Noticing Comparisons: Spring Dance

It was spring again. And what did spring mean to Devin? Allergies. But something worse than allergies, too: the spring formal. Why that stupid dance was so important was beyond him, but it was. And last year he really got sucked in. Devin was a quiet kid. He didn't have many really good friends in school. He was more interested in stuff outside school than in. Music. Art. He'd go to the city to a gallery or a museum and stay for hours. Most of the kids didn't get it. But they thought it was cool that he knew so much about what was happening. They'd sometimes ask Devin whom he was listening to, and he'd share tracks from the indie bands he'd discovered. Sometimes he'd wear a T-shirt that he made modeled on the work of a favorite artist. Nobody in school dressed like Devin. But he always got a lot of nods when he wore something new. So Devin thought that it wasn't out of the question that he could get a date. But man, asking was hard. It took him until 10 days before the dance last year to ask Maura. He didn't really know her well. They sat at the same table once at lunch and talked a bit. All of the other cheerleaders seemed surprised she sat next to him. But that talk went pretty well. They didn't have much in common, but she seemed interested in what he had to say. So he was really pretty hopeful when he asked. But no luck. She blushed and told him that she had a date. She said she'd been seeing the guy for months. Shot down. And he heard the whispers: "How did he have the nerve to ask Maura?" It shouldn't have bothered him. He really didn't want to go that much. But it seemed like all the other students were able to figure this dating thing out. Devin's mom told him that the spring formal was just an experience. But she said that it was maybe one that he'd want to have.

Devin thought his mom might be right. Especially if he could go with Janine. Janine was a dancer. Devin saw her once at a modern dance show.

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And he heard her talking about dance to her friends in their English class. They worked together on a project to make a modern-day version of a scene from Shakespeare. That turned out pretty cool. The teacher liked it anyway. They actually did an animation. Janine waved when she saw him. And he asked around and found out that she didn't have a date. So this time he didn't wait until the last minute to ask. With a month left before the dance, Devin decided to ask Janine.

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