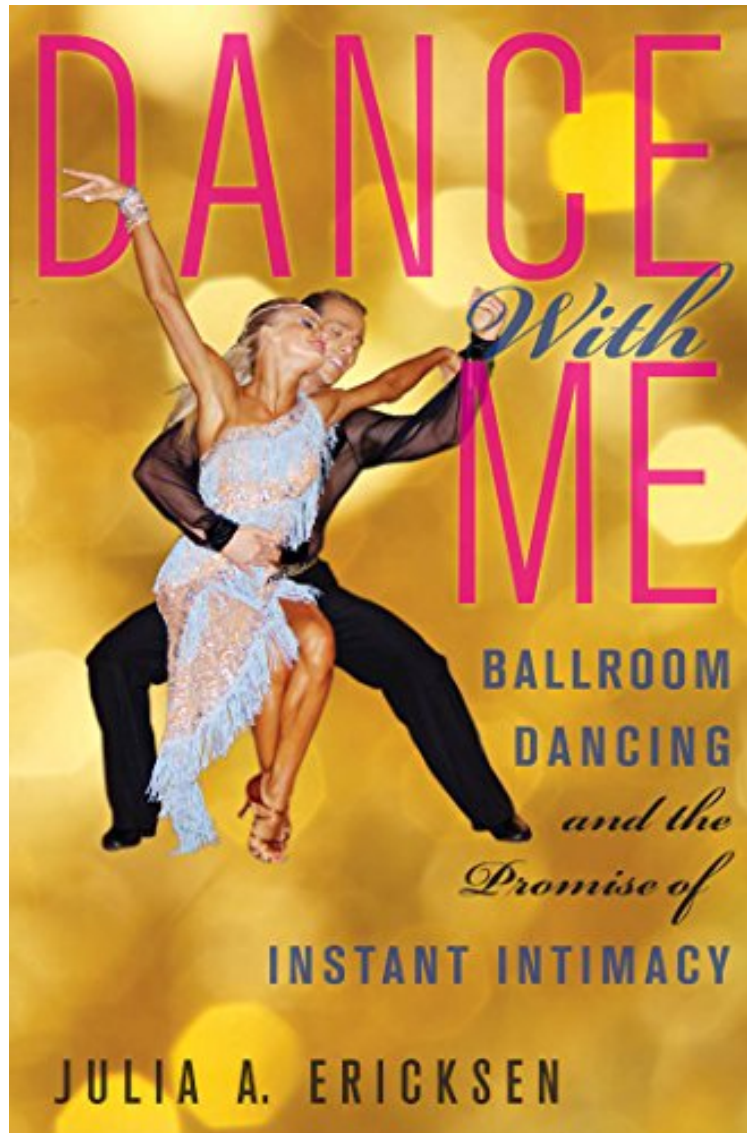


Dance With Me: Ballroom Dancing and the Promise of Instant Intimacy

Julia Ericksen

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#1074743 in Books Julia A Ericksen 2011-11-01 2011-11-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .81 x 5.98l, 1.37 #File Name: 0814722660294 pagesDance With Me Ballroom Dancing and the Promise of Instant Intimacy | File size: 15.Mb

Julia Ericksen : Dance With Me: Ballroom Dancing and the Promise of Instant Intimacy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dance With Me: Ballroom Dancing and the Promise of Instant Intimacy:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Well researched
By George Pytlik
Julia Ericksen has done an impressive job interviewing dancers and dance teachers to explore some of the psychology of ballroom dancing. As a competitive dancer and ballroom dance teacher myself, I found the study interesting but curiously frustrating. Ericksen is so busy psychoanalyzing why people dance that in the process she misses the experience of dancing. I dance with ladies from all walks of life. They dance for many reasons, but at the end of the day all of them just enjoy dancing; they aren't trying to figure out how it contributes to male-female dynamics or other aspects of the human condition. That's what Ericksen misses. In her search to find some deep hidden mental or sexual motivation for partner dancing, she overlooks the simplest, most common and most beautiful reason: that dancing together is a physical activity that's enjoyable and just plain fun. You'll enjoy this book for its depth of research, but don't expect some fresh insightful conclusion.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent insight into serious ballroom dancers - both teachers and students
By Curtis
Well written book that captures the joys and challenges of serious ballroom dancing. Having been an amateur ballroom dancer for 5 years, it was very realistic providing a variety of in-depth perspectives from both professionals and amateurs from a variety of backgrounds and dance studios. However, be aware that while the book touches on a variety of ballroom dance situations, the author primarily focuses on pro-am teachers and students. I loved the book because I am deep into dance. I am not sure that those who have not experienced ballroom dance for awhile will find the book as interesting as it may be hard to relate to some of the stories.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Analytical ballroom study which is still entertaining
By Roseann S.
The author did not catalogue her own experiences as a dancer but rather studied ballroom dancing as a sociologist might, examining various facets of the sport from both the participant's viewpoint and the teacher's. It was sprinkled with enough anecdotal information that it did not become dry and boring and answered a lot of questions about the ballroom dancing life that I would not have even thought to ask. I feel like I learned a lot about what it is like to compete as a ballroom dancer and the image of instant intimacy seemed very apt although not one I would have thought of myself. I enjoy very much watching competitions such as *Dancing with the Stars* and *So You Think You Can Dance* and am a great fan of some of the pro dancers especially Derek Hough who has as well choreographed pro dances and performed many outside the box routines for them in their *Macy's Stars of Dance* and other segments as well as competing. If you have not seen his most recent homage to Fred Astaire in the *Walking On Air* dance I highly recommend it. [...] But I digress. I feel that this book has increased my appreciation and enjoyment for what dancers like Derek do and how it affects the amateur dancers who go for instruction. I have seen it to some extent from both sides now and am more fascinated than ever.

Click here to listen to Julia Ericksen's interview about *Dance with Me* on Philadelphia NPR's "Radio Times" Rumba music starts and a floor full of dancers alternate clinging to one another and turning away. Rumba is an erotic dance, and the mood is hot and heavy; the women bend and hyperextend their legs as they twist and turn around their partners. Amateur and professional ballroom dancers alike compete in a highly gendered display of intimacy, romance and sexual passion. In *Dance With Me*, Julia Ericksen, a competitive ballroom dancer herself, takes the reader onto the competition floor and into the lights and the glamour of a world of tanned bodies and glittering attire, exploring the allure of this hyper-competitive, difficult, and often expensive activity. In a vivid ethnography accompanied by beautiful photographs of all levels of dancers, from the world's top competitors to social dancers, Ericksen examines the ways emotional labor is used to create intimacy between professional partners and between professionals and their students, illustrating how dancers purchase intimacy. She shows that, while at first glance, ballroom presents a highly gendered face with men leading and women following, dancing also transgresses gender.

[T]here is much to like about this book. Erickson explores in great depth and richness this fascinating and complicated world that combines competition, artistry, and intimacy in a relationship that is often based on an economic exchange. -*Social Forces* "Interviews with top competitors and social dancers reveal the power that intimacy between partners can bring." -*Publishers Weekly* "This wonderful combination of text and image results in a nuanced portrait of the performance of heterosexual intimacy in the 'emotional labor of dance.' For all audiences interested in the historical and social contexts surrounding ballroom dancing." -S. Ferzacca, *CHOICE* About the Author
Julia A. Ericksen is Professor of Sociology at Temple University and author of *Kiss and Tell: Surveying Sex in the Twentieth Century* and *Taking Charge of Breast Cancer*.