

Miss B's Big Secret



Miss Bell walks very **slowly** with a cane. Her cane goes clack, clack, clack on the oak floor of her dance hall. Every day, Miss Bell watches her three **young** girls leap and spin across the room. 'Up **higher!**' she calls to them with a smile. 'Be light! You are dancers, not big tractors!' The three girls **laugh**. They think kind Miss Bell is so **funny**. But they do not know who Miss Bell **truly** is.





Because Miss Bell has a big secret.

Young Miss Bell dances in the city streets in the **darkness**. She swings around a tall lamp post with one hand, her other arm **reaching** out. She leaps **swiftly** past the clock tower and over the old stone bridge. Nothing but the bright stars watch her. **Young** Miss Bell does not walk **anywhere**. She glides. She floats up high!

One day, Miss Bell finds a **partner**. His name is Ted. No one is **faster** than Miss Bell, but Ted can keep up with her. Most dancers can't. 'So fast!' says Ted, the first time they dance. 'Not bad, Ted,' says Miss Bell. 'Not bad at all.' And she means it. When Miss Bell and Ted take the stage that night, something happens. The two of them move as one. The crowd goes silent and still.





Soon the **whole** world knows about Miss Bell. People from far away ask and ask: will she come and dance? So Miss Bell packs her suitcase and leaps across the **whole** world. One far city, then another far city, then another! Every new city has a big new stage. Every stage has a crowd that claps and yells with **excitement**. The **whole** planet knows her name.

But **here** is the part no one tells you about being a great star. Miss Bell trains even when her feet beg her to stop. She dances past midnight, past the high moon, past the point where her body begs her to quit. It is **painful**. It is so hard. 'Not yet,' she whispers **softly**. 'Not yet, not yet, not yet.'





And on the big night, the **biggest** night of all, Miss Bell takes the stage one last time. The crowd claps and claps so hard that the walls shake. Ted holds her steady as they float across the **warm** golden light. 'Wow!' the crowd yells. 'Ooh!' The crowd can't stop. And Miss Bell can't stop **smiling**.

The bright spotlight wraps around Miss Bell like a **warm** cloak. Red roses rain **softly** down at her feet. Miss Bell closes her eyes with a **dreamy** smile and soaks it all in. Then a big voice booms across the hall: 'Prima Ballerina Assoluta!' That name is for Miss Bell. It is the **highest** title a **dancer** can ever earn. And she has earned it with years of hard work.





Now, back in the dance hall, one of the three girls stops spinning. 'Miss Bell, were you ever a real **dancer?**' Miss Bell looks down at her cane. She looks at the oak floor. Then she looks at three **young smiling** faces, full of bright fire. Miss Bell knows that fire well. She winks and says, 'What do you think?' Then she taps her cane on the floor. One, two. Right on the beat.



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Miss Bell walks slowly with a cane, tapping across the oak floor of her dance hall while three young girls leap and spin. They think kind Miss Bell is funny, never guessing her big secret, one buried in swirling city nights and a stage partner who could finally keep up with her. What could a quiet dance teacher possibly be hiding? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 128: Affixes Review 2), this book practices words like 'dancer', 'reaching', 'swiftly', 'painful', 'highest'.

Phonics Focus: Affixes Review 2

anywhere, biggest, dancer, darkness, dreamy, excitement, faster, funny, ha, here, higher, highest, laugh, painful, partner, reaching, slowly, smiling, softly, swiftly, tractor, truly, warm, whole, young

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