



**F**ive-year-old Bellamy Thorpe loved to dance. Her cousin Aubrey had taught her the electric slide and lots of shakes and steps to the music's beat. But best of all, her Girl Scouts were planning a father and daughter Ball at the Butte des Morts Lion's Club Hall. And Bellamy would dance with her father. She was so excited that she couldn't sleep at night.





But Bellamy was sad, too. Her best friend, Katie, couldn't dance. Katie loved music. She loved watching her friends dance. But because she couldn't move her legs, she spent her days in a wheelchair. She could only watch her friends dance at the Ball.

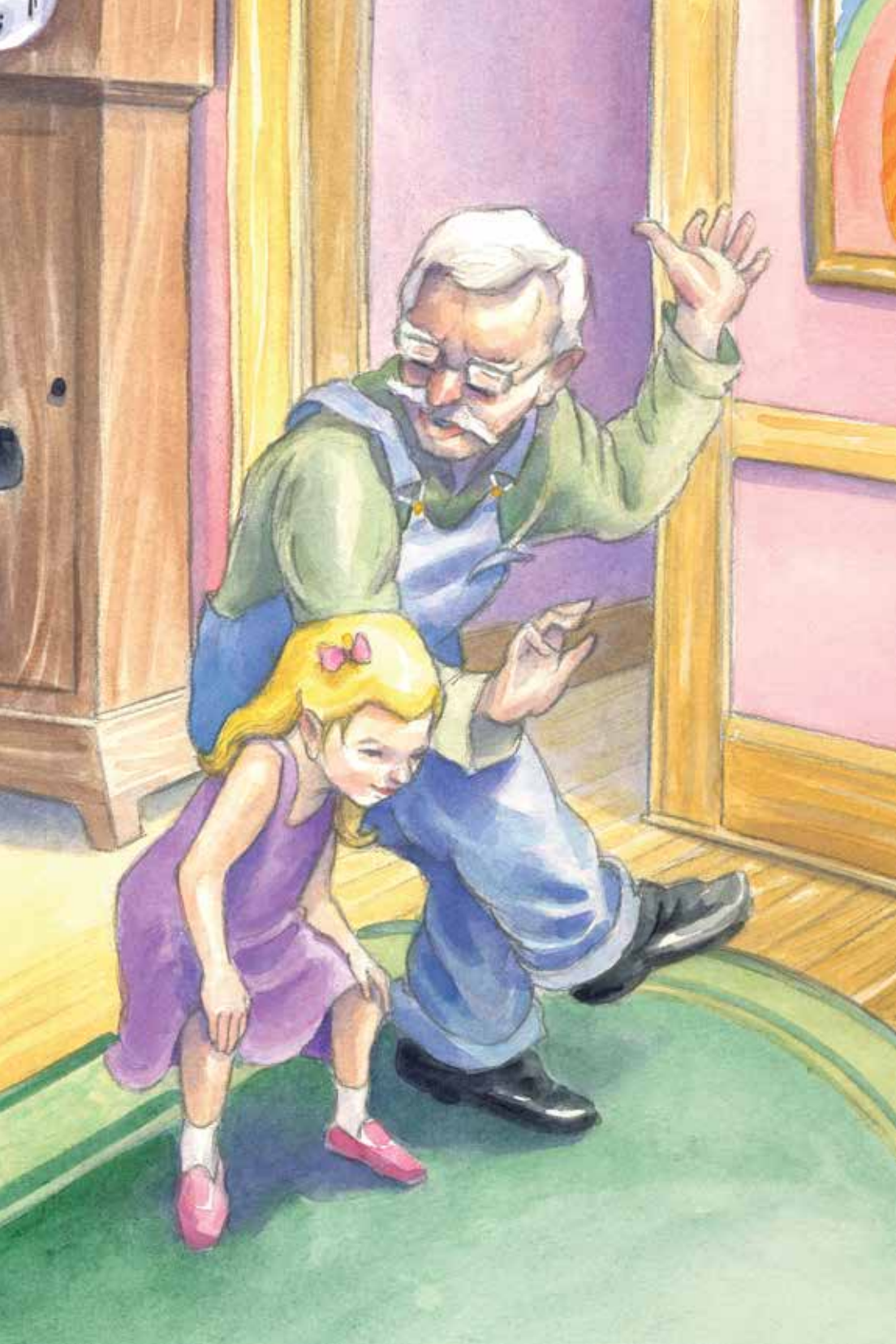
Bellamy heard Katie say, "I can't chase my dog through the yard. But I can pet and love her."

"I can't play in the woods with my friends. But I can watch baby squirrels play hide and seek in our oak tree."

"I can't help Mother carry laundry downstairs. But I love her bedtime stories."

"I can't do lots of things that I'd like to do. So I find other things to enjoy. But I do wish I could dance with my dad at the Girl Scout's Ball."





Katie watched while Bellamy and her friends practiced their dancing. Katie looked so sad that Bellamy wanted to help. But what could she do?

Bellamy asked her mother. Her mother thought for a long time. But she didn't know what to do. Bellamy asked her father. He stopped pounding nails and shrugged his shoulders. He didn't know what to do. Bellamy didn't think Grandpa Thorpe would know about dancing. But she asked him anyway. He wiggled his hips, took a step to each side, and slapped his knees. He called it the Charleston. But that didn't help.



Then Bellamy had an idea of her own. She wanted to talk with her cousin. Aubrey was a Girl Scout, too.

Bellamy found Aubrey playing with her best friend Tilisha. “Aubrey, you know lots of different dances, don’t you?”

And she told Aubrey her plan.





Bellamy asked Aubrey if she knew a hand-dance they could learn. Aubrey played “Little Bunny Foo Foo,” and they practiced two fingers up, two fingers down. They scooped field mice and bopped them on the head. And when the Good Fairy flew down, they pushed themselves off their chairs.

“That’s a fun one to play with,” Aubrey said.

“But you want to help Katie dance. So I’ll teach you how to clap, swing your arms, and sway to the music.”