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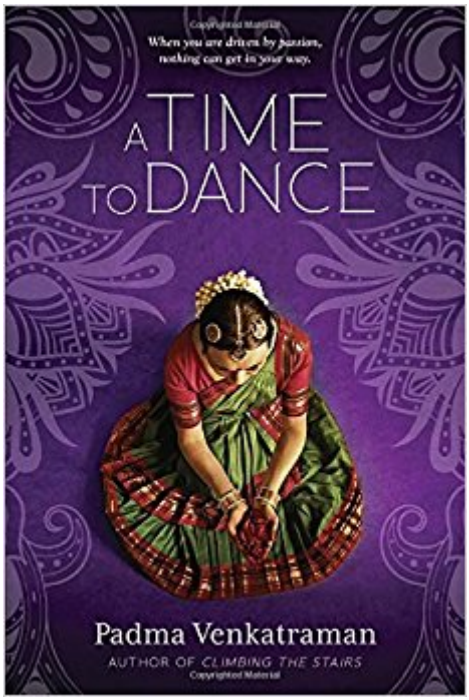
A Time To Dance



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Synopsis

Padma Venkatramanâ ™s inspiring story of a young girlâ ™s struggle to regain her passion and find a new peace is told lyrically through verse that captures the beauty and mystery of India and the ancient bharatanatyam dance form. This is a stunning novel about spiritual awakening, the power of art, and above all, the courage and resilience of the human spirit.Â Veda, a classical dance prodigy in India, lives and breathes danceâ ”so when an accident leaves her a below-knee amputee, her dreams are shattered. For a girl whoâ ™s grown used to receiving applause for her dance prowess and flexibility, adjusting to a prosthetic leg is painful and humbling. But Veda refuses to let her disability rob her of her dreams, and she starts all over again, taking beginner classes with the youngest dancers. Then Veda meets Govinda, a young man who approaches dance as a spiritual pursuit. As their relationship deepens, Veda reconnects with the world around her, and begins to discover who she is and what dance truly means to her.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 6 Upâ ”Despite the pressure from her parents to become an engineer, Veda dreams of being a dancer. She studies the classical Indian dance, Bharatanatyam, and has reached the competition finals. Impressed with her graceful lines and skill, the judges award her first place, and Veda is

ecstatic. After posing for pictures, she is injured in an accident on the way home and her leg has to be amputated below the right knee. Devastated, she lies in her hospital bed devoid of hope until one day her doctor introduces her to a specialist from America. He sparks optimism in her because he understands that she needs to dance. Eventually Veda receives a prosthetic limb that allows her to walk and dance once again. She finds a new teacher for whom dance is more than a technical performance; it is an art form. Veda is placed with a student teacher, Govinda, who not only supports her as she relearns and strengthens her dancing but also becomes her friend. This exceptional novel, told entirely in verse, captures beautifully the emotions of a girl forced to deal with a number of challenges and how she overcomes them on her way to becoming a confident young woman. It is sure to appeal to readers who are also trying to find their place in the world.â ”Laura Fields Eason, Henry F. Moss Middle School, Bowling Green, KY --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Starred Review Veda lives with her warm, traditional parents and sweet grandmother, Paati. She blissfully expresses herself through dance, even though engineering is her expected career goal. When tragedy strikes, she struggles to find her rhythm using her new, severely diminished physicality. In Venkatramanâ ™s delectably scented, sensual world, lyrically told through verse and through Veda, life is illuminated as a beautiful celebration of doing what comes naturally as well as one is able. Vedaâ ™s awakening of her gift throughout her altered body and revolutionary prosthesis provides a spiritually uplifting premise. As her dance instructor and love interest, Govinda, persuades her, â œOur ancient scriptures say the best dancers must have ten talents: balance, agility, steadiness, grace, intelligence, dedication, hard work, the ability to sing well, to speak well, and to see deeply and expressively. Youâ ™ve only lost the first three talents. Only for a while.â • The acclaimed author of Climbing the Stairs (2008) deftly shapes readersâ ™ comprehension of physical ability into a new arc of understanding. To even have a passing thought that Veda is disabled, rather than differently abled, would be utter madness. Set amid a cardamom-, melted butter-, and semolina sojji-infused landscape, the novelâ ™s emotional expression and accompanying music impel the reader to share Vedaâ ™s belief that â œShiva dances everywhere. In everyone. In everything.â • Grades 7-12. --Gail Bush --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I loved this book on so many levels. You can really feel and identify with Veda and her struggles through the vivid characterisation.Then you can identify with the art form brought to life by understanding the immersive devotion required by its practitioners. The author captured the spiritual

and meditative release practicing any art offers. And the heartwarming story arc of not letting the loss of a limb and societal emphasis on physical perfection define you was the bonus.

Excellence!

Another winner by Padma Venkatraman! The book is written in a lyrical form, which is poetic and evokes the beauty of the story. Veda a young dancer, loses her leg in an accident, and is forced to come to terms with it. She realizes her dream of becoming a dancer, as she reawakens to the spiritual beauty of dance, and finds love along the way.I could not put it down, and wanted to find out about the next phase in Veda's and Govinda's lives:)

I have read this book before. It is an awesome book to read especially if you love to dance. I have done numerous performances and this book has given me a character that I can relate to. Also great advice in this book behind the story that is told.

This book was amazing, it gave a great understanding of the culture and had some really meaningful stories about Veda's life. It was a wonderful story of love and loss and I enjoyed every part! Wonderful book!!!

This is a beautifully written book. It goes quickly, so even if you do not have time for a long book, you would enjoy this. It is well-written and keeps the readers attention throughout the book. I loved it.

This book is spectacular! It is a moving story of overcoming obstacles in one's life, no matter how old one is. Padma has a way of telling a story so you feel like you are watching a play and are mesmerized from the very first word.

This is s good book told in a different perspective. I do like verse novels but so far this to me my opinion is second best to Sonya Sone's books

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