



Clementine Rose and the ballet break-in **by Jacqueline Harvey**

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This eighth book in the Clementine Rose series is sure to be a hit with young girls. Clementine is a delightful child and when she begins ballet lessons her devoted readers will follow her every step along the way.

Clementine lives in Penberthy House with her mother, Lady Clarissa, tetchy Aunt Violet, and Digby Pertwhistle the butler. However, the household is rather poor and to make ends meet they take in paying guests. Also, Lady Clarissa enters competitions and occasionally wins bizarre prizes that can be surprisingly useful.

Penberthy Floss villagers are a diverse bunch of people who bring colour and eccentricity to the storyline. The cast of characters is enhanced by Lavender, Clementine's pet teacup pig and Herbert, the pet goat of school bully, Joshua.

The village hall has just been rebuilt after a fire and Clementine's class of novice dancers has been invited to entertain guests at the official opening. This sets the stage for some comical disasters and startled reactions from the audience.

The writing is pitch-perfect for junior readers with plenty of humour and dramatic moments. The surprise climax is spot-on.

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**Reviewed by children's book author,
Jean Bennett**

