

# The Nutcracker Prince

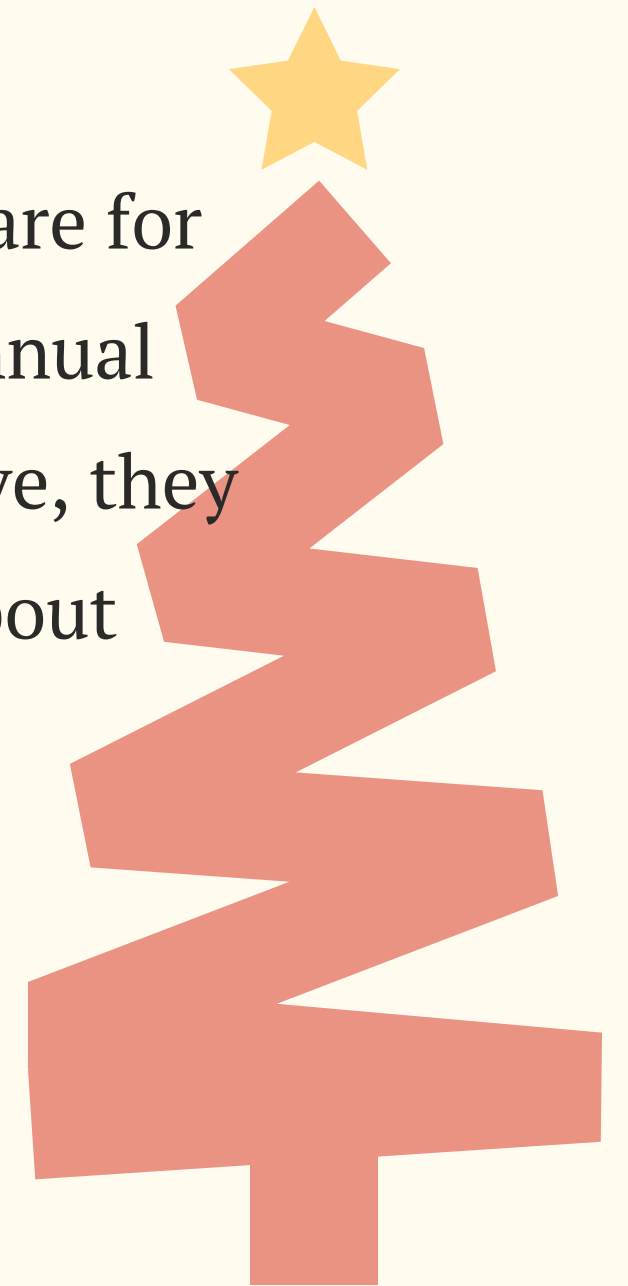






# Act I

On Christmas Eve, Clara and Fritz prepare for family and friends to gather for their annual Christmas Eve party. As the guests arrive, they dance and laugh and become excited about opening Christmas presents.







A mysterious guest arrives to the party. Though he frightens Fritz at first, Clara recognizes that he is the toymaker, Godfather Drosselmeyer.

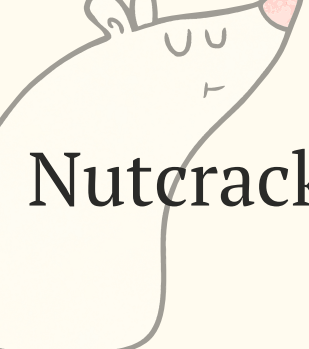
He reveals to the children that he has brought them gifts. The girls receive beautiful china dolls and the boys receive bugles. Clara is given the most beautiful gift of all, a nutcracker.





As it grows late, the children become sleepy and the party guests leave. Clara cradles her nutcracker underneath the Christmas tree and falls asleep with him in her arms.

When the clock strikes midnight, Clara wakes up to a frightening scene. The house, tree and toys are getting larger. Large mice dressed in army uniforms and led by the Mouse King circle the room.



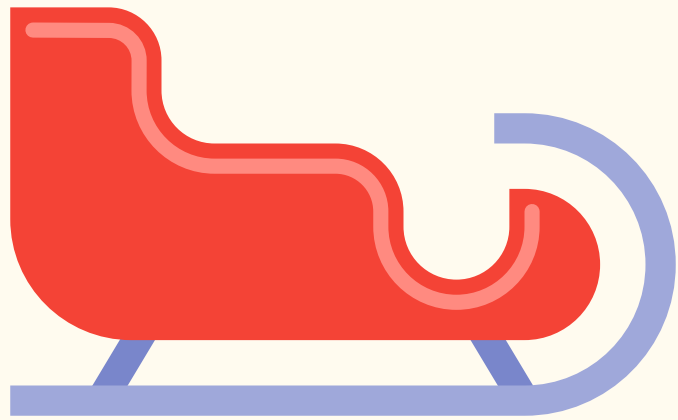
The toys and nutcracker come to life and the Nutcracker leads the toys in battle against the mouse army.





The Mouse King traps the Nutcracker in a corner.  
Fearing for her Nutcracker's life, Clara throws her  
slipper at the Mouse King, hitting him on the head.  
The Nutcracker is then able to defeat the Mouse King  
and his army.

Clara falls onto the toy nutcracker's bed, which turns  
into a magical sleigh. The Nutcracker transforms  
into a human prince, and climbs aboard the sleigh.  
He drives them through a snowy forest with dancing  
snowflakes.







## Act II

After their journey through the snow forest, Clara and the prince arrive at the Land of Sweets. They are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy. Clara and the Prince tell her about the battle. To honor their bravery, the Sugar Plum Fairy takes them inside the castle and throws a lavish festival. Clara and the Prince are treated royally and given every imaginable sweet.





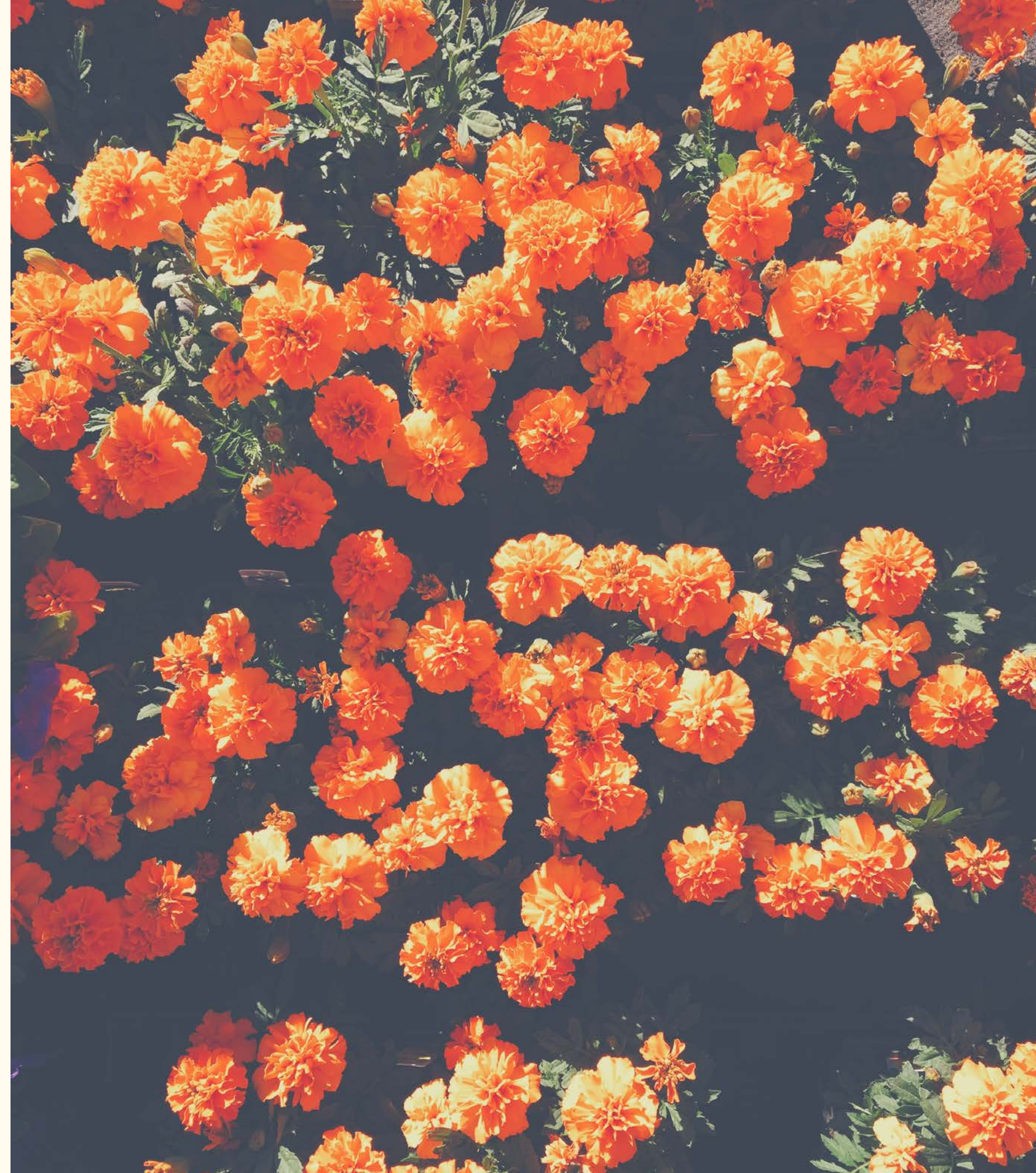


Dancing begins! Trumpets and castañets of the Spanish fandango play. The women of coffee dance in veils and move their bodies like rising steam to an Arabian song and Mandarin tea dances to an Asian flute chorus. Russian dolls leap, dance and flip to exciting music.






Mother Ginger dances onto the Sugar Plum Fairy's court, opening her skirt as eight little gingerbread children come dancing out. After Mother Ginger exits, the dancing flowers enter to the sound of harp music. Clara and the Nutcracker watch as the flowers dance in beautiful patterns.







As the flowers finish their dance, a handsome Cavalier enters and escorts the Sugar Plum Fairy to the center of the court. They dance together beautifully for Clara and the Prince.

All the dancers come together as the festival ends to bid Clara and the Prince goodbye.

When Clara wakes up the next morning under the Christmas tree with her toy nutcracker in her arms, she wonders if it was just a dream or if the magic of Christmas came to life.

