



Dark Turns

Cate Holahan

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Nia Washington is an incredibly talented ballerina. She fought her way up from the streets and was nearing the pinnacle of her profession when an injury and a broken heart derailed her career. Taking a temporary job at an elite boarding school was supposed to give her time to nurse both body and soul. It was supposed to be a safe place to launch a triumphant comeback. It is anything but.

Shortly after she arrives at the beautiful lakeside campus, she discovers the body of a murdered student, and her life takes a truly dark turn. It's not long before she is drawn into a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse with a ruthless killer. And Nia isn't the only target. She must use all of her street smarts to protect her dancers, save a wrongfully accused student, and rescue the man she loves.

A stunning and suspenseful tale of passion and betrayal, Cate Holahan's *Dark Turns* will take readers deep into the mind of a murderer and the woman who must put an end to the killing.

Dark Turns Details

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Author : Cate Holahan

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From Reader Review Dark Turns for online ebook

Charlotte Lynn says

I saw it coming... I wanted to be wrong...

The book started with a murder of a teenage girl. I was enthralled. The who done it part of the story kept me reading. I knew who did it, I kept guessing, I hoped I was wrong. The drama was to be expected in a book of teenagers who lived together 24/7, studying together, going to class together, and being in competition with each other for everything.

What surprised me are the adults. I could not believe how clueless they were. How could they not see what was happening in front of them. Nia was the one that saw the most. Yet, she did not tell. She kept secrets until forced to tell them. I was interested in her relationship with Jeremy. I could not make up my mind on whether I liked their relationship or not. I am still unsure, but I know now what their relationship really was.

Dark Turns takes the reader into the mind of a murderer. I loved every page. I recommend checking out the book.

Mary says

Having just finished, and really enjoyed, *Lies She Told* by Holahan, I was excited to check out another of her books. *Dark Turn* was a huge disappointment. A few chapters in I had to check to make sure this was written by the same author. The writing seemed different, stilted, the characters one dimensional and dopey. There wasn't an ounce of emotion throughout. Nia was really annoyingly naive. . She meets Peter and immediately has an exclusive relationship with him. He became "her boyfriend". And if I had to hear that phrase more than the countless times it was used, I'd have screamed. Actually, I did, in my head. The murder mystery was so predictable, the "twist" not even a semi twist, and I didn't care anything for any of them.

Amit Tiwary says

A good one time read. This shouldn't disappoint. It was recommend as a book similar to dark thrillers of Gillian Flynn.

Celia Weekes says

This was not my favorite book by Cate Holahan. It was too predictable and I was not a fan of the murder being solved by a teacher at the school while the police department appeared to be inept.

Breakaway Reviewers says

Dark Turns by Cate Holahan 3 Stars

Dancers, divas and deception; a slightly unconvincing thriller

I must admit to having mixed feelings about this novel. I couldn't decide whether it was teen fiction or an adult thriller; in fact in many ways it took me back to my girlhood, and Noel Streatfield's ballet school stories. On balance I would summarise this book to be a teen or post-teen novel with a gentle thriller taking second place to life at the ballet school; each chapter begins with a description of a ballet position.

The story starts with Nia, a twenty-something ballerina with an ankle injury which means she is unable to dance professionally until it is healed. She has taken a job as a resident 'teacher advisor' at a prestigious school, the Wallace Academy which has a dedicated ballet programme allowing Nia to work with the ballet students as a lowly assistant teacher.

Having taken up residence and with the students returning for the new term, Nia is being given a tour of the school by Mr Battle, the head of the ballet programme when they discover the body of a student floating in the lake. It soon becomes clear that the death of this young girl was not accidental.

This is a very readable book and there are some great characters, especially the quite demonic Aubrey, the best dancer who will stop at nothing to become a success. Also worth a mention is the Russian Madame V. who is almost a caricature of a ballet teacher and Peter, the English teacher who is quick to befriend Nia but who, to my mind, reeked of duplicity.

The book has murder, bullying, narcotics, paedophilia and a lot of general unpleasantness, but to me it still didn't really pass muster as a thriller. That said I did enjoy it, even taking into account Nia's total naivety which I did find irritating.

Pashtpaws

Breakaway Reviewers received an advanced copy of the book to review

Brandi says

Cate Holahan's "Dark Turns" is a descent book with a well-written plot and interesting characters. Nia Washington is a likable protagonist. The setting was quite original. The overall plot, not so much. Aubrey was detestable yet intriguing and quite an original character in some ways.

Overall, I'd rate the book around 4.6. It is well-written and certain aspects of the story are original. The author does a good job of drawing the reader into the story.

I won my copy of this book from the Goodreads.com wabsite and appreciate the opportunity to read and review it.

K. says

A thriller that involves ballet and a POC ballerina protagonist? Obviously I was sold on this, especially after absolutely loving *Pointe* a few years ago. I was hoping this would be an adult version of that, but unfortunately it wasn't even in the same ballpark in terms of quality.

Frankly, I found this incredibly predictable. Clues weren't dropped so much as anvils. There were very few possible suspects, very few possible outcomes, and really all that was left was for Nia to join the dots that the reader had joined two hundred pages earlier.

That said, it had its creepy moments and the ballet side of things was great. So it wasn't a total loss.

Tara Williams says

I finished *Dark Turns* in a few days, I couldn't put it down. I couldn't get enough of loving to hate one of the main characters Aubrey, whose narcissism and cruelty was both terrifying and intriguing. I tend to really like this thrillers featuring female leads. *Dark Turns* makes a great addition to my favorites in this category along with *Gone Girl* and *Girl on a Train*.

Book Riot Community says

Ballet. An academic setting (a boarding school, to be precise!). A PoC main character. And a murder mystery. This novel rang so many of my bells, it's not surprising that I loved it. Holahan writes the main character, Nia Washington, so well. A talented ballerina taking a year off because of injury, Nia is smart, capable, and entirely engaging. The book has a dark, sinister atmosphere that will suck you in completely, and you won't be sure who you can trust as the story races through twists and turns. It's one I thoroughly enjoyed from beginning to end, and will be recommending to everyone I know. — Swapna Krishna

from The Best Books We Read In December: [http://bookriot.com/2015/12/23/riot-r...](http://bookriot.com/2015/12/23/riot-reviews-best-books-read-december/)

Sarah Cain says

I really enjoyed this fast paced thriller. Set in an elite boarding school, the novel features an interesting heroine in Nia Washington, a talented ballerina who has suffered injury and heartbreak. Nia takes a temporary job as an assistant dance instructor and soon discovers the body of a murdered student. I really enjoyed the detail given to the dance instruction. It lent real authenticity to Nia's voice, and thought the book was a great fast-paced read with a great twist. A great debut!

Linda says

Young adult romance/mystery

Not what I expected and not like The Widower's Wife, by same author, which I enjoyed reading. This book was more of a romance novel than mystery.

Cheryl says

I seem to be in the minority when it comes to this book. I was not over joyed or head over heels in love with this book. In fact, I struggled through the first half of the book. I was not feeling the suspenseful build up surrounding the killing of the young girl that Nia found in the water. Also, the fact that the story took place at a school for ballerinas did not add any dimension to the story. If anything I found myself doing a little comparison to Black Swan. In my eyes I felt this book was lacking in how dark Black Swan was.

Nia was alright but she did not pop off the pages and make me fully intrigued with her. At times I wanted to scream at her because I found her naive. Also, I found the relationship she had in the story to be dull as well. Yet, the second half of the story did pick up and was better. The ending was a bit predictable.

Becki says

This was an engaging mystery full of twists and turns. The story begins with Nia, the new dance assistant at a prestigious private school, discovering a body of one of the students in the lake. The drama continues for Nia as she meets her ballet students, one of which is ruthless in her determination to remain number one, and falls for the young poetry teacher who seems to be hiding something. All the while, Nia is entwined with the police investigation of the murdered student and is eventually targeted by the killer. I couldn't put this book down until I reached the end and was surprised by the final twist.

Linda says

Nia Washington is a 22 year old ballet dancer recovering from an injury and a romantic breakup. She takes a temp position at a posh private school as assistant to the director of their elite dance program, until she's strong enough to returning to auditioning for pro companies. Nia's very first day on the job is marred by her discovery of a student's body floating in the campus lake, apparently strangled. Dark Turns focuses upon the aftermath, as she tries to glean some insight into who might have committed the murder.

As a mystery, Dark Turns reads rather like a novel for teens and young adults. Nia is a likeable, earnest young woman who enjoys her contact with the students in her class. The other adults in the book come across according to type, including the school's stern director, the officious head of campus security, and the local "just the facts, Ma'am" police. Somewhat more natural is Nia's new love interest, Peter Anderson, English teacher. Scattered liberally through each chapter are explanations of dance terms, description of dancers, dances, and costumes, and details about the relationships among Nia's students. The plot line is stretched pretty thin, and there is little attention paid to developing any of the characters. Also scattered about are thinly-veiled "tells", from which the reader can come up with a viable suspect but Nia apparently cannot.

Dark Turns would probably be better appreciated by teens, dance aficionados, and mystery readers who expect a more complex tale.

Kathy Martin says

Nia Washington is a talented ballerina who is taking a break by working at a posh private school while a foot injury heals. She certainly doesn't expect to find the body of a student in the lake when she is being given a tour of the campus.

Nia is a Resident Adviser in a girls' dorm and the assistant to the head ballet instructor. As she gets to know her ballet students, she starts to hear rumors about the dead girl. The boy who is being convicted by the court of popular opinion is staying in the dorm where Peter Andersen is the RA. Peter and Nia hit it off and begin dating. Nia is on the rebound from a relationship with another dancer who has decided that he wants her back.

As Nia investigates the young girl's death and the relationships among the students, she becomes suspicious of one of the students. Aubrey is used to being the star dancer. She also had a sexual relationship with the boy that was videoed and spread around the campus. She is jealous of a new dancer who wins the coveted lead in the next show. But somehow, despite not drinking, attends a party with her new best friend Aubrey, drinks too much, falls down a flight of stairs and breaks her ankle.

When Aubrey accuses Nia of sexting her, things reach an exciting conclusion. I was somewhat surprised at Aubrey's reasons because I had convinced myself that she was just evil and wasn't going to let anyone or anything stand in the way of her getting whatever she wanted. And, maybe that is still true. But there were extenuating circumstances that wind up putting Nia's life in danger.

This was an engaging mystery that kept me on the edge of my seat.
