

# A difficult decision

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Little Misty had to make a difficult choice...



Misty's mother was unhappy about Misty living with the Bradleys. She had decided it was time for Misty to stop dancing...



Cynthia Bradley gave Misty a place to live, a place to practice, and ample opportunities including home schooling so that Misty could focus on her career....



But it was miles away from her tiny rental apartment where her mother and her 5 siblings lived. Misty loved dance.....but she loved her family too..... where is home? How do you know when you are only 15 and all the adults in your life are fighting over you? How do you decide?.....

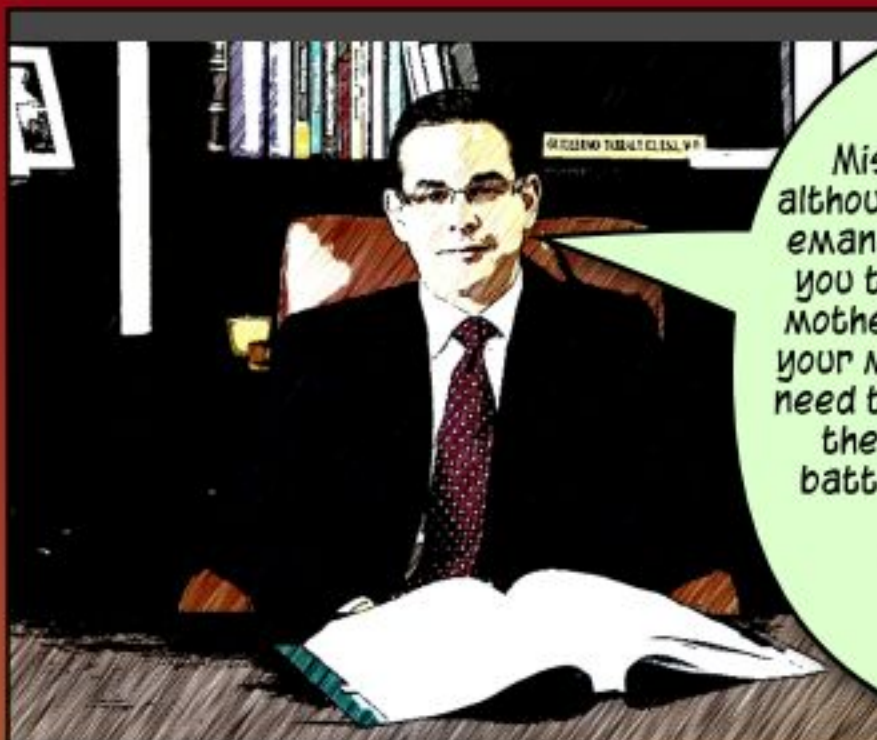


At 15, with the Bradleys' help, Misty makes a difficult decision.....a decision which would change her life forever, a decision filled with hopes and dreams and excitement.....but a painful one nonetheless....



The Bradleys take her to a lawyer. Her mother cannot afford a lawyer. Misty asks to be emancipated from her mother....so she could stay at the Bradleys and continue dancing...





Misty, you must understand that although you are allowed by law to seek emancipation from your mother before you turn 18, it will not mean that your mother has no say, and it will not make your mother give you up or go away. You need to make sure you understand that there could be courts and custody battles, and you will need to fight all that....

Think before you make this decision.....

Upset, emotional and confused  
Misty runs away from home.....  
From both homes...



But she cannot imagine herself never dancing again.... it is in her bones, it is a part of her now. She cannot give it up. Her mother will understand....  
AND SHE MAKES A DECISION.



# EMANCIPATION

Many custody battles and stressful months later. Many titles won, and many roles performed. Misty Copeland is the first African-American woman to become a PRINCIPAL DANCER of a major world ballet company. She is an activist and an inspiration to many young girls and specifically black young girls who are trying to make a career in a very difficult and discriminating world.



See, Mom, told you it would work out :)