

# SHOWSTOPPER!

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## Chapter 1

### The Letter



Alexa and Lila were walking home from school, chattering excitedly. It was late afternoon, and the glaring summer sun was slipping below the horizon. "I wonder what the announcement will be?" asked Lila.

"We'll find out tomorrow," replied Alexa "It might be the annual talent show!" Then they heard a familiar sneering voice.

"You in a talent show, Jones! Don't be ridiculous!" snorted Violet Bones, as she chewed her hot pink gum. The twins carried on walking, Alexa silently seething.

As they reached their house, they heard a shrieking noise "Alexi, Liely, you're home!"

"Hi Lucy!" they replied as their enthusiastic younger sister bounded into view.

The next morning, they received a letter in the post. "YES!" they shrieked. They had the day off to find something to do for the talent show. Alexa and Lila looked at each other excitedly. They knew what this meant. They rummaged through their wardrobe looking for their new dresses. The next day, they arrived at school armed with a dance routine.

## Chapter 2

### Fire



The show started. When the enemy and her sidekick stepped on stage, they just stood there staring. "Girls, do you have a talent to perform? Or would you rather get offstage?" Almost every girl in the hall was laughing. Two weren't. Alexa and Lila were shocked. They knew that this was not funny to the other two. They had run offstage and out the back door.

The Headmaster walked onstage, attempting to gloss over what had happened. "Next, the Talented Twins!"

Alexa and Lila walked onstage, wearing identical black dresses. The familiar music filled the hall. But just as they started to dance, a shrill siren replaced the music. The Fire Bell.



### Chapter 3 Ebony Black



The hall was evacuated. Once everyone was safely outside in the courtyard, a thorough search was conducted. About half an hour later, this revealed there was nothing on fire.

“Wait. Did you see Ebony Black when we went onstage?” asked Lila.

“No. She was the only one I didn’t see apart from Vicious Violet and co., of course, who wasn’t there.” The girls made their way to Ebony.

“Where were you during the show?” Lila asked.

“I arrived late,” she replied flatly. She was a terrible liar, so they knew she was telling the truth.

“If we don’t solve this soon, it will be the end of our talent show dreams!” cried Alexa. Before

they could move away, the teacher said it was safe to continue the show.

## Chapter 4

### The Curtain Call



A few minutes later, they were back on the stage. But as they started dancing, the curtain fell down with a crash. Again, everyone fled outside. But Alexa and Lila stayed behind to investigate. Lila ran her fingers down the smooth

velvet, and then she squealed. "Aah!" she cried. She drew her hands away, and, after a second, they spotted the neon pink gum stuck to one. Alexa had an idea. She grabbed Lila's free hand and took her to the fire bell. "Aha," she cried, pointing to the pink gum stuck to the switch. "And who chews pink gum?" Alexa exclaimed.

"I'll kill her!" hissed Lila menacingly. The girls hurried back to the courtyard, and soon spotted Violet, who was sitting with her head in her hands.

"Guilty!" whispered Alexa, pretending to look through an invisible magnifying glass. "I have a plan!" hissed Lila in a fake accent, through fits of silent laughter. She walked over to Violet.

"Violet, why?" she asked.

Clearly thinking it was one of her cronies, she answered Lila.

"If I couldn't perform, why should anyone else?" she said. She jerked her head up, and saw Lila.

"You!" she cried. But Lila and Alexa were already next to the principle, talking to him. Finally, he spoke.

"Alright, everyone! The show must go on!"

## Chapter 5

### The Last Dance



Minutes later, the twins were back on stage. The music started. They began to dance. The sound of their feet tapping on the polished wooden floor

echoed, their every move in sync. They danced and they danced. The audience cheered and cheered. It was magical.

They could see their parents cheering, along with everyone else in the hall. When they took a final bow, anyone standing outside the hall would think an explosion had occurred. The cheers were so loud, even Lucy had to cover her ears.

That evening, the Jones' dinner table was abuzz with chatter. Lucy was giving them a blow-by-blow account of what had happened.

"I hope we can do that again next year," said Alexa, who was happily munching on her chicken.

"Just maybe no fire bell next time!" joked Lila. Everyone laughed.

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Alexa and Lila get a letter inked with thrilling news - they have the day off to practice for the talent show! They think over it a lot, and practice very hard, but will it be enough for the show to go smoothly?