Cindy W. Hollingsworth's

# Anna's Ballet Costume

illustrated by
Jennifer Tipton Cappoen

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## Dedication and Inspiration

This little book is dedicated to all my dance teachers throughout my life beginning at age four.

My first teacher was Ms. Ruth Lewis Adams, a former Rockette.

I remember my first costume. I was a butterfly. The costume had blue chiffon wings with silver glitter. The body of the costume was orange satin, and I had a silver helmet headpiece with antennas that sparkled. I wore little pink tights and pink ballet slippers. I'm sure I fluttered all over that stage!

Dance was something that made me very happy. I loved creating and choreographing as I became older. Dance is my heart and life, and I'm thankful to have been blessed by so many talented, giving teachers. Each one added a layer to my gifts and talents so that I too could pass them along to my students.

My husband was a brilliant dancer, teacher, and choreographer. How lucky was I to live a life of dance with a man who taught me so much about the art!

For each little "Anna" who begins her dance lessons, there is a world of wonder and creative movement in store. I hope that they all enjoy dance and experience the happiness that the art form can bring. I know I certainly did and still do some 70 years later.

"Sequins and glitter.
Sparkle and shine.
I love my costume.
I'm glad that it's mine."

The tune played in Anna's head
As she went on her way.
Over and over she sang it
All throughout the day.

At night in her bed
With prayers said and done,
She closed her eyes.
The song had begun.

"Sequins and glitter.
Ribbons with pearls.
I love to see them
Whenever I twirl."

She pictured her costume.
So pink. So pretty.
She imagined herself
Twirling until giddy.

In the morning at breakfast,
She sang once again
While stirring her cereal
Into a white milky blend.

"Dance away. Dance away,
Costume of mine.
I love my costume.
Spotlights make it shine."

Then came the big day when
The costumes arrived.
Anna's thoughts about wearing one
Made her feel so alive.

She'd seen the costume's picture
Her teacher had put on display.
And every week at dance class,
She'd looked forward to this day.