



# Dance of Grace

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In one unexpected moment, dancer Vanessa Jordan lost her family, her career, and her future. She blames God for destroying everything that mattered. Kurt Wagner, an ex-con with a second chance at life and faith, aches to shed his past and see his dream of helping teens become reality. The former dancer and the ex-con form an unlikely alliance to build River House, a safe haven for kids on the street.

When Kurt's past threatens his dreams and his life, Vanessa becomes a target as well. It will take a stubborn love, the grace of God, and one courageous teen to keep the River House dream alive.

## Dance of Grace Details

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Author : Stacy Monson

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## From Reader Review Dance of Grace for online ebook

### **Bobbie Pollock says**

**A sweet story.**

I enjoyed this book. It is a warm book but also a little sad. I would recommend it to others.

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### **Janice Sisemore says**

Dance of grace

Kurt and Vanessa meet by accident. She has had a hard life and so has Kurt but in really different backgrounds. This is the first book I have read by Stacy Monson, I was given a copy in exchange for a honest review. I did enjoy the book very much. Kurt and Vanessa both had a lot to overcome. Both had losses in life to deal with. Kurt is a ex-con but with help from the church he work he helps run a youth center. But has someone causing him lots of trouble. Vanessa ends up helping him in a way unexpected. Definitely recommend this book.

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### **Suzan says**

This book is an amazing chronicle of two people struggling with life and faith, that find each other, lift each other up, and fall in love. Each of their stories is unique, stressful, and downright difficult, as in life. Both have come to faith differently and faced challenges that make them question so much. In fact Vanessa claims early on that she won't go into church (where Kurt works) and that she hates God. Disaster has definitely befallen these two more times than most people could handle. I cried and cried throughout this book! Both main characters are wonderful. Vanessa starts off in a clear funk so it was easier to identify and appreciate Kurt right from the start. He is a strong man with strong faith, but he needs Vanessa and she is perfectly suited to him. Watching them fall in love was satisfying. To be clear, this is definitely Christian fiction and while not preachy God's name will appear on almost every page. The story is believable. There is little romance, although their falling in love is sweet and they care so much about each other, they only kiss a few times, but they do get their happily-ever-after. But there is much pain along the way. Secondary characters are fantastic. I couldn't put the book down, and it's one of those that make you want to bring the characters into your life so you can continue knowing them. Actually, I wish I could go to the neighborhood and find River House for a visit and I'd love to hear preacher Joel speak, I think he is amazing.

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### **Pattisue says**

Dancer Vanessa Jordan has been stripped bare of everything she loves. One tragic accident stole Matt, Angie and her future. She "blames God for shattering her heart and her hopes." Kurt Wagner, ex-con, man of god, dreams of helping troubled teens. As Director of Youth Outreach, "he sees a need and figures out how to meet it." Vanessa's courage and determination to succeed where most people would give up or walk away is inspiring. She never succumbs to the grief or despair. Her dreams were stolen from her while he foolishly

gambled his away. Threats and danger loom over their peace and happiness. This emotional story deals with gritty, real-life problems. I appreciated the time Monson took to carefully reveal the layers of history in the lives of her characters. Themes include cancer, redemption and faith, and the price of agency.

"How many more times could she get knocked down before she didn't have the strength to get back up?"  
Choosing to live, one step at a time.

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## Caprice says

Dance of Grace by Stacy Monson is one of the best Christian fiction books I have read in years it is a beautiful story of love, healing, and forgiveness.

When the story begins, Vanessa Jordan is mad at God. In fact, she's so angry that she won't even acknowledge his existence. One of the reasons is that she is losing her mother's dance studio. She is no longer able to teach classes due to "the accident." We don't find out until later in the book what was involved with the accident, but we do know that it involves Vanessa's legs. Because she can not teach dance and with her only income being disability, she just can't afford to keep the business running. As she is leaving the building, she is almost plowed down by a reckless driver. If not for the quick actions of Kurt Wagner, she would have been hit by the car. However, he pushes her out of the way, saving her life.

After saving Vanessa's life, the onlookers and bystanders call Kurt a Hero. Little do they know that this ex-con sees himself as anything but a hero. Due to making a bad choice when he was younger, Kurt spent time in prison on a drug charge. While there, he got to know a pastor and eventually gave his life to Christ. He has been out for three years, and lives every single day trying to be more Christlike. He works as a janitor at his church.

When these two meet again "by coincidence," Kurt believes that God has placed Vanessa in his life so that he can help her. He doesn't know that God has placed her in his life to give him friendship, love and support as he begins making his dreams come true in answer to God's calling. But he is right in away because he does help her understand how much God loves her.

Throughout this book, God's love and forgiveness is shown in a variety of ways. Through many hardships and difficulties, Kurt and Vanessa develop a beautiful relationship between themselves but also with his friends and family as well as with troubled teens. There is a lot of character development, and the writing style is engaging. I fell in love with many of the characters in this book, and closely related to both Kurt and Vanessa. I highly recommend this book to both Christians and non Christians, as well as to older teens and adults. I would love to read more of Stacy's writing.

I voluntarily requested a copy of this book in order to leave an honest review, which I have done to the best of my ability.

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## LeAnne says

A good read. The first half is a feel-good story about an ex-con who found Christ and an ex-ballerina who lost a leg. While much Christian fiction is about people who are not walking with the Lord (no doubt so that unbelieving readers can better identify), I found it refreshing to read a book full of the kinds of church activities and concerns that are typical of the lives of Christians. Both Vanessa and Kurt have secrets they fear would end their friendship if they came out. Music has been a significant part of that past for both, but

now is abandoned because of the emotional pain.

Kurt's dream is to start a ministry to kids from rough backgrounds like his own. When someone from his past comes looking for revenge, both that ministry and Vanessa are threatened. Here the book gets a lot grittier and the struggle to understand a God who allows bad things to happen gets a lot messier. Not everyone makes wise choices. I was somewhat confused at the climax. It would have helped if we had seen the e-mail from Razzi (one of the kids) that is referred to.

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### **Joyful says**

The story of this novel is a gripping love story not like a normal romance. It is book 2 in the Chain Of Lakes series. I have not read book 1. I loved the plot and the message of grace and hope, however, I cannot list it as Christian romance because of the curse words interwoven throughout the story and the fact of Razzie plotting and committing murder however his reasoning was. This would be one of the best storylines I had ever read had it been written with the cursing implied instead of written and. Wolf being killed off in a different way. I felt every emotion the main characters felt. Despite my misgivings, I have to say this author is a very talented author. Thank you for giving me a copy for my honest review.

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### **Tania says**

#### **Loved it!**

This book was extremely inspiring and showed the main characters learning to not define themselves by their past mistakes. Kurt and Vanessa are absolutely adorable.

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### **Debbie says**

Stacy Monson is an amazing author. When Kurt and Vanessa run into each other their lives will change. You can feel God working throughout this whole book. Kurt feels that God is working on him to help Vanessa. When they start the River House their relationship changes. The way the characters in this book work together to help the kids is truly remarkable. I had the honor to review this book for the author for an honest review. The review is my honest thoughts and reaction to this book. You won't be able to stop reading this book. I would give this book a higher rating than a five star review if I could.

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### **Robin says**

What a fantastic book. From hurt to tears, frustration at false guilt, love and rejoicing in the growth, surprise at a quick change of direction; this book has it all. An intense read but oh so very enjoyable. Could identify with a lot of the feelings being shared. However, those I couldn't identify with were so well written, I could understand them. All in all a totally satisfying book and one I highly recommend. I received a copy in exchange for an honest review.

### **Deborah says**

First thing to say is that I absolutely love this book and instantly purchased book 1 in the series. It is the story of Vanessa who has cruelly lost all her family at a young age and Kurt who has found Jesus and a true faith while serving a prison sentence. Kurt is being hounded by Wolf who believes he betrayed him while in prison and Kurt has some pretty close escapes before he leaves the State. If you can finish the story with dry eyes you have done better than me!

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### **Bobirley Adams says**

I was given a copy of DANCE OF GRACE for free in exchange for my honest review.

My reviews do not give a brief description of the story because that's what the cover is for and if a reviewer gives away too much of the story there's no need to buy the book. So in my review I will tell you that I was deeply affected by this Christian Romance novel. The characters are many faceted and have depth and strong faith. The conversation flows easily and drew me deeply into this story. The characters are strong and willing to make sacrifices for others. I highly recommend this well-written book.

I believe this book will appeal to Christians that like inspirational stories with characters willing to make the hard choices for their faith. If you purchase this book for your library, I would like to recommend that you purchase another book as a gift for a special friend. That will keep your copy in your library to re-read again in the future and your special friend will probably appreciate your gift for her library.

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### **Rebecca says**

I was pleasantly surprised by this book. It was beautifully written and I really grew to love the characters. Although I'm often skeptical of the trope (non-Christian girl meets Christian guy and learns from him, converts, and they fall in love), it worked in this novel. I loved that the guy has his own demons he has to deal with, because we all know that consequences of our past actions don't just disappear the moment we accept God's grace and forgiveness. There was some great chemistry between the two protagonists. I would highly recommend.

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### **Carolyn says**

Awesome book! The characters are real and I found myself rooting for the good guys! It was refreshing to read a mystery/romance story that didn't resort to vulgarity to get my attention. I look forward to reading more of Stacey Monson's writing!

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### **Melanie says**

This is an amazing Christian book that deals with real life issues like we all have to. I love how this book is not overbearing with the way Stacy Monson presents Christianity in it as well. Just the right amount for anyone to enjoy and I believe that this story with Vanessa and Kurt overcoming so many day to day issues that is could help many readers as well. The romance is just right in this story and I am pleased to say that Kurt and Vanessa get their happily ever after. Such a great read for all ages. I am anxious to see what Stacy Monson has up her sleeve next for us in the Chain of Lakes series!

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