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THE NUTCRACKER



Illustrated by Valeria Docampo

Based on the New York City Ballet production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[®]

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It was Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaums' house, and like children everywhere, Marie and Fritz were so excited that they could feel their toes tingle. Their parents were decorating the Christmas tree before the big holiday party, and Marie and Fritz were not allowed into the great room until it was done. They jostled each other to sneak a peek at the glittering tree through the keyhole.



At last the guests arrived, and the doors were thrown open. "Let the party begin!" everyone cried as they joyfully filled the festive room.