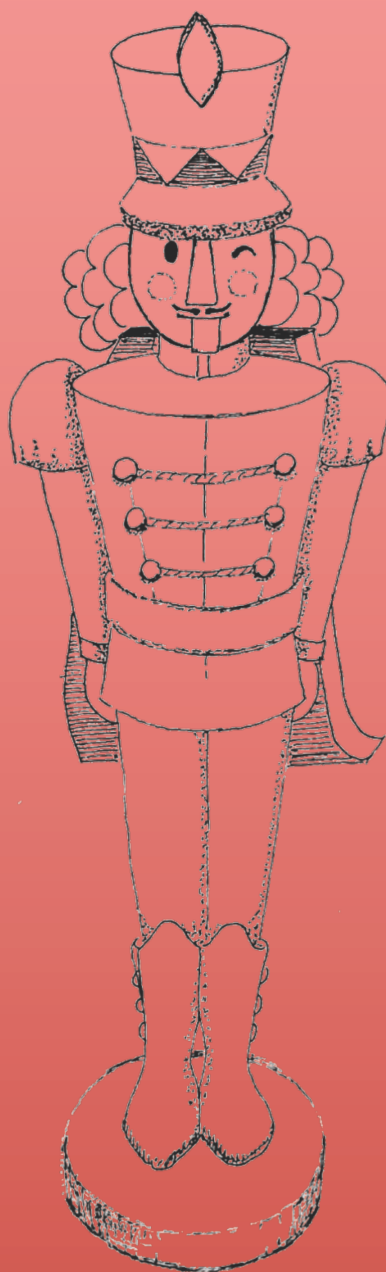


The Nutcracker

*By Alexandre Dumas
Retold by Ballet Philippines*





This is the story of a child, a child just like YOU. Her name, was Clara. One Christmas Eve, she was given a beautiful dollhouse and a very special gift, a toy Nutcracker. How she loved her new presents!

Now this little Clara had a brother named Fritz. He was jealous of her gifts and broke her beloved Nutcracker. Clara was very angry and sad. She fell asleep crying, holding the Nutcracker in her arms.

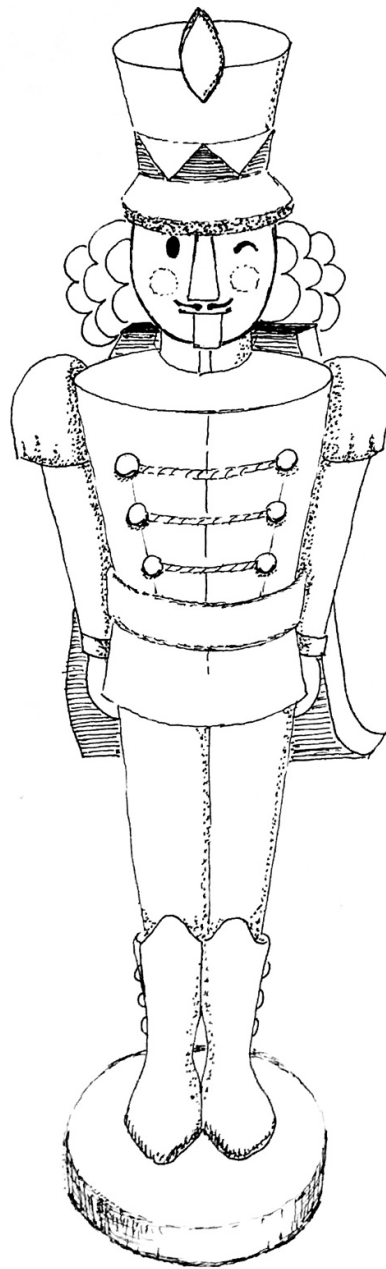


Clara woke up suddenly to the sound of scratch, scratch, scratch. When she opened her eyes she saw an amazing sight. The dolls from the dollhouse had come alive! How excited Clara was to see her precious dolls jumping and running. However when she looked to see what was causing the scratching sound, she saw something terrible! A large army of mice! They were being led by an evil Mouse King who wanted to destroy the Nutcracker.

The brave Nutcracker led the dolls in a charge against the mouse army. The dolls fought bravely but they were outnumbered. The Nutcracker, injured already because of Fritz, was about to be destroyed by the Mouse King when Clara saved him by throwing her shoe at him!



As soon as Clara saved the life of the Nutcracker he transformed into a prince! He took Clara on a magical journey into a world made of candy, juice, chocolates, and cream! One by one, led by the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy, dolls from Spain, Arabia, China, and Russia delighted Clara with their dances from all over the world.



Clara woke up happily. It had all been a fantastic dream! But guess what? The Nutcracker toy was fixed...

Be brave, believe in yourself, and let ballet share more extraordinary stories with you.