



Blue Tights

By Rita Williams-Garcia

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Joyce Collins desperately wants to be accepted into the popular circle, and when she is cut from the ballet recital, she is devastated, until she joins an African dance troupe and quickly discovers a place where she truly feels she belongs. Reprint. *H.*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

An inner-city African American girl joins an African dance group after her high school ballet teacher says her body isn't aesthetically pleasing; PW called the story "believably paced and powerfully realized." Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 9-12 Joyce Collins stumbles through an array of adolescent crises, emerging by story's end with self-respect and recognition as a dancer. In the nitty-gritty language and world of an urban black teenager, 15-year-old Joyce rebuffs the advances of an older man, struggles for acceptance with snobbish peers, mourns an unrequited love, and aspires to a dancing career denied her lonely mother. Physique, not technique, excludes Joyce from her high school's classical ballet production of *Sleeping Beauty*. By accident, she intrudes on a practice session of African dancers. Joining the group, Joyce finds that her spirit, style, and abilities are at last unleashed in this dance form which reveals her talents. Although the introductory emphasis on Joyce's big ``butt" and bustline and her subsequent sexual allure is heavy-handed, Williams-Garcia goes on to convey Joyce's eagerness to dance, hunger for acceptance, and need to be loved. In the end, Joyce develops a greater sensitivity to others and accepts responsibility for her own actions. She is no longer just ``Blue Tights" to her ballet teacher or an object of ridicule among her peers. Readers will relate to Joyce's adolescent mood swings, be swept along with her dancing exuberance, and applaud her final success and independence. Gerry Larson, Chewning Junior High School, Durham, N.C.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elaine Rode:

Here thing why that Blue Tights are different and trusted to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good however it depends in the content from it which is the content is as delicious as food or not. Blue Tights giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no book that similar with Blue Tights. It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your personal eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your approach home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of Blue Tights in e-book can be your alternate.

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Susan Spiegel:

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