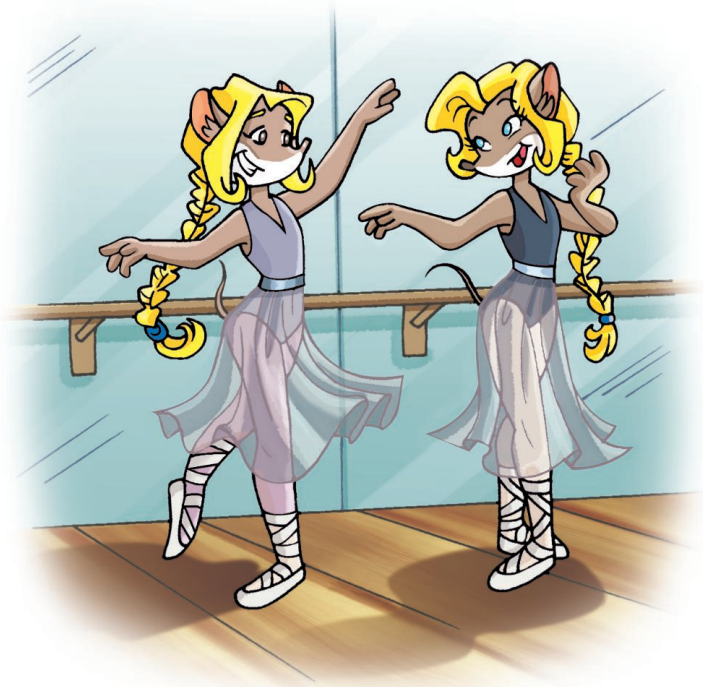


Geronimo Stilton

Thea Stilton  
**AND THE DANCING  
SHADOWS**



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# A SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

It was a cool spring evening in New Mouse City, and the hall at the **Rabid Rodent Readers' Club** was slowly emptying out. I had just finished reading from my latest book.

Wavering whiskers, how I **love** meeting my readers in the fur! Oh, pardon me, I nearly forgot to introduce myself. My name is **THEA STILTON**, and I'm a special correspondent for *The Rodent's Gazette*. I travel all around the world, chasing stories. Between adventures, what I **love** more than anything is writing!

"Thea, your new **book** is fabumouse!" cried Lucy,





the readers' club president. "Why don't we celebrate with dinner at Le Squeakery? They have some **MARVEMOUSE** cheeses."

The invitation was tempting, but I had to decline. "Thank you so much, but tonight I have a **SPECIAL** appointment — with my TV set! My students, the Thea Sisters, are going to appear on cable."

A little while back, I'd been invited to teach a class in **adventure journalism**





at my old school, Mouseford Academy. *Colette*, *Nicky*, *PAMELA*, *PAULINA*, and *Violet* — the Thea Sisters — were in my class. Without a doubt, they are the five brainiest, most talented mouselets I've ever met.

Tonight, a cable channel dedicated to ballet was showing a special program direct from *LA SCALA* theater in Milan, Italy — one of the most *FAMOUSE* theaters in the world. The *THEA SISTERS* would be performing onstage! That morning, I had received a *text* from Paulina telling me when to tune in. I couldn't wait to see the mouselets dancing their tails off!

But to tell you how this latest *adventure* began, I need to rewind a few months, to a rainy afternoon on *WHALE ISLAND*. . . .