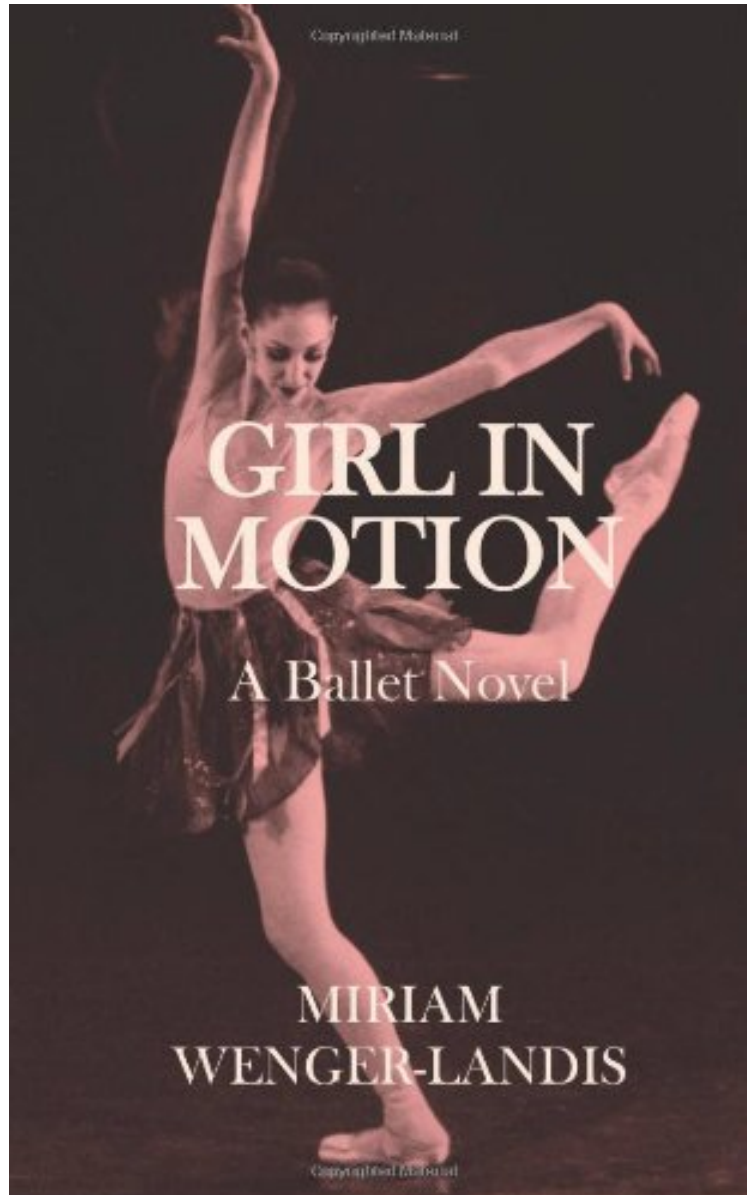


[Pdf free] Girl in Motion: A Novel

Girl in Motion: A Novel

Miriam Wenger-Landis

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1 8.00 x .63 x 5.00l, .56 #File Name: 1451591659252 pages | File size: 48.Mb

Miriam Wenger-Landis : Girl in Motion: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Girl in Motion: A Novel:

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Should be a primer for all teens who want a career in Ballet.By mikiThis is a very insightful book about the inside world of professional ballet training. Being a former professional

dancer, and a ballet teacher for 30 years, I have to say this is one of the most honest views of pre-professional training I have ever read. If a young dancer wants to go off to New York to train at these "pre-professional" company schools, this book shows the real life going on. Ms. Wenger-Landis shows us the deep joy, hurt, and depression which very sensitive teens will deal with when on their way to a professional career. There is no glossing over the pain, wonder, dedication and devotion which ballet students have to deal with everyday. I am not sure why this specific type of training is truly necessary. I have been through it myself, as have many of my former students. I think there are other, better ways to train young people. Yet, this book tells us a true and real story of a young sensitive burgeoning artist, what she goes through, and her deepest emotions. Not all students will find themselves in these situations, as all people are different, but this book shows what they must be prepared for. They just might find themselves in similar situations as "Anna" (the young dancer in the book). The book is well written. You can easily relate to and understand Anna as she takes you to places that are happy, sad, angry, and ecstatic. This book is a wonderful primer for any serious ballet student. It should be read by any dancer who wants to understand what might be ahead for them. I read this book in Kindle form, and have to say, the Kindle edition was very badly transferred. Many sentences were broken in bits and pieces. At times it looked more like a poem rather than a text. I wish the people would take more effort in their work when they put books on to the Kindle. I love my Kindle, but have found major problems with other books put into this ebook form as well.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Story but Needs Some Better Proofreading
By Lorna Swanson
This story had a good plot, although the premise of the student at the thinly veiled "School of American Ballet" but called by another name, has been overdone in ballet literature. This version tells the story of Anna student at School of Ballet New York, and her struggles and successes during two years at the professional ballet school. Not only does she have to deal with overcoming less than professional training in her small town of Rock Island NY, but she has a mean, rich girl for a roommate her first year, and she is too short to be considered for the Ballet New York Company. But, she perseveres and does get the future she desires. The author spices up the story with the usual teenage drama and some male female spiciness as well. My 2 criticisms are the first, the stereotypes the author has about the ballet world- there's the always present anorexic/bulimic dancer that every author feels compelled to add to a story about dance academies, as well as the dramatic injury plot where someone must stop dancing!! Why must these 2 topics be in every novel? But my biggest complaint is the poor proofreading. There were occasions when the characters names were wrong or changed during the same scene (Marie and Monique were used to discuss the same girl during the injury scene). This happened in another scene where Jesse and Tyler were mistakenly substituted for one another. If I could notice this as a reader, surely, the author could keep the characters straight in their own story!! So, although predictable and a bit trite, overall, this as a decent ballet story which should be enjoyed by teenage dance students or wannabe dance students.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I wish it had been better edited.
By C. Montgomery
I greatly enjoyed the book, but I wish someone had gone through checking the details. Anna arrives at the dorms and goes to the 14th floor for her room assignment, which is on the 15th floor, so she goes up 2 flights. Anna rooms with Hilary for a year and then agrees to room with Jen for a year. After moving out of Hilary's room, Anna, Jen, and Marie go to San Francisco for the summer and return to the dorms. Almost immediately, Anna is putting up Christmas decorations and the narrator mentions that she hadn't wanted them the first year that she lived with Jen. Later, it's specified that she only spent 2 years at the school. Things like that. Every time I hit one of those kinds of errors (there were also errors that someone who was only paying attention to grammar would have picked up, but there weren't so many that it affected my enjoyment), I was jarred out of the story. It didn't happen often enough to make me quit the book, but it did happen often enough to interfere with my enjoyment. The author is probably too close to the story to even notice these things on a read-through, but it would have been a better book if someone else had gone through it, paying attention to that sort of thing. I'd still recommend it to a friend, though.

At the School of Ballet New York, the most prestigious ballet school in the country, aspiring ballerina Anna becomes friends with her talented roommate, Hilary, a French exchange student, Marie, a down-to-earth mid-westerer, Jen, and one of the cutest guys in school, Tyler. The competition is intense and Anna works hard to understand her famous teachers and navigate her ups and downs with her friends. Some of the dancers struggle with eating disorders, injuries, and depression. Everyone's goal is a contract with a professional ballet company, and as graduation nears, the pressure intensifies. Although Anna goes to all the ballet companies' annual auditions, she receives not a single offer. Falling for Tyler complicates things, but with the lead in the annual workshop performance, Anna gets one last chance to make her dreams come true. (Ages 13 and up)

.com Exclusive: A QA with Miriam Wenger-Landis
Question: When did you first start writing *Girl in Motion*?
Miriam Wenger-Landis: I started *Girl in Motion* about seven years ago. After I retired from Miami City Ballet, it took three years to gain enough distance from my ballet career to look back and process what becoming a dancer was all about and how the ballet world influenced me. Writing the book helped me gain closure on such a big part of my life and move on to a college degree and a career beyond dance. I was also teaching ballet to teenagers, which made me think

about what I would have liked to read when I was a student contemplating a professional career. The book went through so many drafts over the years and took forever to see the light of day. Originally it followed Anna Linado through ballet school and into her professional career, but eventually there was too much to include in just one book. I decided to focus on her progression from student to professional, and that became *Girl in Motion*.

Question: You were a student at the School of American Ballet. Is your book inspired by events from your life?

Miriam Wenger-Landis: The story is rooted in my experience, but the events and people aren't the same. There are always body issues, emotional challenges, and potential romances. I'll admit there is a part of the book that really happened to me, but I can't say any more or it will give away the ending.

Question: Is there a character you identify with the most? Why?

Miriam Wenger-Landis: I identify with Anna because I was also a shorter dancer and faced similar challenges. I suffered from many of the same insecurities. I also relate to Jen's sentiments of failure even when she achieves success. There was definitely a feeling of no matter what you did it would never be good enough. Now that I'm older I can also understand the ballet teachers' perspectives too.

Question: What authors or books have influenced your writing? What dancers influenced your career as a ballerina?

Miriam Wenger-Landis: When I wrote *Girl in Motion*, I hoped for a voice like Judy Blume (*Forever...*) meets Curtis Sittenfeld (*Prep*). They're both writers that can genuinely express what teenagers feel. I wanted to reflect the confusion, insecurity, and excitement that come with being a teenager and Blume and Sittenfeld do it best. I'm a huge fan. When I was a ballet student my favorite dancers were Gelsey Kirkland and Darci Kistler. Once I joined Miami City Ballet my role models were much more immediate. I was most influenced by the people I danced with every day. One dancer in particular I always admired was Marife Gimenez. She was a beautiful and emotional dancer and always brought an electric kind of energy to her performances.

Question: Have you considered trying your hand at other genres?

Miriam Wenger-Landis: Perhaps someday.

About the Author: Miriam Wenger-Landis was a student at the School of American Ballet and a professional ballerina with the Miami City Ballet. She graduated from Stanford University and lives in Seattle.