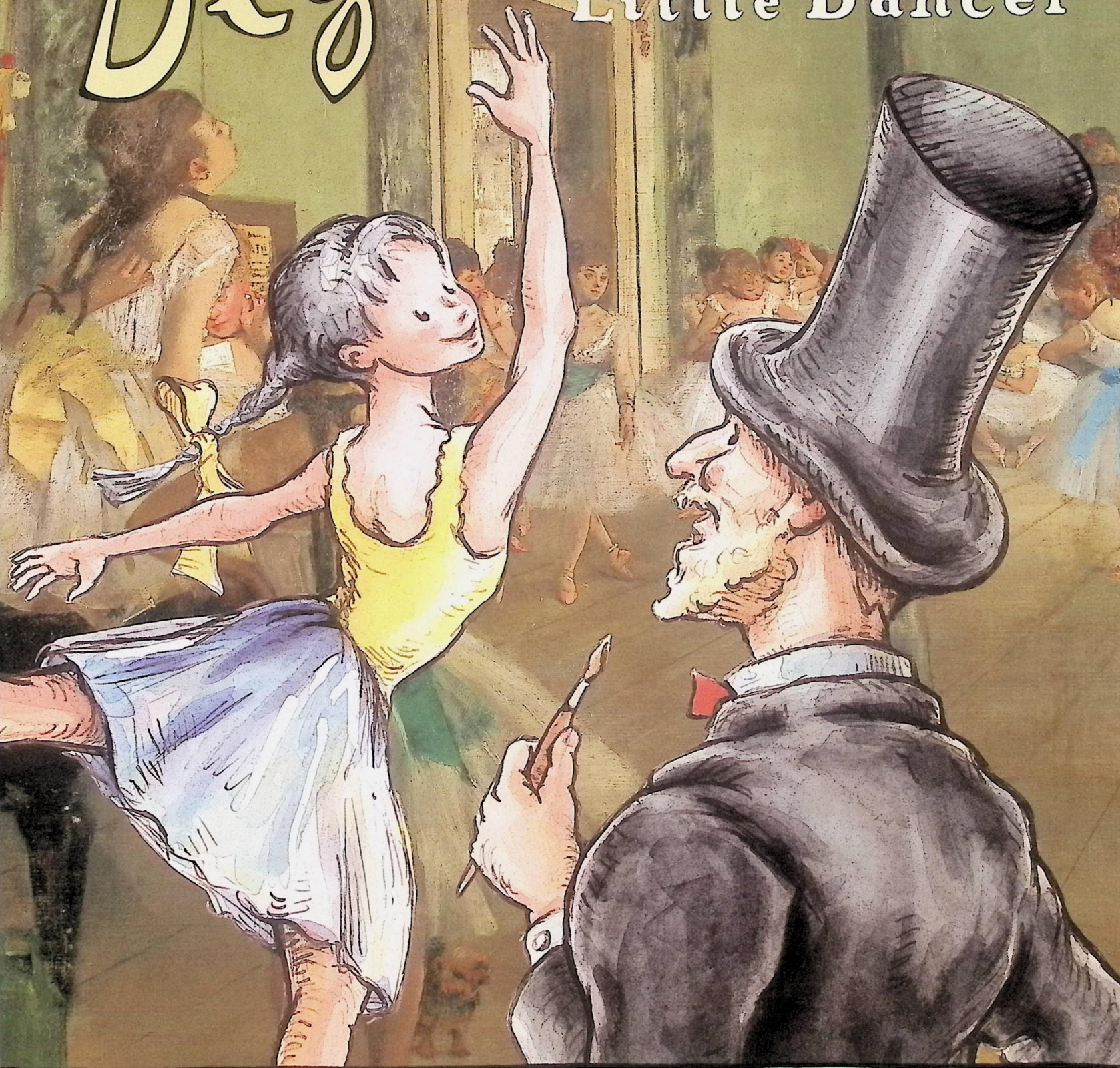


# Degas

and the  
Little Dancer



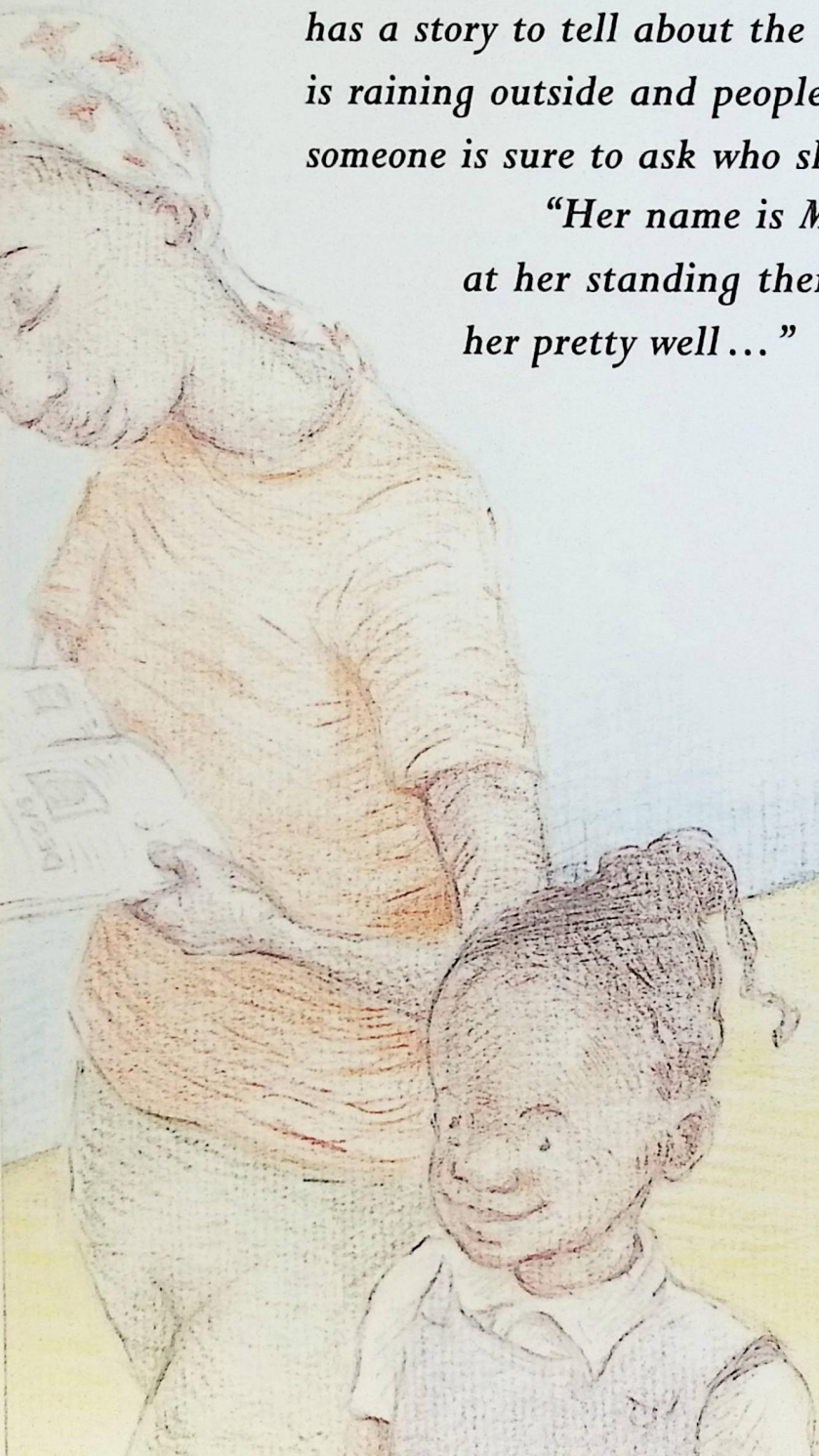
LAURENCE ANHOLT

*In the middle of a big room, in a famous art museum, is a beautiful sculpture of a little dancer. She stands with one foot forward, her hands clasped behind her back. She looks tired and a bit sad.*

*The sculpture was made more than a hundred years ago by an artist called Edgar Degas.*

*The guard who looks after the room in the museum has a story to tell about the little ballerina. When it is raining outside and people have nowhere else to go, someone is sure to ask who she was.*

*“Her name is Marie,” says the guard. “I look at her standing there everyday, and I think I know her pretty well ...”*





... Marie and her parents were very poor, but Marie dreamed of only one thing—she wanted to be a dancer. Not just any dancer: she wanted to dance at the Paris Opera House. She wanted to be the most famous ballerina in the world.





Marie's father was a tailor and her mother took in laundry. They worked hard and saved their money, until the day Marie was ready to take the entrance exam for the big ballet school.

Her father made her a special tutu, and her mother wished her luck, and tied a long peach-colored ribbon in her hair.



**At the exam, Marie danced as she had never danced before, and the old ballet teacher seemed to like her.**

**“If we give you a place,” he said, “you will have to practice very hard.”**

**“I know,” said Marie, “I want to be the most famous dancer in the world.”**

**Everyone laughed. “We’ll see about that!” said the old teacher.**



# Edgar Degas

Marie dreams of becoming the most famous ballerina in the world, but it is hard to find enough money for lessons. At last she begins modeling for the artist Edgar Degas, well-known for his paintings of dancers and horses and for his fiery temper. When his beautiful sculpture of "The Little Dancer" is finished, Marie's dream comes true.

Complete with reproductions of Degas' work, this is another inspirational story from Laurence Anholt's bestselling series, celebrating some of the world's greatest artists and the real children who knew them.



ANHOLT'S  
ARTISTS

B.E.S.

