*Dance Life*

Life is a pair of ballerina point shoes. Brand new, the shoes are soft, elegant, and perfect. There are no holes, no scuff marks, no indication of pain or suffering.

The ballerina tries on her new shoes and feels for the first time, just how painful, hard, and uncomfortable they are. She knows that being on point will not be easy. She knows that she will have to work hard; overcome the blisters, bloody toes, and soar feet.

She does not give up.

As the ballerina practices, the shoe changes. The point is broken in, yet remains hard. The soles become bloody and worn. The shiny pink colour fades and starts to take on different hues and tones. Of course, the shoe itself remains beautiful. All of the work the ballerina has done to make the shoes as comfortable as they can be, has paid off. The ballerina performs her dream role in Swan Lake and the shoes make the perfect accessory.

As the production comes to a close, the shoes are so tattered and torn that they need to be replaced. Sadly, the shoes are thrown away.



**Dance Life**

They are soft, elegant, perfect

No holes, scuffs, or blemishes

Mar their tender surface

No pain

No suffering

Yet.

On the surface, they are

They softest petals of an orchid,

But the ballerina tries on

Her new dancing shoes

She doubts they will comfort her.

She wonders if overcoming the blisters,

Bloody toes

Sore feet

Is worth the practice.

The pointe will not be easy,

But it never is.

The more she practices,

And the more dust, sweat

And blood

Become engrained into the soles

And her soul

The more she is sore.

She soars.