

A Christmas Love Story: Nicholas Nutcracker and Brittany Ballerina provides picture book readers and their read-aloud parents with a lovely seasonal story based on *The Nutcracker*, but with a contemporary twist.

Harmonie Homeowner is prepared for all the rituals of the busy holiday to begin once Thanksgiving passes. She and Harrison look forward to the grandkids visiting for the holidays.

Nicholas Nutcracker looks forward to them, as well. He resides in a box with other 'roommates' who are toy soldiers from Germany, but Britt the ballerina is all alone in her own box, and can't perform her greatest piece without a beau to dance with her.

Each ornament knows something is missing in their lives...something involving love. When Christmas arrives and everyone is unboxed, there is a Meeting of the Ornaments. Nicholas has already espied the most beautiful ornament, but she now resides a few branches down in the tree. Is True Love to be thwarted by proximity?

As Maureen McCabe unveils this gentle story of holiday romance, youngsters receive a fun account that follows the evolution of a friendship against all odds and barriers, becoming real love.

Kids with good reading skills or read-aloud parents will find *A Christmas Love Story* a warm tale of ballet aspirations, romance, and overcoming obstacles set against a holiday backdrop that is beautifully rendered, nicely illustrated with colorful drawings by Anastasiia Khmelevska, and just the ticket for an original holiday read.



~ D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review
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