



## **A Very Young Dancer**

*Jill Krementz*

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A ten-year-old student at the School of American Ballet in New York describes her classes and the preparation for and performance of her role in the ballet "The Nutcracker."

## **A Very Young Dancer Details**

Date : Published October 12th 1976 by Alfred A. Knopf

ISBN : 9780394408859

Author : Jill Krementz

Format : Hardcover 128 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Childrens, Biography, Picture Books

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## From Reader Review A Very Young Dancer for online ebook

### **katyjanereads says**

1. I really loved this book. I learned about it from another ballet graphic novel called To Dance by Siena Cherson Siegel.
  2. The black and white photos were breathtaking. Paired with Stephanie's strong black eyebrows, the pictures popped.
  3. I liked the inside story of ballet from a child's point of view.
  4. Before I read this book I searched online for information about Stephanie now and found a good article: <http://mobile.nytimes.com/2011/11/20/...>
  5. I'm new to learning about ballet so I'm starting slow with children's books, but I'm already learning so much.
  6. This book captured my soul.
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### **Cindy says**

This book is out of print but the photos within it are absolutely some of the strongest visual memories from my childhood. The writing is excellent and the young girl is interesting and exciting to learn about. Kremenz wrote several "A Very Young...." books and I would recommend any of them!

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### **Pindari N. says**

I love dance, so this book was an amazing experience for me. The photography is beautiful, and I love watching the life of a talented young girl as she takes classes at Julliard and performs in the nutcracker. Jill Kremenz also wrote A very young Circus flyer (amazing), a very young actress (not so good), a very young gymnast (wow. this was good), a very young gardener(...I haven't read it, but-um...), a very young skier (I just ordered it), a very young skater (same here), and a very young muscian. (which I also ordered.) As usual, you can trust any of my reviews, and believe me when I say, that I really recommend these books.

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### **June Schwarz says**

This bored the hell out of me as a child but not enough that I would have rated it: I merely wanted it out of my recommendations. I do wish goodreads would have a 'dismiss' option on the recommendations.

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### **SkatingAndDanceFan says**

This book made me want to be a ballerina!

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## Susann says

Growing up, my sister and I took turns checking out this and A VERY YOUNG GYMNAST from the library. My mom eventually bought us A VERY YOUNG SKATER and A VERY YOUNG HORSEBACK RIDER, but DANCER and GYMNAST are still the best.

In the mid-1970s, Krementz spent months following 10-year-old Stephanie at NYC's School of American Ballet. Stephanie gets chosen to play Mary in the Nutcracker, and the reader gets to see what life is like at ballet school and on stage and backstage at the New York City Ballet.

The black-and-white photography is glorious and imparts so much. Krementz also effectively tells the story using Stephanie's voice. When my dad took me to see the Nutcracker, at age 8, this book made me feel like an old pro in the dance world. And when I heard that NYCB was offering Coppelia this spring, I decided that I finally needed to see it, simply because it was 10-year-old Stephanie's favorite ballet.

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As an adult, I eventually tracked down my own used copies of DANCER and GYMNAST, and later I found two more copies sitting on the street in a box of discarded items from the 5th Ave/89th St church rummage sale. They were autographed copies from Krementz with this note:

Dear Diana - Congratulations on being chosen for The Nutcracker. I'll probably get to see you because I come *every* year - now with my own daughter Lily who wasn't even born when I wrote this book. She's 7 and goes to Nightingale - With much love, Jill Krementz

Funny what ends up being tossed away.

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## Sarah says

I loved revisiting this childhood favorite.

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## Rachel Denny says

**Title:** *A Very Young Dancer*

**Author:** Jill Krementz

**Genre:** Photographic Essay

**Theme(s):** Dance

**Opening line/sentence:** I don't know if I want to be a dancer when I grow up - or if I want to do something with horses.

**Brief Book Summary:** This book follows the story of a young ballet dancer. It takes you through different scenes and things that she does as a ballet dancer.

**Professional Recommendation/Review #1:** Not Professional, Jessica: I was very taken as a balletomane kid with this book-length photoessay about a young ballet student at the School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center. Better yet, she is cast as Marie in that year's production of The Nutcracker, so we're treated to a backstage view of the beloved ballet. Krementz takes her child subjects (other books in the series concerned a horseback rider and a gymnast) seriously, and lets their voices tell their stories, including some of the tougher moments, when the kids are tired or things aren't going well. Nowadays you'd probably feel a huge

stage parent presence in these stories, but in the "kid power" 70s, it felt a lot more kid-driven and less adult-produced. (less)

**Professional Recommendation/Review #2:** Not professional, Cindy: This book is out of print but the photos within it are absolutely some of the strongest visual memories from my childhood. The writing is excellent and the young girl is interesting and exciting to learn about. Kremenz wrote several "A Very Young..." books and I would recommend any of them!

**Response to Two Professional Reviews:** I would have to agree with both reviews. This book has some great pictures and Kremenz really captures the young girl and tells her story. Unfortunately, I didn't see any professional reviews for this book, but I think these two women capture the essence of the book.

**Evaluation of Literary Elements:** This book has a lot of visuals, which are all photographs. It is also told in first person. The fact that it is told in first person makes it a much more personal story to read and adds a lot of depth to the story of the young dancer.

**Consideration of Instructional Application:** For this book, we would make our own photographic essay. Students will choose a topic to focus on and find at least 5 pictures that go along with telling the story of their topic. The stories can be presented in different formats, whether it be a book, timeline, or something digital.

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### **Jill says**

My daughter brought this book home to look at the pictures, but I ended up reading it-totally engrossed! It's super good! About how this little girl is a dancer and ice skater, and how she fits in school, what her schedule is like, etc. Very interesting.

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### **E.C. McCarthy says**

I was obsessed with this book as a young dancer. I must have read it a thousand times. I haven't seen a copy in decades and I can still remember the photographs, and the tense moments of performance (she threw her slipper! It landed in the orchestra pit!) It's an unparalleled book, from what I can tell. Nothing I've read since comes close to showing the dedication it takes to perform in a professional ballet, and the stresses and rewards of dancing.

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### **Amy Cox says**

This is one of my favorite books of all time. When I was little, I checked it out from the library several times a year, and my sisters did, too! The photos are gorgeous and kids will love this honest yet simple look into a (future) ballerina's life! I'm so sad this book is out of print, because I would love to buy it for my niece- and myself, to be honest.

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### **Jessica says**

I was very taken as a balletomane kid with this book-length photoessay about a young ballet student at the

School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center. Better yet, she is cast as Marie in that year's production of The Nutcracker, so we're treated to a backstage view of the beloved ballet. Kremetz takes her child subjects (other books in the series concerned a horseback rider and a gymnast) seriously, and lets their voices tell their stories, including some of the tougher moments, when the kids are tired or things aren't going well. Nowadays you'd probably feel a huge stage parent presence in these stories, but in the "kid power" 70s, it felt a lot more kid-driven and less adult-produced.

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### **Melissa says**

Beautiful book. Lovely photographs.

I was curious, so I looked up what happened to Stephanie.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/20/art...>

I felt sad to read that she didn't become a classical ballerina - but it sounds like ballet as a profession wasn't for her. It was really hard for her to tell people that she was asked by the ASB to leave, so she told them that she quit voluntarily.

I guess this shows you how hard it is to make it in ballet. The unpleasantness of it, sometimes.

It sounds like Stephanie is really happy now, though. That's all that matters.

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### **Elisa Clawson says**

I discovered this series in my public library as a child and have always loved them all.

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### **emma grace says**

I remember constantly checking and re-checking this one from the library...I loved it.

There was an ice skating one that I loved as well....

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