



The Magic Ballet Shoes

Darcey Bussell

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Delphie can't quite believe it when she is invited to join Madame Zarakova's ballet school. But there's more to Madame Za-Za's than meets the eye--and with the help of some magical red ballet shoes, Delphie finds herself spinning into the kingdom of Enchantia!

Prima ballerina Darcey Bussell takes you on a captivating journey to a faraway land of ballet and magic. . . .

The Magic Ballet Shoes Details

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From Reader Review The Magic Ballet Shoes for online ebook

Rachel says

Short, Sweet, Magical, Cute, Heartwarming

KathyP says

My 6 year old daughter enjoyed this book. It is very "sugary" if you know what I mean.

It could be compared to Rainbow Fairy books in that the main character is swept away to a fantasy world in order to save the day. The comparison stops there, I think. I thought this book was a bit more complex than Rainbow Fairy books, but still simple enough for a beginner reader.

I guess the reading level is mid-2nd grade. So, it is a good book for a girl who is an advance reader.

My daughter became bored by the 2nd book.

Liz says

This the perfect chapter book for anyone who loves to dance! A fun, cutesy story about a young girl and a pair of red magic ballet slippers. It's a nice title to read aloud with a new reader, or a good start to reading alone. Minimal illustrations leave the story to the imagination of the readers. It's the first in the US Published Magic Ballet Shoes series. finally something other than horses and ponies!

Liana says

this is very fun..i have learn many things from this book and from the character of dephines

Abbie says

I liked this book because it's a lot like Rainbow Magic, but it has lots of different ballerina characters instead of fairies. I also like this book because Delphie and the sugar plum fairy make a trail of sugar plums for the mice and then Delphie and Sugar get in the castle and you'll have to read the book to find out...

Melissa says

This was terrible. I picked it up because I thought it would capture Hannah's interest. She liked it fairly well,

but I had a terrible time reading it. It was not very imaginative and just sort of plodded along. We will not be continuing this series.

Maria Montemayor says

my goddaughter enjoyed reading this so i'm reading it to find out. funny but i am familiar with the ballet show, the nutcracker but never really understood what the story was all about. now i know. :-)

Jay says

What an adorable book! This is a very simple read, suitable for ages 5 - 8, with cute drawings intercut with the text.

One thing I particularly liked was the way Bussell (who is a wonderful dancer) interwove the Nutcracker story in with the plot. I'm a sucker for retold fairy tales, and ballet stories retold are a real treat.

And yes, this is a kids book, and yes, it is awesome.

Cora Tea Party Princess says

A rather happy children's story, perfect for little girls who love ballet, and so this is a very solid 3 stars.

It has a little hint of fantasy with the magic shoes, and a lesson on charity from the head of the dance school.

Although a children's book, the writing is remarkably mature and the story is well written. Some of the technical terms would probably cause children to stumble while reading, particularly with the pronunciation.

? ? ♦ the dragon queen ♦ ? ? says

hi this is 2019 15 year old me who remembers that 6 year old me loved this book so,,,yeet

(i'm going to repeat this statement for literally every book i add to my children's literature shelf okay)

Stephanie says

This is a lovely children's book that is bursting with suspense, excitement and wonder. In this story we learn of Delphie, a young girl obsessed with ballet who longs to take classes at Madame Zaravkova's dance school. Unfortunately, Delphie's parents cannot afford to send her to this ballet school so Delphie satisfies

her desire by reading as many books as she can, and teaching herself the steps. One day, Delphie is walking home from school when she sees two girls running up the path to the ballet school. Delphie sneaks up and watches from the window. While standing outside in the cold, Delphie joins in with the ballet moves and is spotted by Madame Zarakova. Madame Zarakova brings her in and compliments her on her beautiful dancing. She gives Delphie a leotard and a special pair of red ballet shoes; she tells her that the shoes are very special and have been waiting for the right person to come along. Delphie is shocked when Madame Zarakova states she will teach her for free. Delphie is ecstatic and runs home to tell her parents the amazing news. That night, Delphie's ballet shoes begin to glow and they whisk her away to a magical land called Enchantia.

The author very cleverly models the land of Enchantia from the story of "The Nutcracker and the King of Mice." Delphie meets the Sugar Plum Fairy who explains that Evil King Rat has captured the Nutcracker. Without the magic of the Nutcracker no one can dance. Together they set off on a journey to save the Nutcracker and restore the magic to the land.

'The Magic Ballet Shoes' is the first book in a series which follows Delphie on her ballet adventures. Although the story is fairly straightforward, I feel it is best suited to KS1, although some readers at KS2 would also enjoy this book. It seems to be directed more to girls, so I don't feel it would work very well in a class lesson, unless used in a P.E lesson on dance forms/body movement. Despite this, I would still encourage children to read this book as it is very enjoyable.

The author uses correct ballet terms such as 'Pliés' and 'Battements tendu.' Children may need help with the pronunciation of these words. The author has also included a guide to the basic ballet steps at the back of the book which children may enjoy doing.

Katharine Peddie says

This is book number 1 of the magical fairy tale of ballerinas and fairies. It is written by a Prima Ballerina named Darcey Russell. Darcey loves to share her knowledge of the world of ballet, and she reveals this through the Magic Ballerina series.

This series is for the early readers of 6-8years and probably more inclined for girls, so it is not a book I would use for reading aloud to the class but is definitely a series I would have available for students in the classroom to read and peruse as it can be brought in to create discussion about different sports like ballet and how ballet has an amazing history and how we see ballet today.

This first book is about a young ballerina who has enchanted slippers, her name is Delphie Durand. Delphie Durand would love to be a ballerina but her parents cannot afford to send her to lessons, so she borrows and reads every book she can get her hands on to teach herself the art of ballet. Delphie watches and is super jealous over the students that are able to attend the studio of Madame Zarakova's Dance School, she is better known as Madam Za-Za.

On one of these special days Madame Za-Za spots Delphie peering in through the window and invites her in, and even more special than that is that Delphie is given a leotard and red ballet slippers and asked to return to the ballet school the next day. Madam Za-Za was going to teach her for FREE! Oh the excitement in this book, you can really feel for young Delphie.

So of course the next day she returns and loves her ballet lesson, she goes home that night to read about the Nutcracker which is a story and there is a famous ballet based upon it. This is when Delphie is first exposed to the land of Enchantia, the red ballet slippers are magical and they have taken her there for an adventure. The adventure is based around the story of the Nutcracker and she first meets the Sugar Plum fairy who tells her of the problem in Enchantia. Together they must resolve the problem to balance the state of affairs in Enchantia and bring the Nutcracker back to life so he can fill the land with joy once more and they can all dance.

It is a lovely story that you have to keep on reading in order to find out the magical end. What is nice is that the story continues and follows on in the next range of books. So keep going you will be with the fairies soon.

Brooke Weston says

It was okay

Mary says

Reviewing for HarperCollins...in bookstores soon.

This is a sweet little book especially for girls who dream of becoming a ballerina. The story is not a big surprise but the description of the love of ballet is evident in the writer's words. I was impressed that the author has been a member of the Royal Ballet...talk about writing what you know!

Natalie says

Sam read this 3 times in a row so I read it to see why she liked it so much. Very cute. We'll definitely get more out for her. It's a perfect mix of the right reading level for her but with a story that's not too mature.
