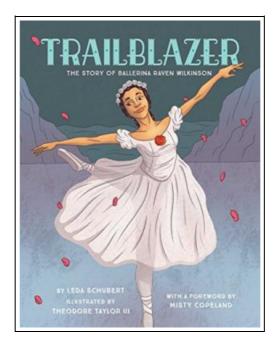
Trailblazer: The Story of Ballerina Raven Wilkinson (Hardback)



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TRAILBLAZER: THE STORY OF BALLERINA RAVEN WILKINSON (HARDBACK)



Little Bee Books, 2018. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. This beautiful picture book tells the little-known story of Raven Wilkinson, the first African American woman to dance for a major classical ballet company and an inspiration to Misty Copeland. Raven Wilkinson was born on February 2, 1935, in New York City. From the time she was a little girl, all she wanted to do was dance. On Raven s ninth birthday, her uncle gifted her with ballet lessons, and she completely fell in love with dance. While she was a student at Columbia University, Raven auditioned for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and was finally accepted on her third try, even after being told she couldn't dance with them because of her skin color. When she started touring with her troupe in the United States in 1955, Raven encountered much racism in the South, but the applause, alongside the opportunity to dance, made all the hardship worth it. Several years later she would dance for royalty with the Dutch National Ballet and regularly performed with the New York City Opera until she was fifty. This beautiful picture book tells the uplifting story of the first African American woman to dance for a major classical ballet company and how she became a huge inspiration for Misty Copeland. Theodore Taylor III s unique, heavy line style of illustration brings a deeper level of fluidity and life to the work, and Misty Copeland s beautifully written foreword will delight ballet and dance fans of all ages.

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