

When I was younger, I always dreamed about having my very own pair of pointe shoes, but what little girl in ballet doesn't have that dream? It made me so excited to watch all the older dancers and think, I'm going to be a beautiful ballerina like that some day.

When Ms. Deborah finally told me I could start pointe, I was so excited that the very next day, I made my mom take me to buy my pointe shoes. As soon as the ribbons were sewn, I had them right on my feet. I thought they were the most beautiful things in the world, but they were extremely uncomfortable. I thought I would get used to it but, no matter what I did or how hard I tried, it never felt any better to me.

After 3 months, I had many cuts and blisters on my feet. When I asked some of the older dancers about their shoes, they told me to keep switching pointe shoes until I found the right ones. So, I switched from shoe to shoe with no relief or improvement in my dancing.

I became more and more frustrated with every ballet class. After two and a half years of trying to dance on pointe, I just was not making any progress. I thought about quitting dance but then it hit me. I love ballet and want to continue to dance, but pointe was not for me!

So, I talked to Ms. Deborah about how I was feeling dancing on pointe and she told me to leave the pointe shoes behind, and continue to dance and be happy. I was so relieved and excited that she supported my choice to drop the pointe shoes. If you are feeling the same way I did then remember my story and learn from it. Yes, pointe shoes are beautiful, but, that doesn't mean you have to make yourself miserable over them! Just keep dancing ballet on flats but never stop dancing!