



## Dancing in the Dark

*Maureen Lee*

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A brilliantly compelling Liverpool saga following the lives of two women - three generations apart.

### Dancing in the Dark Details

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Author : Maureen Lee

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## **From Reader Review Dancing in the Dark for online ebook**

### **Eleanor M. says**

What I really like about Maureen Lee's writing, is that she can really get inside your head. She seems to know your very thoughts and puts them in writing.

She was able to help dissect the emotions of a battered child who's grown into adulthood, and give this character three dimension, as she grew emotionally with each page.

I loved this book. I loved the chapters as they went from the past to the present, which help to round out the characters. I loved how she had one terrible decision and secret snow ball from one generation to the next.

This book touched me.

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### **Susan says**

I haven't read anyone else's review on this book, so as not to be influenced by other's opinions. I have read MANY books by Maureen Lee and have thoroughly enjoyed them all. This was no exception. In this one we travel between 1939 and 1999. Millie of 1999 is given the task to go through the things in her late Aunt Flo's flat in Liverpool. She discovers all sorts of interesting things - this book premise is used all too often these days, but Maureen Lee wrote this many years ago, so I can't fault her for that. We learn all about the Cameron, Clancy, and O'Mara families and how they intermingled over the course of 60 years. I love these "family saga" novels! My only complaint is that the ending is about 30 pages too long. It could have been wrapped up nicely, not abruptly, much earlier than it was. Still, I thoroughly enjoyed it and will continue to read more and more by Ms Lee. If you are a person seeking a great novel with WWII details set on the Homefront in Liverpool England, you may be disappointed... there's honestly not much about the war years in here - which sort of surprised me as this author is known for her great detailed WWII stories. Still, a lovely read!

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### **Geraldine Makunda says**

Families can really be complicated, made even so with hidden secrets. I enjoyed the twists only that I really think Bel should have known about Flo's son.

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### **Shirley Revill says**

Really enjoyed reading this book. Recommended.

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## **Jo Barrett says**

Another Book that I got gripped by and felt myself becoming part of the story. Excellent read.

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## **Nina says**

Loved this book, Maureen Lee is a fantastic author

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## **Dilshat says**

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## **Sophia Loves to read says**

This is a very interesting and intriguing story; Millie's Aunt Flo has recently died and she has been asked to sort through her belongings. She finds that, rather than the seemingly dull life she imagined Flo had, there are actually surprising secrets consisting of a hushed-up love affair and an illegitimate child! As Millie pieces together Flo's life she finds this process helps her deal with her own past experiences and problems, and feels she gains from Flo's strength of character.

The narrative alternates between Millie in present day, and Flo as a young woman in the 1930s and throughout her life. It is very well-written and you feel involved with both women's characters. It is also interesting to compare the different times in which these women live, and how the traditions of the time influence both their actions. The secrets are gradually, and tantalisingly, revealed and Flo's past actions end up having a bearing on Millie's present life and decisions. One of the themes of the book also seems to be how damaging secrets can be – from Flo's secret romance, to Millie's experiences of a violent and abusive father.

This is the third book I have read by this author, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The characters are all very believable, and the way the book alternates between different characters and times works very well.

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## **Fouz says**

One of my favourite book I have read so far in 2018.

This book was on the 'Clearance bookshelf' in my sister's school. She took a picture of the books and asked if I would like any of them. The title of this book caught my attention even though I have no idea who is the writer or what is the book all about. Once I have read it, I could not put it down. The story, the characters and

the style of the writing was flawless. I think I found new favourite author this year. Hopefully I am gonna read more of her books

The funny thing is I struggled to understand the dialect ? when I first read "me daughter" I was like oops there is a mistake here it should be "my daughter" but then I have noticed that 'me' was used instead of 'my' throughout the book. I googled about it and I learned that this is Liverpool accent 'Scous'

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### **Fiona says**

Really enjoyed it and wanted to know what was going to happen next. Will definitely look for another by the same author.

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### **Sharon Reeves says**

I am not sure if I can put into words how much I loved this book, but I can try. It's crept up there with one of my all time favourites so far. The complicated Character of Millie, with all her demons, is very well described, in a way you feel that you are her. I could understand how she was feeling the whole way through the book. Coming from the North of England myself, I can relate to where the book is set. I could not put the book down, and enjoyed every part, I really did not want it to end. The sad parts are very sad, and provoke real emotions. So well written, and recommended to anyone who likes these types of books.

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### **Julia says**

"Dancing in the Dark" was a highly enjoyable read. I found the book and the story to have a lot of heart but also confront serious and devastating family issues. It took a while to get used to the old-english expressions, but it wasn't a big problem. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone, especially the romantics at heart.

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### **Patrycja Pokrzywa says**

Great book

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### **Sally says**

An enjoyable easy read - I particularly liked the structure of one chapter in the past and the following in the present. The characters were well developed and the two narrators Flo and Millie were likeable. It's the type of book I wouldn't usually seek out and although I did enjoy the read it won't be memorable. However if I came across another book by the author I would pick it up and give it a go.

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### **Sarah Sammis says**

I can't say that I connected with any of the characters. It was more like watching a series of train wrecks as the family continuously self destructed.

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### **Daniel Maguire says**

This book a very good book, written by a very good author

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### **Crissy says**

Great story very moving shame about the ending!

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### **Denise says**

Took a while to get used to the different English expressions, but once I did I loved it. It was the story of two women, at two different times in history, and yet their lives were intertwined.

The story was deep and meaningful. It was the journey of the younger woman, trying to deal with life's harshness and finding comfort, strength and healing through the life of her predecessor.

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### **Urszula says**

“Dancing in the dark” was very well written story of a young girl who found herself after facing dark and devastating family secrets. This story is a great example of how we as parents influence our children. How it is up to us to help them become great adults who can face life and any life changing decisions. It was heart breaking to go through Millie’s memories of physical abuse from the hands of her father and how it shaped her relationships with men as well as her low self esteem and self worth. I liked her complex relationship with her mother and her siblings.

It was great to see her mother finding the courage to step out from her abusive relationship and start a new life.

I found Flo’s story very engaging. How often do we have people around us, who think they have the right to make life changing decisions for us? How many would like to control us? How many times it takes us years to get over things or events that were very painful and heart breaking? This is what Flo faced. It was nice to see that she was happy to some degree, but it was very sad that she could not forgive and live her life to the fullest. She could not forget what her sister has done, but she could have been happier if she forgave. She didn’t have to have a relationship with her sister, but forgiveness would set her free. I don’t think Tommy

was worth her tears and her life long suffering at all. It would have been much better if Bell told her the truth about him. This way Flo would have to face the truth and not live her life with a false dream of what her life would have been like if he lived.

I found the sexual relationships between first cousins very disturbing and maybe a little unrealistic.

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### **Bronwyn Rykier says**

Flo Clancy has just died and her great neice Millie Cameron is asked to sort out her flat. She is not looking forward to this but when she gets there and starts looking she finds lots of interesting things.

Millie does not know much about her aunt as she has not been spoken of within the family - there was a rift a long time ago. Millie's mother Kate, had only met her a couple of times as well.

They though Flo had lived a boring hum drum life but they were wrong.

I loved this story and I was happy that Millie uncovered the secrets of Flo's life but I was disappointed that she did not share those secrets with her mother or any others.

Flo's life would have been so different, I am sure, if Tommy O'Mara had not died so young or if her friend Belle had shared her story with her. It's hard to beleive that someone could be as unforgiving as Flo was to her sister Martha and that she carried it around her whole life. But at least Flo managed to have a life unlike Martha who seemed to have not had much of a life.

At the beginning of the book I did not think much of Millie either but I did get to like her in time and I felt so sorry for her mother Kate and her wasted life and that of Hugh O'Mara.

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