



A DREAM THROUGH THE WINDOW

THE JOURNEY OF A LITTLE BALLERINA

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A DREAM THROUGH

THE WINDOW

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONSULTANT:

GONCA OTLUOĐLU

Gonca Otluođlu

FOREWORD

Hello, dear teachers, parents, and students. I wanted to share the story of my ballet education with you; so I could inspire children and help them love ballet and art.

Since the beginning of human history, art has always been a way for people to express themselves. From ancient drawings, rhythms, and dances to today's forms, every culture has used art to tell its story. Music, painting, theater, ballet, dance, and design have helped people show their feelings, create lasting works, and even shape the future.

Literature, poetry, philosophy, sociology, psychology, and faith have always walked side by side with art and artists. To tell stories about people, we must first understand them. And to understand, we need to read, learn, and experience many things. Often, listening to the experiences of our elders and ancestors is the best way to learn and save time.

To me, art is a very special part of life. It belongs to people who think deeply, have something to say, and want to tell a story. Ballet and dance education help children grow in a fun and beautiful way, while also teaching them strong personal skills. Of course, every kind of art comes with its own challenges, but ballet is a very special form of art. To continue in ballet, a person must learn to manage their time, take care of themselves, and stay disciplined.

When a person dreams of reaching a goal, they must always think about the next step. Working hard with a clear plan helps students become stronger - so strong that they begin to compete with their own best selves. When children grow up with universal values, modern ideas, and their own cultural and spiritual roots, their journey becomes truly special. They grow not just for today, but also for the future. This is how we raise the teachers, performers, and leaders of tomorrow.

“A nation without art loses one of its most important parts of life. The artist is the person who feels the light first, after a long struggle and hard work.”

– Atatürk

While preparing this book, we remembered a powerful sentence that lives deep in our hearts. It clearly shows our main goal: to protect and grow art in our society.

To create something meaningful, we need many things—like belief, ideas, experience, and the right tools to share our message.

On this journey, many people and places helped me grow.

There are so many teachers, schools, and kind people that I want to thank for guiding me.

I would like to thank the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye.

These two important institutions give our people many valuable opportunities to learn, grow, and create.

I would also like to thank the **eTwinning Project Team** across Türkiye. They have worked hard to give hundreds of trainings—about how to use artificial intelligence and Web 2.0 tools. These trainings have helped many teachers, including district mentors like me.

(A small note: Artificial intelligence is still developing. Sometimes, pictures made with AI may not look perfect yet. We may need a little more time to see better results, especially from local AI tools.)

I would like to thank the **Ballet Artists Association** and its president, Ayfer Dirlık, for their kind support and care for this book and for the art of ballet. This association brings together ballet artists and ballet schools under one roof. Its goal is to support Turkey’s art world and to help solve the challenges that dancers and art institutions face—by working together like a strong team.

My warmest thanks go to my grandmother Müfide Ozan Argun, my mother Gülay Ozan, my father Fahrettin Otluoğlu, my brother Barış Otluoğlu, my ballet teacher Oya Ölçen, our stage and costume history teacher İncila Yar, and all my dear family members. I also thank all my loved ones who supported me and came to watch my ballet recitals, my wonderful students, the artists and performers with whom I’ve shared beautiful memories, and the kind teachers and volunteers at every school where I gave ballet lessons.

The Web 2.0 tools used in this book include Canva Pro Dream Lab, ChatGPT, OpenAI, and Padlet. You can also follow us through social media!

I would also like to thank Tilki Kitap Publishing House for giving me the chance to create my first book, “*A Dream Through The Window / The Journey Of A Little Ballerina*.” They gave me the freedom to write the story, shape the ideas, and design the book exactly as I imagined it. Thanks to their support, this book became a truly original and heartfelt work.

I hope you share this book with many others, read lots of beautiful stories, and live your life with art by your side. With all my love.

Gonca Otluoğlu
Educator , Art Passionist and Writer

CHAPTER 1: A DREAM AT THE BALLET WINDOW



Every morning, when I left home to go to the grocery store, I always walked the same way. But there was something on that street that made me stop—every single time. I didn't really care about going to the store. What I really wanted was to look inside the ballet school window. I would sit right in front of the glass. Sometimes, I pressed my hands and face against it and watched with all my heart.

Soft ballet music came from inside. The rhythm wrapped around me, and something in my heart began to dance. Inside, the students were doing barre exercises in front of big mirrors. Then they moved to the center of the room and danced with such gentle steps, just like swans floating on water.