

THE MUTTCRACKER



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SIMON & SCHUSTER

London New York Sydney Toronto New Delhi

For Helen Mackenzie Smith, with love and thanks – AK
For Jane Buckley and all the amazing support – SO



SIMON & SCHUSTER

Celebrating 100 Years of Publishing Since 1924
First published in Great Britain in 2024 by Simon & Schuster UK Ltd
1st Floor, 222 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8HB

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library upon request
ISBN: 978-1-3985-3027-0 (HB) • 978-1-3985-3025-6 (PB) • 978-1-3985-3026-3 (eBook)

Printed in China
1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

My dog is not like other dogs.



I mean, look at him.

Does he *look* like the sort of dog who'll
fetch the newspaper or chase his tail?

No. My dog never
chases his tail.



My dog does pliés and pirouettes,
and if you tell him to 'roll over'
he won't look at you for a week.



That's because my dog is not
just any dog.



My dog is a ballerina!





Every Saturday, we put on our tutus and legwarmers, ready for Ballet School.



And every time,
Biff is first out of the door.



But today he's even quicker than usual because Miss Polly is making a special announcement.

“Right, class!” says Miss Polly.
“This year, our Christmas show will be . . .

The Nutcracker!”



Biff's tail starts to wag and I know what he's thinking.

He wants the fluffiest tutu.



He wants the
twinkliest tiara.



He wants to be . . .



. . . the Sugar Plum Fairy!