



## Dancing with Fireflies

*Denise Hunter*

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**Dancing with Fireflies** Denise Hunter

**Jade returns home to Chapel Springs after years of protecting her fragile heart. Then along comes Daniel, making her long to dance again.**

Creative and complicated, Jade McKinley felt like a weed in a rose garden growing up in Chapel Springs. When she left, she thought she'd never look back. But now, pregnant, alone, and broke, she has no other choice but to return.

The mayor of Chapel Springs, Daniel Dawson, has been an honorary member of the McKinley family for years. While his own home life was almost non-existent, Daniel fit right into the boisterous McKinley family. He's loved Jade for years, but she always saw him as a big brother. Now that she's back, his feelings are stronger than ever.

As Jade attempts to settle in, nothing feels right. God seems far away, she's hiding secrets from her family, and she's strangely attracted to the man who's always called her "squirt." Finding her way home may prove more difficult than she imagined.

## Dancing with Fireflies Details

Date : Published March 11th 2014 by Thomas Nelson (first published March 1st 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Denise Hunter

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Genre : Christian Fiction, Romance, Contemporary, Christian, Christian Romance, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Dancing with Fireflies for online ebook

### Aerykah says

I really enjoyed this book! I laughed... and I'll admit I got a bit teary-eyed a couple times too. From the very beginning I just didn't want to put the book down until I reached the end -- and a very satisfying ending it was too! Can't wait to read the next book in the series!

There are some more mature topics so I wouldn't recommend this book for younger readers. And there is also more sensuality than I prefer, which is why I only gave it 4 stars instead of 5.

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### Bekah (WillBakeforBooks) says

Jade McKinley left her small hometown of Chapel Springs to pursue big dreams in the city. When something terrible happens, she packs everything and decides to return home. Meet Daniel Dawson, the guy who has been like a big brother to Jade since she can remember. As they grow closer and closer, he's reminded of his strong feelings for Jade, but can she return them?

Let me just say, I don't read a lot of contemporary romance books. I usually skip them over for suspense, action, dystopian, historical, etc. because sometimes they can be pretty boring. Dancing with Fireflies, however? Absolutely adorable! I loved the characters, the plot, the romance, the dialogue, and the CHARACTERS. Jade and Daniel were so cute and funny and I have to admit, I laughed out loud quite a few times. Jade's family was adorable and I immediately fell in love with all of them! The story was so well balanced. It was serious and realistic, yet hopeful and romantic. Denise Hunter is a very talented author; she wove an inspirational tale of a woman learning to love again so well that it made me feel joy, sadness, and everything in between.

If you are looking for a book that makes you laugh, cry, or just plain happy, Dancing with Fireflies is it! It was inspirational, emotional, romantic, funny, and so very entertaining. I am very happy to add it to my bookshelf!

\*\*I received this book from BookLook Bloggers in exchange for my honest review. All thoughts are entirely my own.

[http://willbakeforbooks.blogspot.com/...](http://willbakeforbooks.blogspot.com/)

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### Brittany says

\*\*\*Update\*\*\* Just finished rereading this book and loved it even more the second time!!!

Denise Hunter is one of my "go to" authors when I want a romance that tugs at my heart and always leaves me smiling by the end of the book. Dancing with Fireflies is no exception to that. I loved this book!

Dancing with Fireflies is part of the Chapel Springs series. I think you could read this as a stand alone, but it would be so much better to read it as part of the series. Daniel has been a part of Jade's life for many years. He has always been like a big brother to her and is very much a part of her family. But somewhere along the

line, Daniel fell in love with Jade. She was so in love with another man that she never felt the same or realized that Daniel's feelings had changed.

This book begins with Jade's return after having been gone an entire year. She is returning home and is pregnant and alone. Daniel still loves her. She still sees him as a best friend. This makes for wonderful tension in the book! There were just so many moments that made me catch my breath and this is one of those books that I stayed up way too late into the night to read!

Denise Hunter weaves love and attraction with feelings of fear and desperation in her stories. She has an amazing ability to create characters so very real. And she creates beautiful happily-ever-afters that tie up her books at the end and leave me with a smile on my face.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

You can read this review on my blog at:  
<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

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### **Becky says**

I finished reading this book a week ago, but I wanted to wait to write the review. Why? Because I was afraid I would gush too much if I wrote the review right away. Well, I think I'm still going to gush, even with a week's perspective ...

Dancing with Fireflies is the second (sort of third, as there's a novella about secondary characters) installment in Denise Hunter's Chapel Springs series. It's the story of Jade, the McKinley family free spirit, and Daniel, Chapel Springs mayor and honorary McKinley. These two characters are incredibly likable, and I actually thought at one point as I was reading, "Lord, I need a Daniel."

As I got close to the end, I actually contemplated putting the book down for a while ... simply because I wasn't ready for the story to end! I have always enjoyed Denise Hunter's novels, but the more recent ones haven't captivated me as much as *The Convenient Groom*, the first Hunter novel I read. That book set the bar high—and I'm happy to report that *Dancing with Fireflies* is just as good as, if not better than, *The Convenient Groom*. That's high praise, let me tell you!

I read a lot of books (obviously). Most of the books I read, I enjoy. But rarely do I encounter a book that keeps me from realizing that it's time for dinner ... or for a favorite TV show. And that's exactly what *Dancing with Fireflies* did—it sucked me into its world and held on until I'd read the last page. It's a book I could see myself rereading (which I very rarely do). It's a book I'll highly recommend whenever a "real life" friend asks if I've read any good books lately. It's a book that will undoubtedly make my yearly "Top 10" list. It's a book I'm glad I had the opportunity to read.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Litfuse Publicity Group. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

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### **Faith says**

Adjectives to describe Dancing with Fireflies: Beautiful, Absorbing, and Pitch-Perfect.

It's a really good thing I began this book on a slow day at home, because once I started it I had a very hard time setting it aside. Jade's story is just that engaging. She's a colorful, passionate person. She has big dreams and bright eyes that are so green "God must have invented the shade just for her."

When people meet Jade, they remember her. They remember that she lives life with joyful abandon. Or she used to.

When Jade shows up on his doorstep one evening, and she was supposed to still be in Chicago, Daniel couldn't understand what had changed.

Daniel became Ryan McKinley's best buddy in middle-school, the whole McKinley family came along with the deal. Jade had been Daniel's honorary sister for years. He worried about the boy's who weren't good enough for her. He taught her to drive a clutch when she was 18. He watched from afar as she fell in love and then dealt with loss. And he never forgot the first time he saw her spinning on the lawn, dancing with fireflies.

The Jade who just returned is missing her sparkle. She seems lost, fragile, and desperate. Something bad happened, something broke her, and she's scared now and needs a friend.

Ad there's nobody better than Daniel to be Jade's helper and supporter.

What a fine, decent, kind man Daniel is in this story. His all around goodness and patience and willingness to slow down and listen and understand what was going on in Jade's inner world won my heart. Thank you Denise Hunter for introducing us to Daniel, whose generosity and gentleness stand out among literary heroes.

You nailed the romance in this story by beginning with the content of their character, and then adding real connection between them.

I also want to say that in far too many books, when a female character undergoes an assault or attack, it is dealt with in a most unreal manner. It is swept aside, brushed under the rug, and it makes me hate the whole book for being false about something that serious.

It was different with Jade's story: her trauma left her with PTSD. It lingered on in her memories and in her reactions. She was triggered into panic by various things, and she was clearly on a road to wholeness that wouldn't be traveled easily. The way that part of her story was told rang truer to life.

This novel is rich with memorable lines, it has many serious and sweet moments as people live this thing called Life, and sometimes it made me laugh out loud. Again, excellent book.

And...the Small Town is also presented here in all its zany glory, with its wild politics and the spare key to the county building not being hidden very well and the volunteer firemen being called away in the middle of a family dinner.

Thank you Litfuse for my review copy.

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## **Amy says**

Holy hot sauce, Batman! This book is definitely not for the faint of heart—in the best way possible! Denise Hunter lights up every page of this romance with sparks, chemistry, and two people's intense longing for faith and love. From the agonizing drama of the opening scene in Chicago to the steamy embrace in the final snowy scene, this novel is pedal-to-the-metal every step of the way. A beautifully written, poignant story of hope in the midst of life's darkest moments, well-blended with the heart-pounding, breathless discovery of

the ultimate love of a lifetime.

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### **Dawn says**

I'm seriously reading the series backwards. I started with book 3. Then devoured book 4. Now finishing book 2. So since I already knew that Jade & Daniel would have a happily ever after, I was curious to find out how they arrived there. I've got to admit that I have loved the McKinley family. I love how the siblings love each other. I really enjoyed this one.

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### **??Trea says**

[report the rape right away, as she met the offender in a public place and others could have given a decent description of him, even if she couldn't (hide spoiler)]

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### **Elaina says**

~3.5-4 stars~

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### **Laura says**

Title: DANCING WITH FIREFLIES

Author: Denise Hunter

Publisher: Thomas Nelson

March 2014

ISBN: 978-1401687021

Genre: Contemporary romance

Jade returns home to Chapel Springs after years of protecting her fragile heart. Then along comes Daniel, making her long to dance again.

Creative and complicated, Jade McKinley felt like a weed in a rose garden growing up in Chapel Springs. When she left, she thought she'd never look back. But now, pregnant, alone, and broke, she has no other choice but to return.

The mayor of Chapel Springs, Daniel Dawson, has been an honorary member of the McKinley family for years. While his own home life was almost non-existent, Daniel fit right into the boisterous McKinley family. He's loved Jade for years, but she always saw him as a big brother. Now that she's back, his feelings are stronger than ever.

As Jade attempts to settle in, nothing feels right. God seems far away, she's hiding secrets from her family, and she's strangely attracted to the man who's always called her "squirt." Finding her way home may prove more difficult than she imagined.

DANCING WITH FIREFLIES is the second book in the Chapel Springs Romance series, but it easily stands alone. Fans will want to read book one, Barefoot Summer to learn the story of Jade's sister, and what caused Jade to run away, but if you don't read it first, you won't be lost.

This book does start with a rape, but it doesn't go into details. Jade does suffer some flashbacks as a result which are more detail, but still not overly much. Understandably, Jade is numb as a result, especially when she discovers she's pregnant, and the book shows/reads with the numbness for awhile.

I wondered if DANCING WITH FIREFLIES would be up to what I'm used to and love by Denise Hunter, but about midway through the book the story picks up. Daniel is a sweetheart, despite his circumstances, and Jade is only looking out after herself, due to her circumstances, but the faith message is good.

If you like contemporary romances you won't want to miss DANCING WITH FIREFLIES. Denise Hunter is one of my favorite contemporary romance authors and she doesn't disappoint. I am torn whether to give this book 4.5 or 5 stars. . . so I'm going to go with 5, and if I decide on 4.5, we'll consider it rounded up...

Discussion questions and a preview of December Bride (also by Denise Hunter and highly recommended by me) are included at the back of the book. \$15.99. 352 pages.

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### **Anna says**

This is the second book in the Chapel Springs series. It does include characters from book one, but could easily be read as a standalone novel.

Jade, the free spirit of the siblings, had left home to spread her wings and heal from an unrequited love. But when something tragic happens to Jade, she returns home seeking the support of her family and best friend, Daniel. Unbeknownst to Jade, Daniel has been in love with Jade for many years. He tortures himself by always being there for Jade, but not expressing his feelings, because he loves her unconditionally. Due to losses Jade has suffered she is afraid to let someone love her, and to allow herself to love. Can Daniel melt her heart and break the walls Jade has placed around herself?

A sweet romance with enough substance to keep me engaged. I'm looking forward to reading the next book in the series.

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### **Angie H says**

4.5 stars

Awww what a sweet book. My favourite in the series so far! The story touched on a tough topic but I thought the author handled it very well. Loved the characters. Daniel was definitely swoon worthy! :) Enjoyed reading about characters from the last book too. Once I started this book I could not put it down. Definitely one of the best romances I have read this year. (Meant to be Mine still has my top spot) Off to order the next book from the library! :)

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### **Carrie Turansky says**

I enjoyed Dancing with Fireflies by Denise Hunter. The characters were very memorable and the story really

grabbed my heart. I so wanted Jade and Daniel to both find the love they were seeking. I've read and enjoyed many books by Denise Hunter, and this is a keeper.

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### **Hannah says**

I loved this book! It took me just a bit to get into it, but then built and built to a really wonderful ending. Daniel and Jade have been dear friends since childhood; while he has long cherished a deep love for her, he's not been able to express it. She'd been engaged to another man and lost him tragically—but now, she's home, pregnant with twins from a date-rape. Jade's always counted on him, but it would be strange to think of him as a man to be attracted to—right? But she leans on Daniel more and more after her mother's heart attack. Can this romance ever come right?

I loved how believable the issues were. The heart-wrenching stuff is interspersed with touches of humor and bits of McKinley family life. Looking forward to the next book!

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### **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

I thought this one was just okay. I guess I was expecting something different. There will be spoilers below...

The book starts with Jade being drugged and raped. She decides to move home when she finds out she is pregnant with twins. So, I thought the rape would play a bigger part in the story. I mean when the book starts out like that you'd think it would be something big she would have to deal with it. For the most part it is hardly ever talked about. She accepts the fact that she is pregnant pretty easily and it's maybe mentioned once that she was worried about whether they would look like the father. She has a couple freak-out moments, but otherwise she's seemed to put the whole thing behind her. I guess I was just surprised by how easily she was coping. She does tell Daniel about what happened, but no one else. The very end she finally tells her mom and explains why she didn't press charges (which was also bugging me). I guess I just think if you're going to have that as a storyline I would expect to see her deal with it more. As it was, I think it was pointless and I would have liked the story more if that whole thing had been left out.

The romance was okay. I liked Daniel, he was a sweetheart. They have been friends for a long time and he has been in love with her forever. I thought Jade was a little annoying, she was still heartbroken over losing her boyfriend and didn't dare to love again. I get irritated in stories where the couple doesn't communicate.

Overall, I was a little disappointed. I was hoping for a more heartwarming story and with the rape and all her other hang-ups, it felt like more of a downer.

#### Content

Romance: Clean

Violence: Moderate (the first chapter she is drugged and raped. She is drugged so she doesn't remember too much and is pretty vague. She has a few flashbacks that are also vague.)

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