



## TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

### *Nutcracked* By Susan Adrian Reviewed by Elizabeth Burrage

**Name:** Elizabeth Burrage

**Grade:** 12

**Book Title:** Nutcracked

**Author:** Susan Adrian

**Number of Pages:** 231

**Rating (on a scale of 1-5):** 5/5

#### **Character List:**

- **Georgie** – Georgie is passionate about getting the role of Clara in Nutcracker whilst wanting to keep her relationship with her best friend, Kaitlyn, alive. Georgie also wants to find out why she is imagining the nutcracker in danger and how to help him.
- **Kaitlyn** – Kaitlyn is Georgie's best friend who is upset and disappointed about her ballet career and decides to quit, leaving Georgie devastated.
- **Ally** – Ally is first cast as Clara, and is by far the most skilled and professional dancer who teases Georgie.
- Mrs. Cavanaugh is the dance instructor for the Nutcracker who is very involved and skilled in her field of work.
- **Noah** – Noah grows to be Georgie's best friend after being best friends with Kaitlyn. Georgie tells Noah about the traumatizing experience between her and the nutcracker.

#### **Review:**

The ever so famous Nutcracked by Susan Adrian is an iconic story tale that has stood the test of time for its beautiful ballet, character roles, and its fairy tale imagination. The novel Nutcracked takes us on a story about Georgie who is chosen to play Clara in the play. Georgie has dreamed of this ever since she was five years old. She dreamed of dancing her whole life especially with her best friend, Kaitlyn who ends up not getting the part of Clara with her. They are both heartbroken about the news, which results in extreme distance between Georgie and Kaitlyn. Kaitlyn decides to leave ballet and dance for good, claiming that she and her mom had thought about it for a while.

When Georgie starts to practice dancing and she holds the nutcracker, she imagines that the nutcracker is calling out to her trying to ask her to help him. One day, as she's practicing the dance, she imagines the nutcracker locked up in a glass cage where he can't move. A giant mouse called the Mouse King put him in there. As Georgie becomes slightly lonely without Kaitlyn by her side, she ends up becoming closer with a boy named Noah at her dad's football game. As they talk more and more, Georgie feels comfortable enough to tell Noah about her imagining things with the nutcracker. Noah completely agrees with Georgie - they both get the idea to borrow the nutcracker and try to help him escape. They decide to meet up at another football game and go to the imaginary place in a dark shed underneath the bleachers. Noah goes with Georgie just in case he needs to wake her up from the other world. As Georgie picks up the nutcracker and starts to dance, she loses her balance and starts to fall. However, Noah picks her up, which causes him to come with

Georgie into the other world. Noah turns into a soldier and controls the other soldiers. Their goal is to protect themselves from the mice. After searching room by room for the Nutcracker, Georgie finally finds him still sealed in the glass cage. As Georgie places her hand on the glass cage, her hand ends up falling through and melts the glass. While the Nutcracker was thankful for being broken out, he and his soldiers still were not free. The Mouse King had won every year and was in charge of everyone being trapped there. This was the Nutcracker's last hope of being set free and at peace, able to be sent back home. Georgie rushes back to find Noah, who is shaken up from the situation, and the two to get back to reality. Georgie tells Noah what happened with the Nutcracker, and he is now on board with being involved in their magical adventures.

The next day Noah is found missing, and the school assumes he had just run away. Georgie automatically assumes that he used something else to go into the magic world and that the Mouse King took him. Georgie is determined to find her friend and is so worried that she ends up rekindling her friendship with Kaitlyn. Kaitlyn ends up being there for her, which makes Georgie feel better about being able to tell someone. As the days approach toward the official performance, Georgie is certain that she will be able to find and save Noah and the Nutcracker.

I don't feel that there were any flaws in this novel. I think that this book was very captivating and well written. The ideas were clear and easy to follow. Even though you had to use your imagination throughout the novel, I always knew what was going on. I thoroughly enjoyed the book because it took me on a journey of imagination and adventure. I don't know of any other books that do a better job of presenting the subject in this book because every book is written by a different author, for a reason, in a different way. I think that certain teen readers would enjoy this book, such as teenage girls who are dancers or teens who enjoy theater. I think that this is a great book for teens to read because it shows a strong teenage character who is determined and passionate about dance, and who is willing to save the people she cares about.