THE MUTTCRACKER



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For Helen Mackenzie Smith, with love and thanks – AK

For Jane Buckley and all the amazing support – SO



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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!