

Dance

Teodora Kostova

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Jared Hartley is happy. He has a starring role in a popular West End musical, great friends, adoring fans and his own flat in Central London. A relationship is not something he has ever really wanted. Making big plans for the future is not in his nature – Jared is content with his single status and enjoying all the benefits of that lifestyle.

He doesn't even realise something is missing in his life.

Until he meets Fenix.

Fenix Bergman has a dream – to perform on Broadway. When he gets offered the lead role in Poison – a new musical based in London, he accepts, immediately recognising the huge potential of the show.

Fenix thinks he has his life completely figured out – he will move to London, help Poison become the new West End hit and bide his time until Broadway comes knocking on his door. He has never wished for anything else but proving to himself and the world that he is a performer worthy of the biggest theatre stage. Until he meets Jared.

Jared and Fenix's lives collide and they fill each other's missing pieces. Neither of them expects to feel so much, so fast for the other.

Neither of them expects to need someone so badly when love hasn't even been in their plans.

But when Fenix's star becomes too bright for London, will the dream he's chased all his life ruin the dream he's holding in his hands?

Will he survive getting everything he's ever wanted?

Will Jared?

explicit sexual content, graphic language and adult themes. Recommended for readers 18+ only

Dance Details

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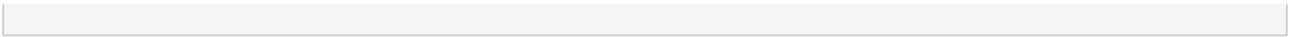
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From Reader Review Dance for online ebook

Linda ~ chock full of hoot, just a little bit of nanny ~ says

DNF @ 6%

Well, that is some of the most awkward and clunky writing that I've come across in awhile. I'm already skimming. Onto the next book!

***J* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

3.5 Stars!

Not too shabby! This is a new author for me....and I noticed there were quite a few typos!

But the story was pretty good and the steam factor was high!

Fenix and Jared are both dancers in musicals in London. Jared's home is in London. He's happy on West End performing. He hasn't met anyone relationship worthy.

Fenix's dream is to make it to Broadway. So when his play gets moved to West End he jumps at the chance, knowing he's one step closer to his ultimate goal. And then he meets Jared...

I've got to say, this was INSTA-INSTA love. Like super duper fast falling in love. But the story does span over several years so I think that helped...

Jared and Fenix share an intense connection. They live together, they work together, they spend all of their free time together, both are nominated for awards for their respective plays. Things couldn't be better for Jared and Fenix.

And then Fenix gets a call that will change everything. Now Fenix is forced to choose....his dreams of Broadway or a life with Jared in London?

Fenix soon learns that dreams aren't always worth living without the one you love by your side. But will it be too late?

I really liked Fenix and Jared's characters. They had great sexual chemistry and literally lit up the pages. I could have done without the "scandal" at the end...but overall, this was an enjoyable MM read.

Barbara says

The cover and the dance theme instantly attracted me to this book, and WOW... I'm so glad I read it!! Was just what I was hoping for, such a beautiful love story with some great twists, some pain and some heartbreak but in the right measures.

The sex scenes between Fenix and Jared are incredibly sexy and off the charts, but also so beautiful and loving, the chemistry ... oh my gosh!!

I loved the way they are honest with each other, they don't hide their feelings, they are truly perfect, for me it has a sense of fairy-tale, and who doesn't love a HEA!?

It isn't 5 stars because there are some issues that doesn't add up for me! But maybe is just me, read it and judge for yourself!

My boys!

Highly recommended!

PS: Teodora I have a small request ... I want Adam to get his own book, please write about him!! <3

MaDoReader says

Ronda de bailarines, toma 1

1,5 Estoy generosa y redondeo al alza porque la autora lo deja claro en la dedicatoria, esto es para los que creen en el amor a primera vista, bueno para el amor y todo lo demás porque ya estamos otra vez con el insta-todoloquesemenea

No me han gustado ellos, ni sus escarceos, ni sus diálogos, todo es absolutamente un tanto desproporcionado, como siempre digo, para mí, que no es que este libro sea malo, sólo que no es para mí.

Y por cierto, baile, baile, pues no... >:(

Deanna Against Censorship says

The setting around dance and the theater created a vibrant background for the story. I wanted to see the

musical, it felt that real. The two MCs made a hot couple. There were sparks flying off the page when they met. Although this was a story of instant love and lust, it continued for years. Their love deepen. Then heartbreak. The depths of sorrow and despair of the MCs felt as real as their love had.

One minor point that bothered me. The guys kept saying they each liked their love hard and dirty, yet the sex scenes, while hot and heavy were not hard and dirty. Either way can work in a story but why keep saying one and doing the other? Minor point as I said.

The cover was excellent. Beautiful and sensual.

This is a new author for me. I see that Adam's story will be published soon. I will read that one also.

Denise H. says

***** Gosh, I simply absorbed this book...wow ! The cover alone is stunning !! ***** I didn't want it to end, and I loved every line. If the deep characters and smokin' hot sex weren't enough to keep your attention, the well written story would. Thought-filled emotions, intense, amazing character development, and a steady flowing plot will engage you. These terrific men are in established careers, intelligent and thriving. Teodora Kostkova writes a beautiful story of M/M love at first sight, and the immensely riveting flow their lives take from the sensational beginning to the heartwarming conclusion. Their love knew no bounds. We get stupendous, erotic, enthralling sex scenes that make your knees weak. Loved it !!! The reader also gets dual POV, which made it that much richer. Was this book perfect, no, but the characters were sensational, and I loved it !!
Highly recommend ! E N J O Y !!!

(view spoiler)

=====

Andrew says

I am so disappointed. Whatever happened to 'show, don't tell?'

Tina says

Fenix and Jared are both stage actor/singer/dancers. The triple threat. Jared is performing in a show at Queen Victoria Theater in West London which he co-wrote with his best friend Adam. Fenix gets the lead role in another musical about a rock bad which will be sharing the theater with Jared's show. He and Jared will also share a dressing room.

Fenix's goal has always been to star in a Broadway show. His mother did it but was injured in a suspicious accident many years ago which cut her career short and left her in a wheelchair. Fenix sees the show in West

London as a stepping-stone to his ultimate goal. He plans to make *Poison* a success and make himself indispensable so that when the show is offered a spot on Broadway he will go along with it. He makes it clear to everyone, including Jared that this is his plan.

Fenix doesn't count on the immediate and undeniable need to be with Jared. Not just sexually. But every minute of every day. They fall very quickly into a serious relationship, both seeming to forget that this is only a stopover on Fenix's ride to the top. The first months of their relationship happen very quickly but take up a large portion of the book. There is so much sex, it is almost too much. Instead of developing a relationship through spending time together doing things for fun, talking, learning each other's likes and dislikes, Fenix and Jared have sex. Sometimes they talk, too. Mostly just the sex though. The first half of the book is made up of approximately the first eight months of their relationship.

When it looks like Fenix's dreams are coming true, their idyllic world seems to fall apart around them. It's unclear if either of them will survive without the other. They both take different paths to deal with their loneliness and sorrow, but they are both terribly bereft and sad. They have no contact for two years. This doesn't really make sense to me. If they loved each other, I would have expected them to most likely to have at least spoken or e-mailed to keep up with each other's careers if nothing else.

It is now about two-thirds of the way through the book. The pacing felt off to me. The first half covered eight months, then a small portion contained events of over two years, which were skimmed over by the author and given very little detail.

The initial insta-love caused a little eye rolling. As did the ease with which they parted ways when Broadway came calling. They were so miserable without each other that it seemed implausible to me that one of them wouldn't have reached out to the other. Then, when Fenix had reached his goal, he realized it wasn't enough. The ease with which he undid the previous two years was again, implausible. By this time, I wanted Jared and Fenix back together so badly I would have believed almost anything to see it happen!

I loved the characters and really wanted them to have everything they wanted. The supporting cast was engaging, too. Ms. Kostova described the dancing and scenes from both plays very well; I could practically smell the sweat. For the most part, I enjoyed the book.

I really did enjoy this book. I admittedly skimmed over a large portion of the sex, just because there was so, so much of it. I loved the last third of the book, even if, again, things happened too fast to feel real. By that point in time, it was what I expected from Jared and Fenix. The end and epilogue were deeply satisfying, but left Jared's best friend Adam hanging there, ripe for his sequel... I look forward to it.

Nic says

I *really* enjoyed this story, so much so that I read it in a single sitting. What a lovely way to start my weekend - curled up in bed with a good book. I only meant to read a chapter or two while I had my coffee but....

Set against the backdrop of the theatre, *Dance* brings together Fenix, a rising star who dreams of Broadway, and Jared, who is living his dream on the stage in London.

This is a story of a grand romance, the type of love that, when it hits, it hits hard and fast. It's love at first sight and within days of meeting, Fenix and Jared are in love and inseparable.

"Come home with me," he said quietly. Fenix hesitated. "Please. I..." he pulled back to look in his eyes. "I want to make love to you in a bed. Not that this wasn't great, but fast and hard in a club's toilet is not my idea of romance."

**"I wasn't aware we were looking for romance," Fenix replied, his voice teasing.
"Well, now that you are aware, will you come home with me?"**

I loved the openness and honesty, the lack of trying to hide feelings, instead grabbing the opportunity for love with both hands and not wasting a minute of being happy - such a great motto for life! And when Jared and Fen are together, it is magic.

There is a lot of sex in the story. These are men with strong feelings who aren't shy of being emotional but this doesn't mean it is all gentle loving. Jared and Fen are passionate and their coupling is frequent - at times making love but at others it's oh, so very hard and dirty!

It's not all roses for Jared and Fenix and the book has its period of heartache as they make stupid decisions. Their world moves from perfect happiness to one filled with darkness and sorrow. I like how the author managed the choices made by these men and how the same idea of grabbing what life gives you with both hands brings them back together.

The story finishes with a lovely happy ending.

A copy of this book was provided by the author in return for my honest review.

Julie (*Happily Ever Chapter*) says

I really enjoyed the first half of this one but the second half killed it for me. This is my personal opinion, but I can't stand when an author takes time to establish a love story between two characters then when they are separated you have to read multiple detailed sex scenes with them hooking up with other people before they get back together again. I just feel like it takes so much away from their story. Bummed because I was really enjoying this and the theater dork in me wanted to love this.

Mummy's Naughty Corner says

Book gifted from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Cover :- 5 stars

Sex/steamiiness :- 4 stars

Story line :- 5 stars

Characters :-4 stars

Overall rating :- 4.5 stars

Personal rating :- 5 stars

Book Pairing:- M/M

Did it give me a book hangover :- Yes

Is this a review book or personal read :- Review Read

Why I chose this book?

The author let me proof read and Beta read this book.

What I liked about this book.

- * Hot and steamy
- * It's not all romance there is angst thrown in.
- * The author has created a great world that sucks you in.

What I didn't like about this book.

- * Adam lol but the author already Knows that.

Would I read more from this author?

Yes

Would I recommend this book?

Yes to M/M Lovers. This is also a good book to help start someone on the M/M genre.

Manuela says

I'm one of the few that didn't like this book, sadly. For me, it was another case of a fantastic cover and an interesting blurb with a story that didn't live up to them.

The beautiful cover is the first thing that caught my attention and from the blurb the book sounded like something I would like. Also, the reviews were very positive, so I decided to buy it. Unfortunately, I didn't like it at all and mostly that's because of two main problems: everything was rushed and there was too much telling and not enough showing.

About the rushing, it affected everything, not just the romance, which was a bad case of insta-love. Jared and Fenix both work in successful musicals and they meet when Fenix's show begins playing at the same theatre of Jared's and the two have to share the same dressing room: it's instant attraction. The two start spending time together, after two days they are in love, after three weeks they move in together. In the note at the end of the book, the author says she writes about love at first sight because she believes in it since it happened to her. Now, I don't question it, but to me it never makes for a good romance book, especially when written like it was in this book. I felt like there was no real basis to the supposed love between Jared and Fenix, because they basically didn't know anything about each other when they proclaimed to be in love and started living together. Even at the end of the book, the characters were mostly mysteries to me, I didn't know enough about them to care or to believe in their story.

The romance wasn't the only thing that was rushed. The obstacle on the characters' way was rushed too as was the resolution.

As for the second issue, too much telling and not enough showing, it was my biggest problem: we are told Jared and Fenix love each other, but it's never shown in a way that makes it feel real; we are told what happens when the two spend a time apart, but we aren't shown it; we are told about the resolution, but it's too quick and lacks depth; another obstacle is added in the end, totally unnecessarily in my opinion, but again it's told but we don't get to actually see how it affects the characters.

As a consequence, I couldn't enjoy the book. The characters were dull and sometimes acted like teenagers, the insta-love made me roll my eyes, the drama was most of the times over the top.

Shile says

No rating ?

Calling it:

Time of book death at 21% ??

Who is a quitter?

This is Insta , the kind i couldn't get into. I tried but it is Me! not the Book!.

I have nothing against Insta-anything, Lord knows Lucy Lennox has fed me Insta-everything in her books and i ate that shit up plus i did an encore. Here there was something missing, i guess i did not feel the spark between the MC's the moment they met.

I couldn't get into the Audio-book. The narrator's voice sounded the same for all characters. Thank the book gods one can return the audio.

I did not buy:

Day 1: Meet, have hot sex

Day 2: Take loan to renovate house because you have found the one. Move in together

Day 3: you are the one, and it for me i will look no further... I love you.

As Christelle would say the BAM factor!

The book has an average rating of 3.95 so maybe it is Me! and not the book.

The cover is hot!??

SheReadsALot says

2.5 Hearts-- Hot cover, right? Paired with a promising (albeit long) blurb. The cover is my favorite thing about this book. I can stare at it all day.

This is MF author Teodora Kostova's debut MM Romance story based on an insta-love moment between theater performers, Fenix and Jared. They have a lot of sex in short period. They go through volatile ups and

downs and whirlwind love throughout the novel from the moment they are together and they are together for all but 15% of the book, so that is saying a lot. set in the West End in London, the two are given a story fitting to how they were written.

I will be totally honest, this type of writing style does not work for me.

This is all telling, no showing with characters that relate to pop culture fairly well and leaves no legwork for the brain. It's a very popular style of writing. I'm not knocking it, sometimes you just want a book to escape from reality where nothing needs to make sense as long as you get a beginning, a middle and HEA, who cares about the details? Who cares if the characters read like a early 2000's soap opera? Who cares if there are adult men acting like teenagers? This works better if you don't want substance in your fiction (and substance equates to depth and dimension - not the oodles of sex or MANtrums (Fenix needs a nap with all his hissy fitting))

And you know what the kiss of death in a story is for me? When the main characters are considered perfect. You open the door to prove how *imperfect* the characters really are, no matter much it's stuffed down a reader's throat (and there is tons of repetition so it's said A LOT) Jared was "beautiful" and "perfect". Fenix was "beautiful" and "striking" and "perfect". Everyone wanted in their pants, paparazzi were all over them, all their childish antics were excused because their love is a love I guess this mere mortal can't understand.

This is Fenix:

Striking ice blue eyes, everyone wants him and he is as deep as a Ken doll. Ladies and gents, are you interested?

This is Jared:

His hair is darker and his eyes are navy blue but the scowl is spot on because he's super jealous and possessive of Fenix. You can't stare at Fenix too long or he'll mess you up. And then have massive amounts of hawt sex to make up for his lack of characteristics. And lack of depth, he's just as hollow as Fenix.

Aren't they dreamy?

The main characters start off basically the same person. They know what each other are thinking from the moment they meet. Both had tragedies seven years ago, they are only children, they perform for the theater. They can tell what the other characters' are feeling and thinking too with mere glances. Hell in the beginning, their best friends had the same reactions and emotional range, they were basically the same person too. No real distinction with those two until later in the story but it was faint.

I have a simple way of seeing if a story has substance because there's too much sex to cover the main characters not having enough charisma to carry on this too long novel (the last 22% was unnecessary) take out the sex...do the main characters have a leg to stand on? No? Then you have a weak story. These two fell into ~~insta~~love insta-dick. They had nothing going for them but sex/lust in the beginning. And another popular writing technique along with the major telling is having the characters narrate the story through unnatural

dialogue. It didn't happen all the time but it was a major chunk. It's a pet peeve of mine. But this is Kostova's "West End", so it works over there. *shrugs*

I noticed my status updates developed a pattern, a formula if you will, so I'll share.

There were 3 sex scenes in the first 10%, 5 in the first 20% and their erections kept going for 48 hours; no rest periods necessary. Then, we have the co-dependent fluff, possessive, I love you - let's make rash life decisions for the next 30%. Then at 50% the imminent break up where they had miscommunication tantrums.

The sweet spot was the next 15% where the protagonists were separated, I got to see a hint of character but it got slammed by more telling, everybody is hating on them because Fenix chose to be promiscuous in his off period and Jared turned into an emotionless Ken doll, suffering for two years. They stopped being in each other's pocket and basically the same character and finally there were two separate main characters.

Then 65% happened, which was the reunion! The two are super attracted to one another because they are perfect, striking, ice blue eyes and Scandinavian cheekbones (the author liked to point this out a bit) so what do Jared and Fenix fall back on? That's right, sex.

The sex was hot but repetitive with a variation of "fuck me hard", pre-lubricated condoms, anal stretching and lube use, like a gay sex equation. I started to yawn in the latter sex parts (me? can you believe it?) and was happy for the fade to black bits.

Hmm...am I forgetting something? Oh yes, the last 22% or what I like to call it, *everything but the kitchen sink was added to make a wow factor*. That last fifth was so unnecessary, there is a sex tape, death, fist fight, screaming, MANtrums on octane and then a police investigation that gets partially solved by a childish bitchout on the phone. The story was over earlier than 78% but for reunion and drama sake's it should have ended there. It's thrown in for entertainment value but I'm in that outlier reader population that didn't find it amusing. I don't need repeat scene rehashing to be beaten over the head while reading, I get the point.

To me, the story was weak, the cover was the best part. I did not like either main character but it's not their faults, it's how they were written. This is a popular book, the author has a het following that I'm sure will breach over to this series. For a first time MM novel, it's not the worst I've read, the style is not to my taste, sadly. Maybe if I read this ten years ago, I'd have rated this higher. Thankfully, it did not read like disguised MF romance...mostly (there were a few shaky parts but I won't bring them up), props to that.

So in closing:

I doubt I'll be reading book #2 that is being released in the upcoming weeks but you never know maybe I'll need a book where I can turn off my brain. My rating varies, I might come back and stick with the lower end, but it's in the **2-2.5 Hearts** range.

Len Evans Jr says

This is my second book by this author and it thoroughly proves that "Ten Mile Bottom" the first book I read was no fluke. From what the author states this was her very first M/M romance book, it is hard to believe because OMG she writes m/m romance like she had been doing it forever. The writing in this book is intense, emotional in the very best way and sucks you in so deep that you sometimes forget to breathe. The characters she created so very multi-layered, deep, flawed and so real that you feel like they are someone who is part of your personal circle of friends. This story is not always light and happiness... after all it is about life. I think I'll end this review with a quote from the book that sums up everything perfectly.

"You once told me that dance is like life -- there are good moments and bad moments; moments when you sprain your ankle, but you have to go on, even when it hurts like hell; moments when the applause goes on for such a long time you feel like a god; moments when you nail the move you've been practising for a week and you feel invincible; moments when you're scared as hell to even cue up the music. But just like life, dance goes on whether you like it or not. It flows in your veins."
