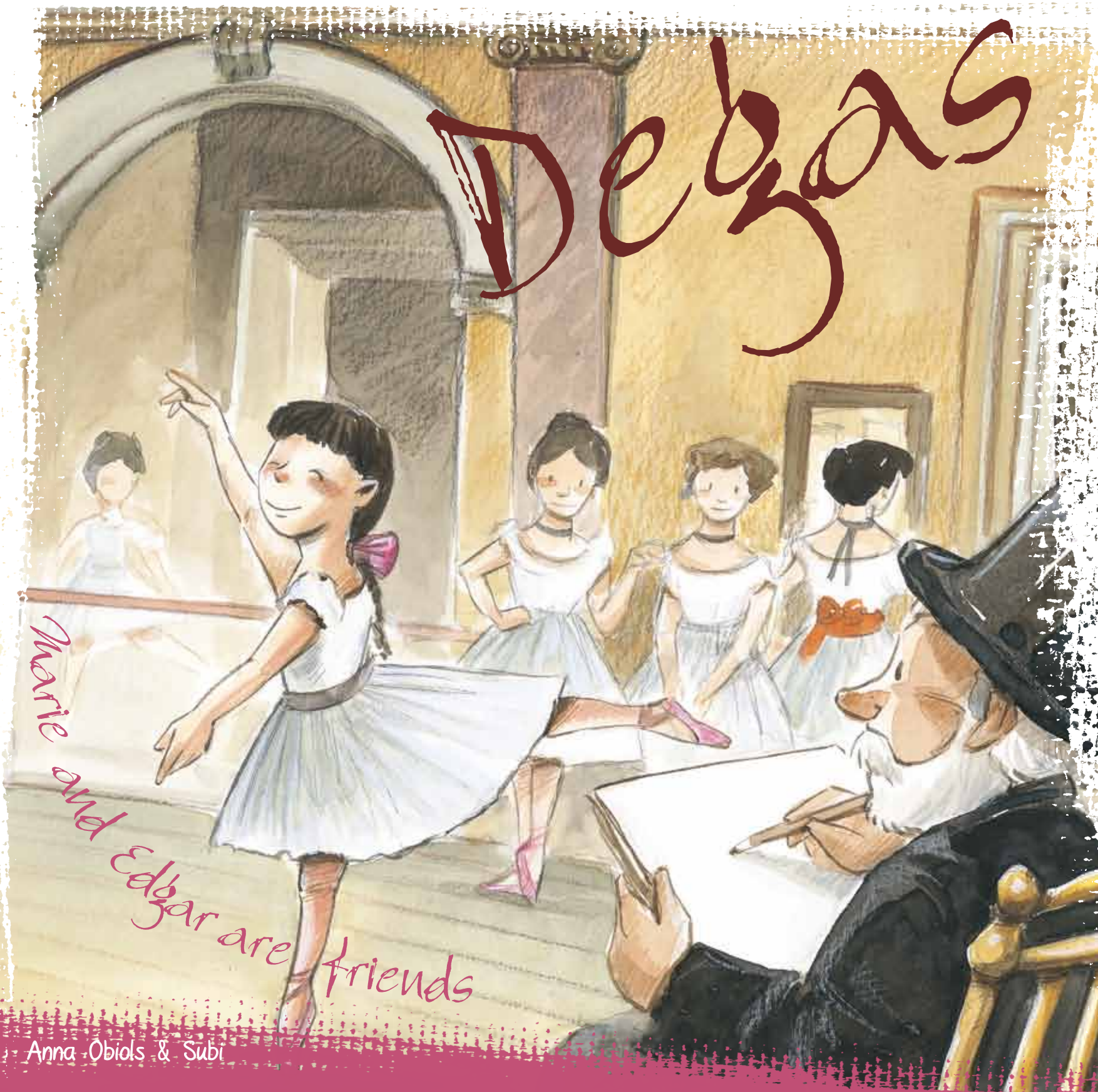


Debas

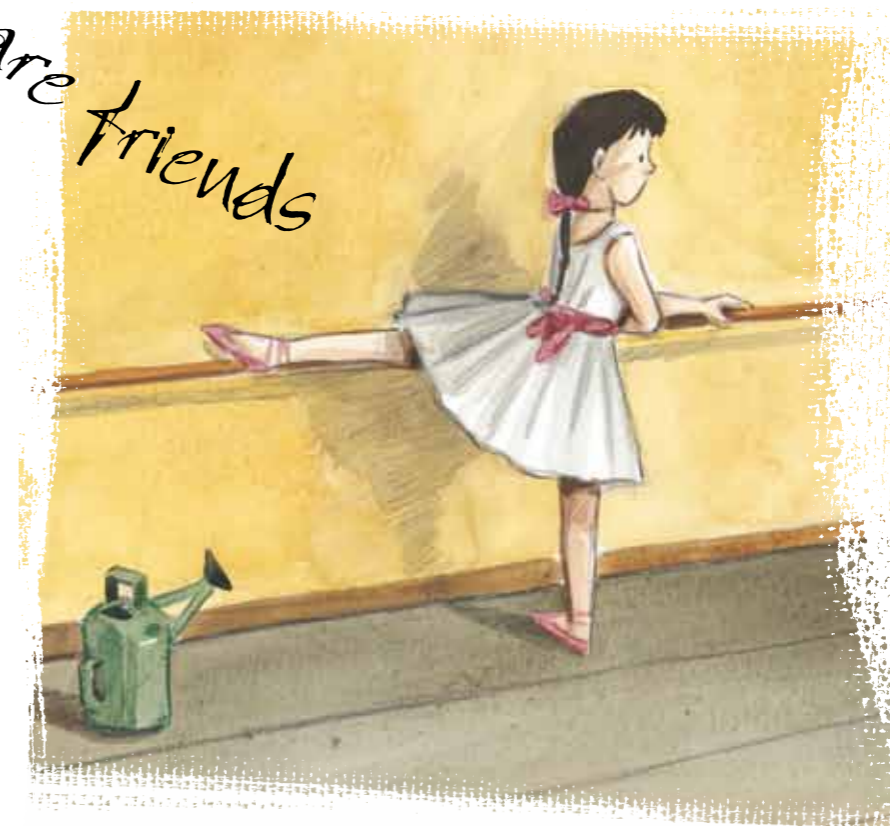
Marie and Edgar are friends

Anna Obials & Subi



Debut

Marie and Edgar are friends



Hello, my name is Marie and I've been dancing ballet since I was little. However, I don't want to talk to you about me, but rather about a bit of a cranky painter friend of mine, who has drawn all the ballerinas in my class: Edgar Degas. When my classmates and I arrive at the school, he is normally already there. He always has a pad and canvases, paints and pastels at the ready.



2-3
Degas

My mother often comes with me. While I'm in class, she waits with the other mothers in the café for us to finish.



4-5
Degas



The other day, I was late, because my mother and I stopped at a bookshop and time flew by without us realizing. Then I had to run and get changed in a hurry and when I was dancing, my tights fell down. But worst of all, Degas drew me while I was trying to put them back into place.

The ballet teacher ordered my classmates to repeat the first steps of the choreography that we were about to perform. Then I got really nervous! "Those tights won't stop annoying me," I said with anxiety.



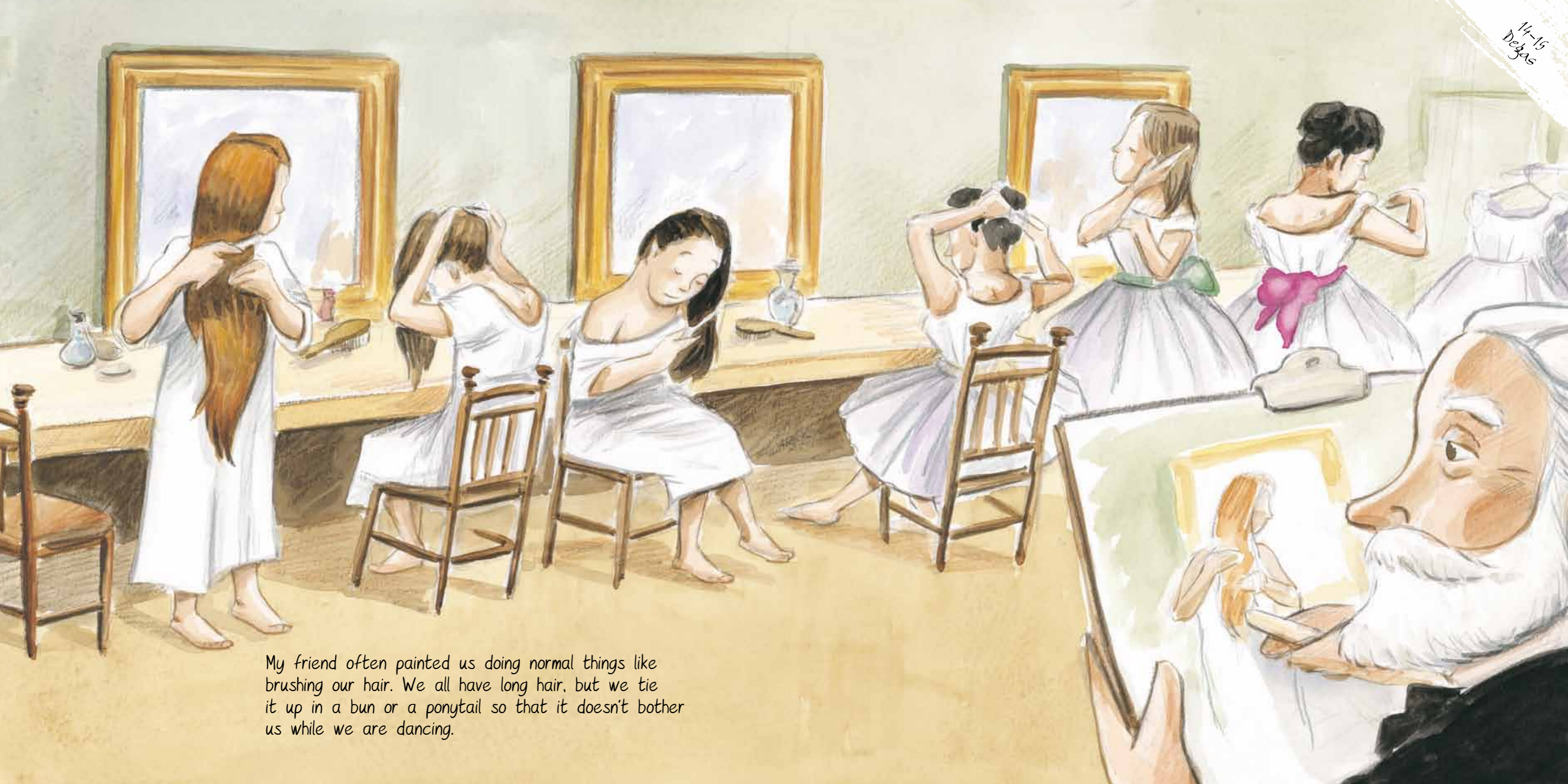
They ended up dancing without me. The violinist played, the professor pointed out the steps, Edgar drew and I stood in a corner looking at it all.



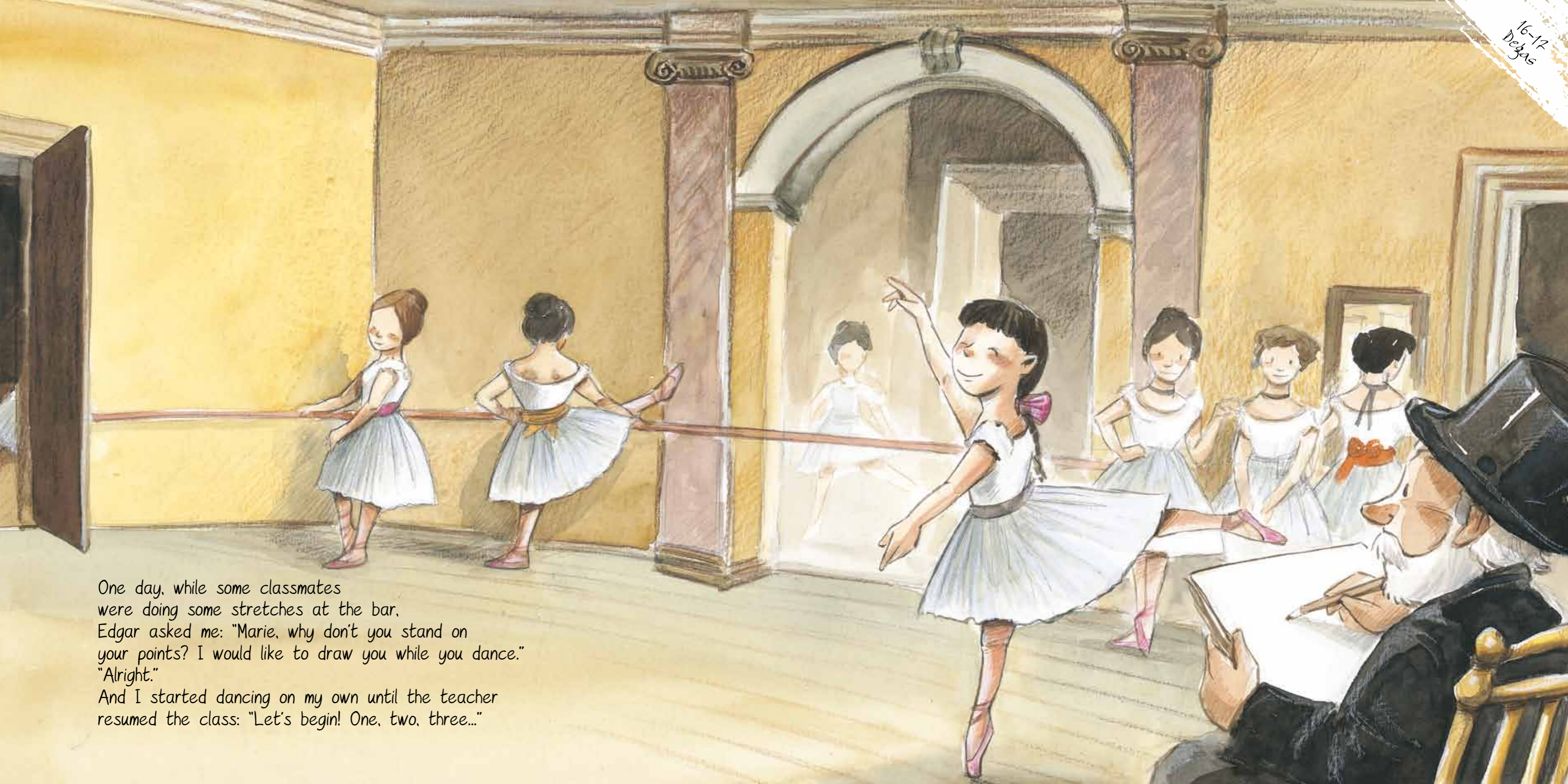


12-13
Degas

"Whoever wants to, may rest," announced the teacher after the exercise. Some of the ballerinas sat down, while others went to practice the movements that they were having trouble with. When I finally managed to keep my tights up, I went to practice the steps that I had missed. And Edgar continued working without stopping; he didn't rest for a second.



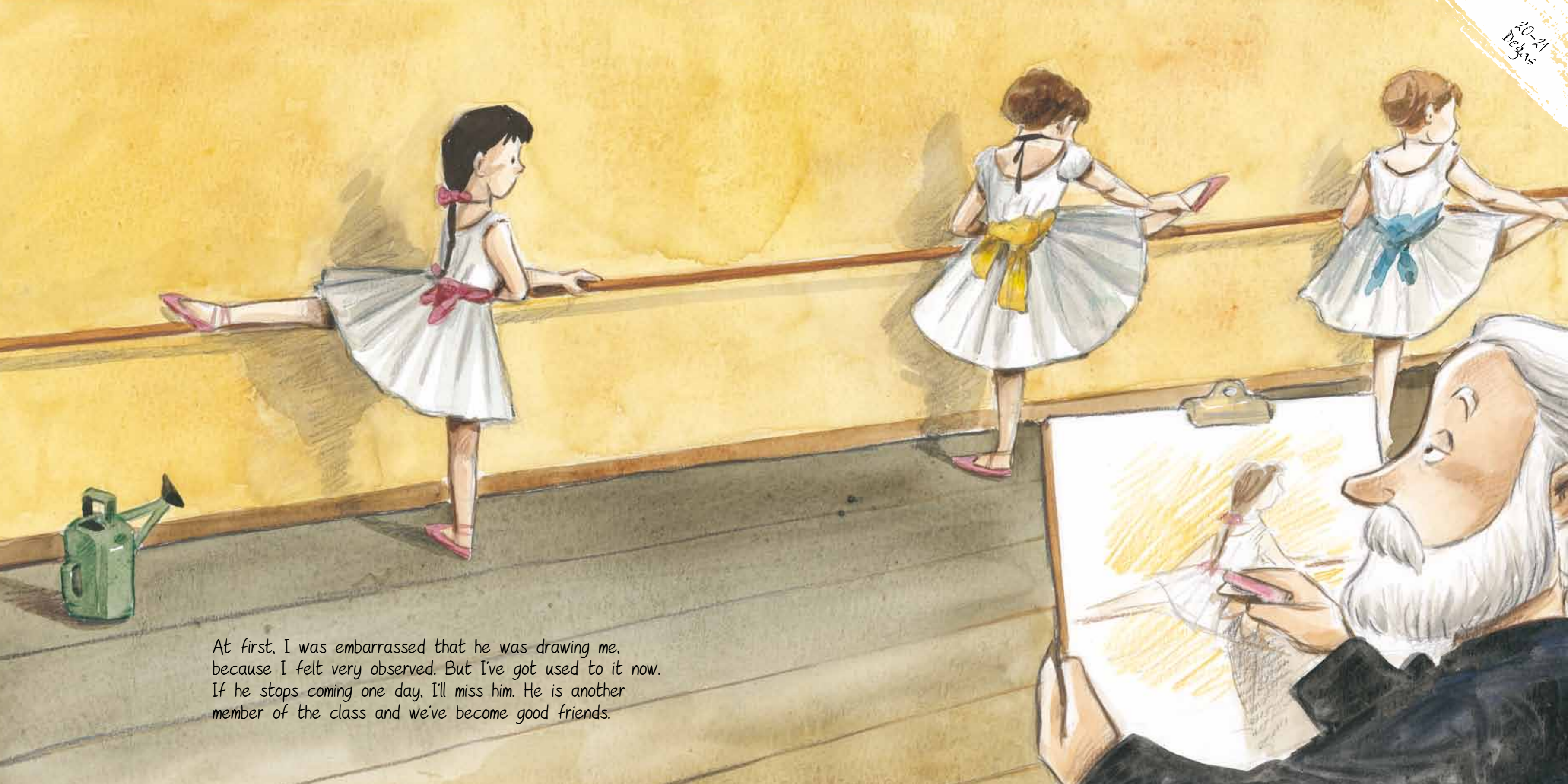
My friend often painted us doing normal things like brushing our hair. We all have long hair, but we tie it up in a bun or a ponytail so that it doesn't bother us while we are dancing.



One day, while some classmates were doing some stretches at the bar, Edgar asked me: "Marie, why don't you stand on your points? I would like to draw you while you dance."
"Alright."
And I started dancing on my own until the teacher resumed the class: "Let's begin! One, two, three..."

He also paints us before the class begins, when we're warming up, when we're fanning ourselves to cool down, when we're reading, when we're adjusting the straps of our dresses and in our free time, when we're resting.



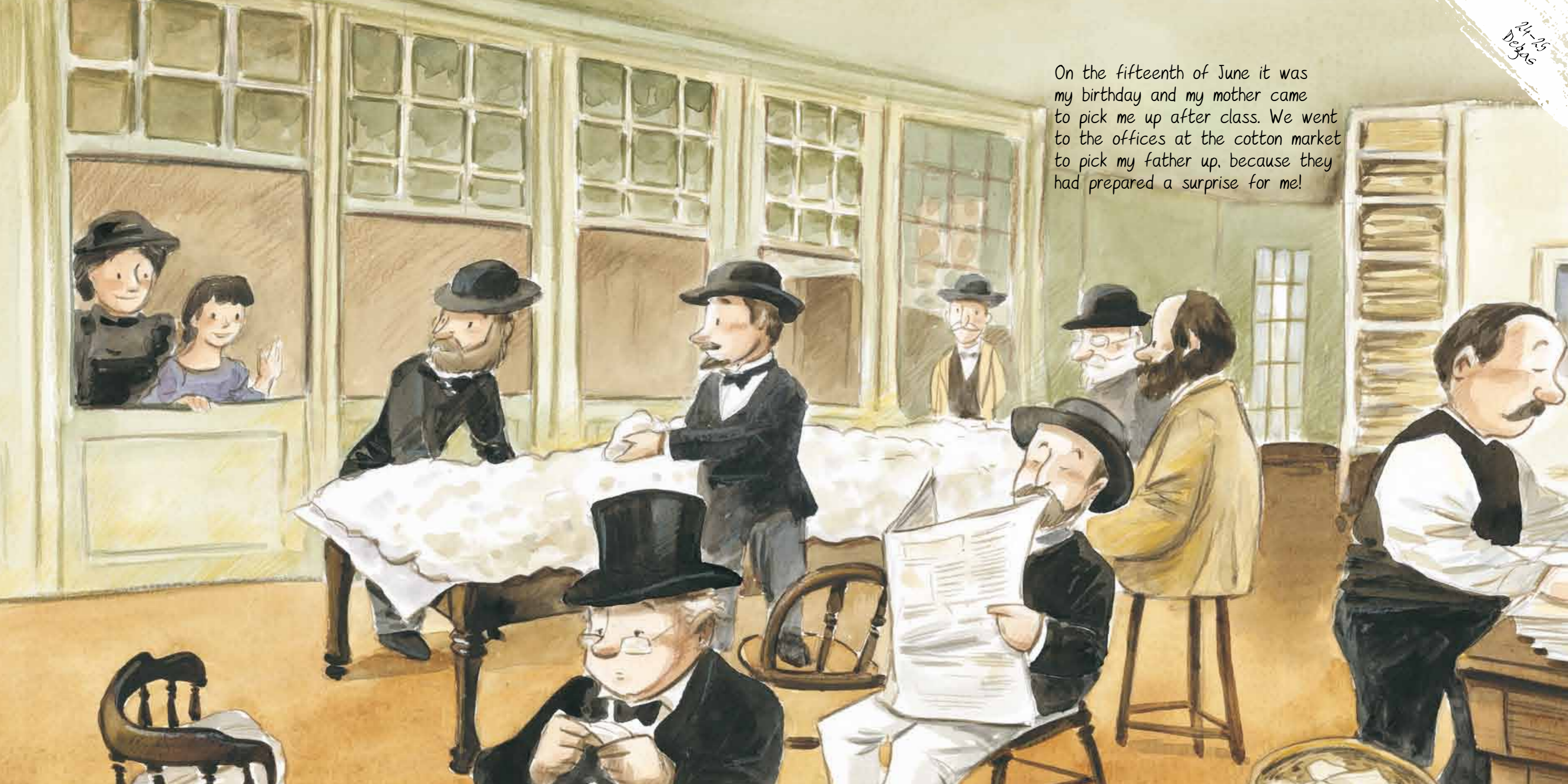


At first, I was embarrassed that he was drawing me, because I felt very observed. But I've got used to it now. If he stops coming one day, I'll miss him. He is another member of the class and we've become good friends.

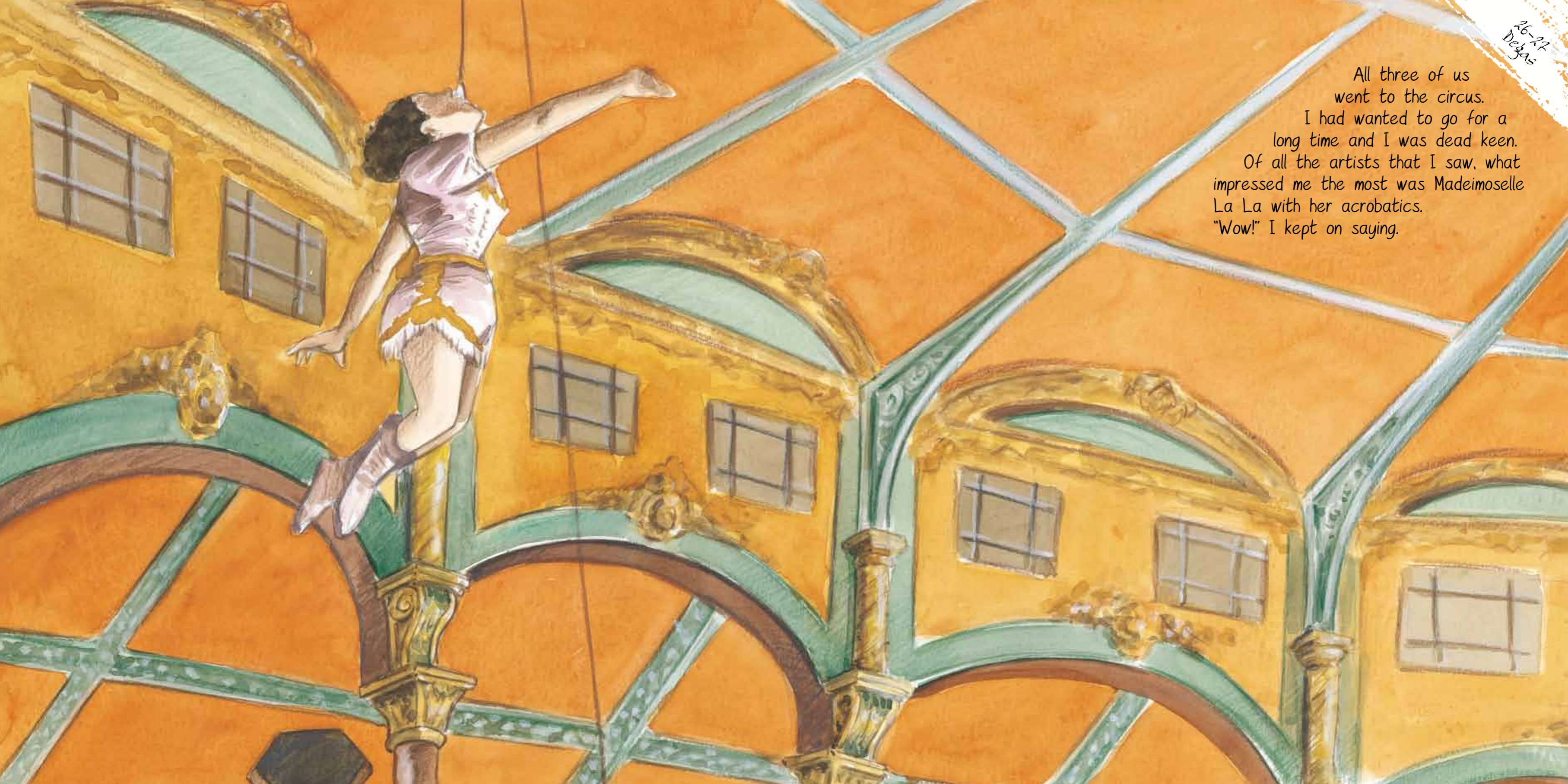


I was very surprised one day, when he painted mum and I sitting on a bench without us realizing.
"I like this drawing very much," I admitted to him.

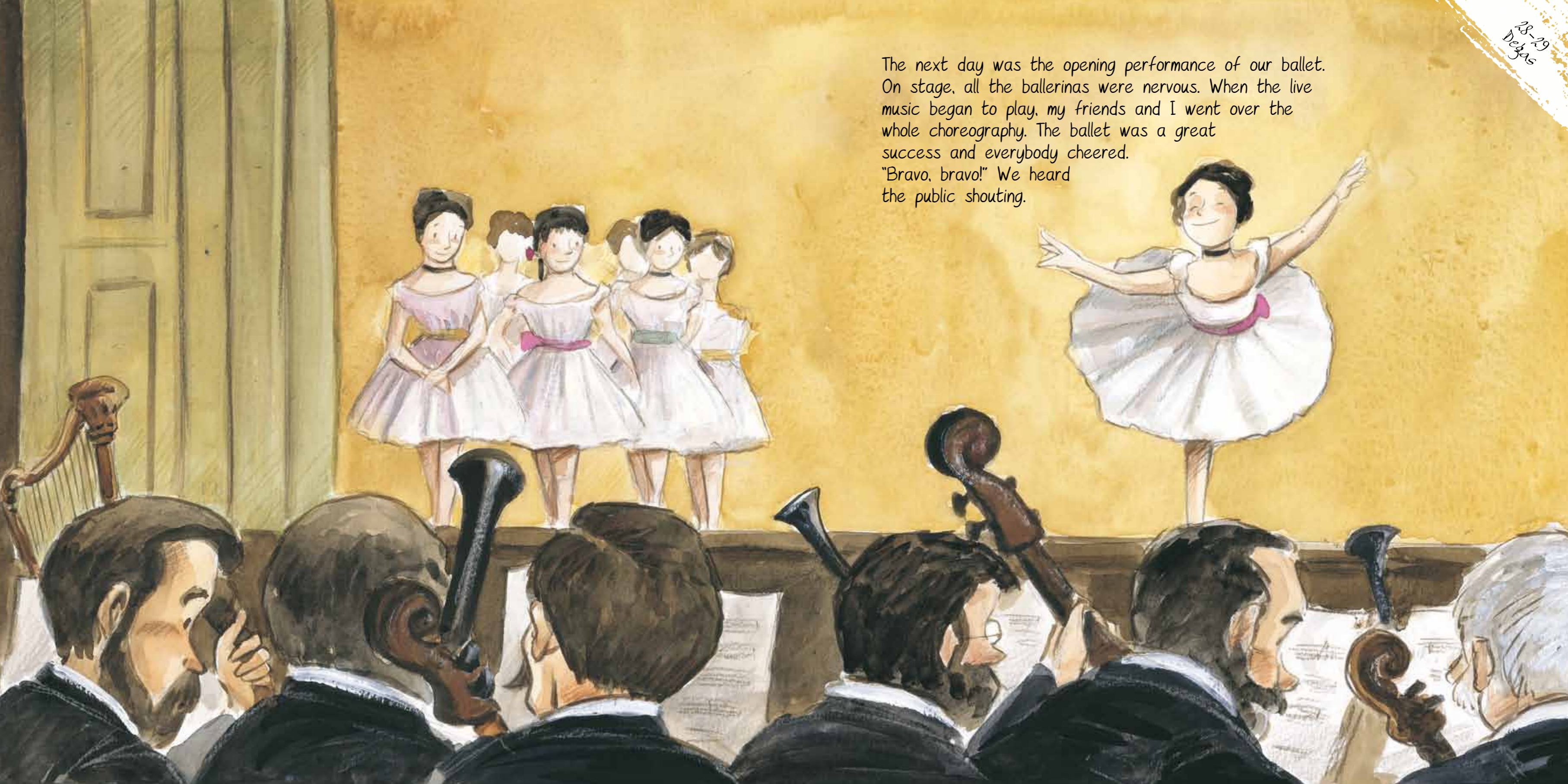
On the fifteenth of June it was my birthday and my mother came to pick me up after class. We went to the offices at the cotton market to pick my father up, because they had prepared a surprise for me!



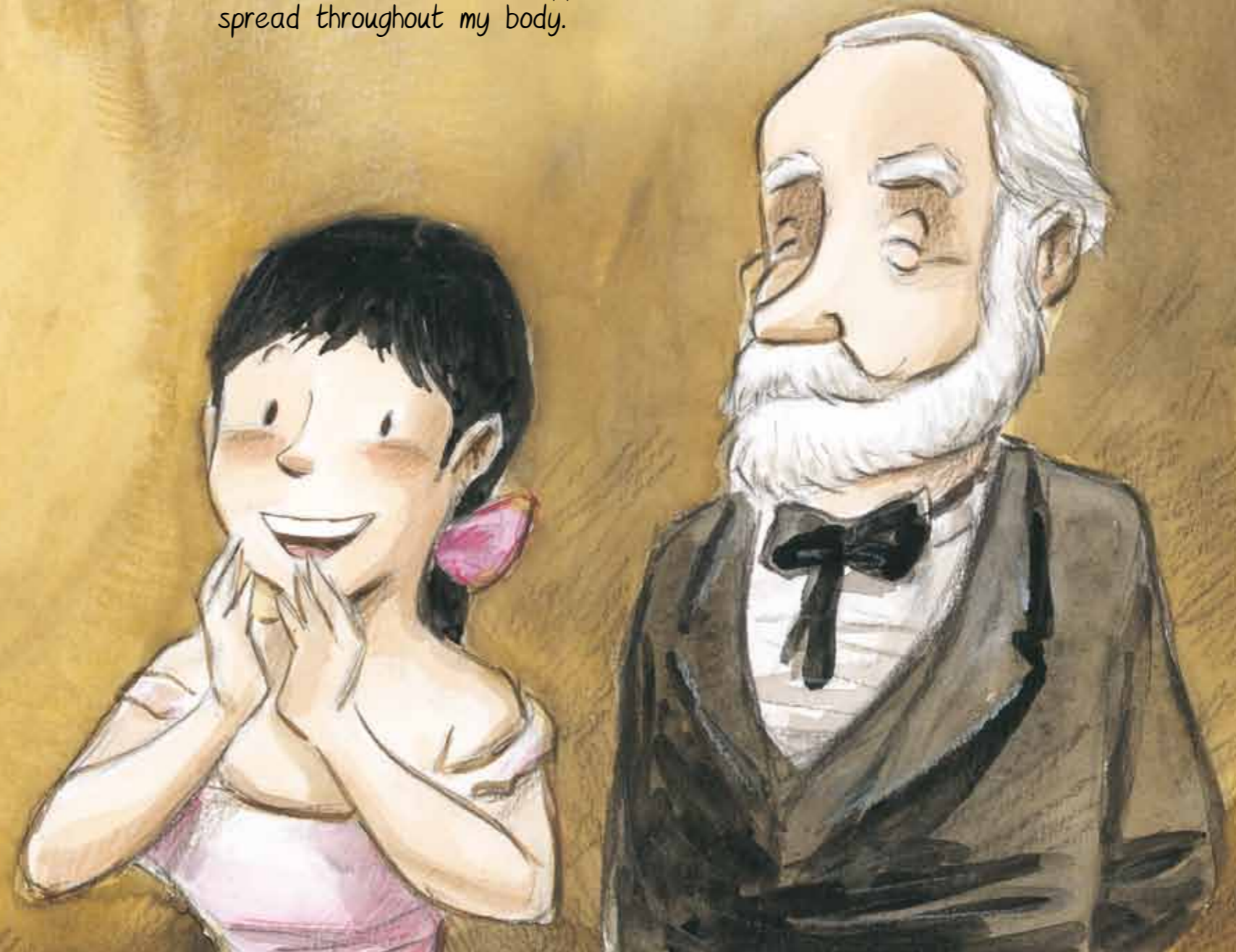
All three of us
went to the circus.
I had wanted to go for a
long time and I was dead keen.
Of all the artists that I saw, what
impressed me the most was Madeimoselle
La La with her acrobatics.
"Wow!" I kept on saying.



The next day was the opening performance of our ballet. On stage, all the ballerinas were nervous. When the live music began to play, my friends and I went over the whole choreography. The ballet was a great success and everybody cheered. "Bravo, bravo!" We heard the public shouting.



When I went into the dressing room to get changed, I found Edgar there. "What a surprise!" "This is for you, Marie," he said pointing to a little wooden box. I went in surprised and I opened it curiously. Inside, there was: The little ballerina. "It's me in bronze," I said with a trickle of a voice as a great happiness spread throughout my body.





Biography

32-33
Degas



Edgar Degas (1834-1917) was born in Paris, where he began studying law, although he soon decided to dedicate himself to his great passion: Painting. To do so, he traveled through Italy and studied the great masters of the Renaissance (such as Michael Angelo and Raphael), whom he greatly admired. Afterwards, he occupied himself with copying a range of paintings from the Louvre Museum to improve his technique.

Degas is above all known for his paintings of ballerinas and horse races, although he also painted portraits and canvases with historic themes. As well as a painter, he was an engraver, sculptor and photographer. One of his other passions was collecting works of art.

At the end of his life, he was almost blind, when he changed from oil painting to pastel techniques and he dedicated himself more to sculpture. From this point onwards, he became a very solitary person and some even branded him as a "grumpy old man."

Artistic Style

Although he is classified within mainstream **Impressionism**, Degas never considered this to be the case. He participated in seven of the eight exhibitions organized by this group, but he was not in the slightest bit interested in nature or capturing the light, which preoccupied his colleagues so. He preferred interior scenes lit artificially. However, he was united with the group by the fact that his paintings represented concrete instants and that he attempted to capture movement with total accuracy.

He was a great admirer of Ingres and Delacroix, among others. From the former, he inherited his way of drawing, while from the second he obtained the color and movement. He was also influenced by Japanese engravings and prints and he showed a great interest in photography.

Degas was one of the most innovative painters of his age, as he contributed a series of new technical solutions, such as softening the pastel with steam and then applying it to the canvas with paintbrushes and the fingers.

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Marie and Edgar are friends

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