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Géraldine Elschner – Olivier Desvaux

*The Little*  
**DANCER**

A Children's Book Inspired by  
Edgar Degas



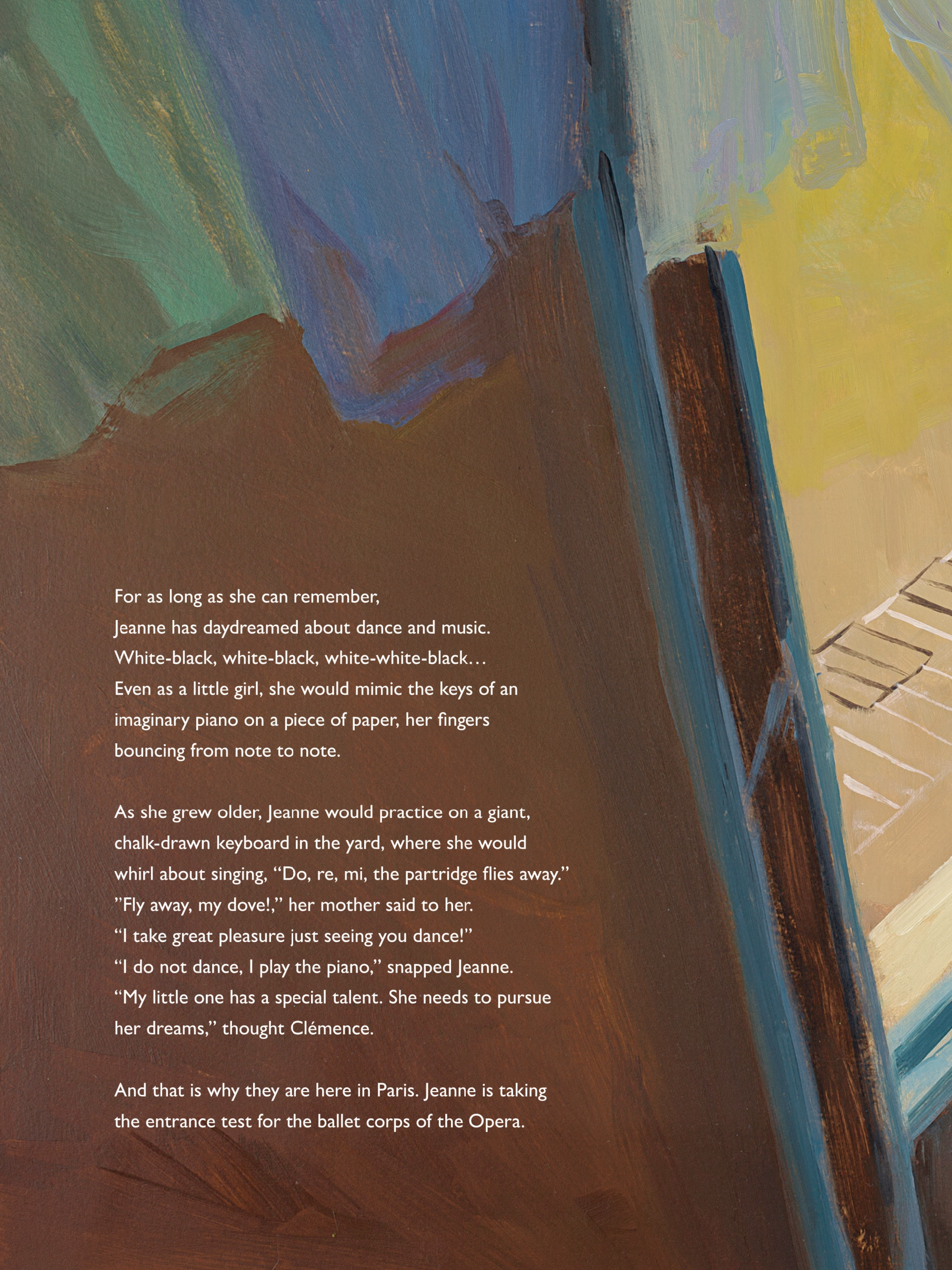
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With her hair flowing in the wind, Jeanne is spellbound by Paris. She gazes at the Pont de Flandre lock and the Saint-Martin canal... the carriage rumbling along the cobblestones. The towers of Notre-Dame appear in the distance, and beyond them the Grands Boulevards. What a world! What bustle! Suddenly, Clémence grabs her daughter's hand. "Jeanne, look!," she exclaims. In front of them stand golden wings glistening in the sun. It's the Opera Garnier; they have arrived.



For as long as she can remember,  
Jeanne has daydreamed about dance and music.  
White-black, white-black, white-white-black...  
Even as a little girl, she would mimic the keys of an  
imaginary piano on a piece of paper, her fingers  
bouncing from note to note.

As she grew older, Jeanne would practice on a giant,  
chalk-drawn keyboard in the yard, where she would  
whirl about singing, “Do, re, mi, the partridge flies away.”  
”Fly away, my dove!,” her mother said to her.  
“I take great pleasure just seeing you dance!”  
“I do not dance, I play the piano,” snapped Jeanne.  
“My little one has a special talent. She needs to pursue  
her dreams,” thought Clémence.

And that is why they are here in Paris. Jeanne is taking  
the entrance test for the ballet corps of the Opera.





