It is Christmas Eve and Clara is given a present by her Uncle Drosselmeyer. A nutcracker in fact! Worried about her new beloved friend after foolish Fritz breaks the nutcracker’s jaw, Clara falls into a deep slumber under the Christmas tree and experiences a night of magical adventure. An enchanting rendition of a classic Christmas tale based on the Balanchine ballet, Jay’s storytelling and illustrations are a delightful combination. The story of Clara and the Nutcracker is given with accuracy and whimsy, covering all of the important aspects of the story, but also capturing the whimsical and dreamlike essence of Clara’s adventure. The illustrations are warm and captivating, making the book a perfect cozy-night-by-the-fire Christmas read. Highly Recommended. Ariel Foshay Bacon, Centennial Library Intern, Cedarville University

Recommended Citation
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After rescuing her Christmas nutcracker from an army of angry toys, Marie and her brother are rewarded by the nutcracker, now a prince, with a fantastic nighttime journey to a realm of dancing fairies, beautiful palaces, and wonderful things to eat. The Nutcracker tells the complete story of the Nutcracker with beautiful crackled style paintings. This is a great book to read before seeing the Nutcracker ballet; children will be able to easily recognize the story and characters. The Nutcracker by Susan Jeffers. Susan Jeffers' illustrations of the Nutcracker feel larger than life in this book. The text is short but the illustrations are full of life and action. I love the illustrations and short text, this is a great book for little ones. The Nutcracker by Mary Engelbreit. This version of the Nutcracker includes full color illustrations. Based on the Balanchine ballet, this sumptuous package is the perfect gift for any fan of The Nutcracker-young or old. The nicely balanced text (not too much, not too little) captures all the best moments and sets the stage for Alison Jay's richly imagined art. Sharp-eyed readers will notice tiny details playing out thrillingly over the course of the story (keep an eye on the gifts under the Christmas tree!). From the cozy Christmas party to the delectable Marzipan Palace, Alison Jay's artwork is truly enchanting—a snow-globe version of The Nutcracker to read every night. The Nutcracker book. Read 22 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. Based on the Balanchine ballet, this sumptuous package is the perfect gift for any fan of The Nutcracker-young or old. The nicely balanced text (not too much, not too little) captures all the best moments and sets the stage for Alison Jay's richly imagined art. Sharp-eyed readers will notice tiny details playing out thrillingly over the course of the story (keep an eye on the gifts under the Christmas tree!). From the cozy Christmas party to the delectable Marzipan Palace, Alison Jay's artwork is truly enchanting—a snow-globe version of The Nutcracker to read every night. English artist Alison Jay retells the classic Christmas fairy-tale of The Nutcracker in this lovely holiday picture-book, using the story from the ballet as a starting point, rather than the original tale from E.T.A. Hoffmann. All the incidents that are so well-known and loved from the ballet - the gift of the wooden Nutcracker to Clara, from her Godfather Drosselmeyer; the battle between the Nutcracker and the Mouse King; the journey to the Land of Sweets; the dances of the various national cha...