with two legs can learn to jump. I am trying to explain this to you. I get nowhere. Come back tomorrow.

And we do, and she shows us the very same thing, and we say, acrobats! Acrobats! Acrobats!

She says, come back tomorrow. When we do, we say to her, are you going to show us the same thing? She says, no, it's different now. Then she doesn't show us anything at all.

We say, we are running out of patience here. You promised us you would turn us into dancers. This is what you're here to do. You said we would not grow up to be ordinary people. If you're planning to break your promise to us, now would be a good time to let us know.

Now I'm planning on breaking my promise to you, she says.

We ask her, what about the steps you taught us already?

They are yours and you can do what you like with them. Throw them in a hole, she says.

What about the way she taught us to stand, the way she taught us to talk?

They are all for throwing into a hole.

All right then, we'll be going now, we say.

We have to walk past her to go down to the end of the studio to pick our things up, so we ask her if she thinks she would be able to not look at us when we walk by her.

After we're gone, will she wonder, how did they look? What steps were they doing that I missed? How were they holding their shoulders? How did they rotate their hips?

We tell her, dusk will come soon, and evening will come, and night will come, the same as always. Will you sit alone in the dark and ask yourself, what steps were they doing that I missed out on?

We say, too bad you haven't got a blindfold in here to make it easier on your eyes not to look at us, and she says, oh, for crying out loud, and we say, do you have to get another new hip?

Not in the next half hour, she says. But eventually, I suppose that I will have to.

Please try teaching us a little faster. Please will you try to teach us faster?

Thank you very much for your concern, she says, and we bow to her, and she says, oh, now I will show you something new.

