

# THE PERFORMANCE

Poem by Amisha Dalal

## BEFORE

I sat in my bed  
Thinking  
A single memory  
Triggering an avalanche of thoughts

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*I don't want to do this*  
I have to do this

*What if I mess up?*  
I know I'm gonna mess up

*What if somebody else messes up and I miss a cue?*  
I'm probably gonna miss a cue

*What if I look ridiculous in my little braids and tutu?*  
I know I'm going to look ridiculous

*What if I fail miserably?*  
I know I'm gonna fail miserably

*WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS?!?!?!?*

## AFTER

I sat in my bed  
Thinking  
A single memory  
Triggering an avalanche of thoughts

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*I don't want to do this*  
I did it, and it really wasn't that bad

*What if I mess up?*  
I actually didn't mess up

*What if somebody else messes up and I miss a cue?*  
Nobody really messed up and I didn't miss any cues

*What if I look ridiculous in my little braids and tutu?*  
I actually probably still did look ridiculous

*What if I fail miserably?*  
I didn't actually fail miserably

*I ACTUALLY DID IT!!!!!!*

