



A Season to Dance

Patricia Beal

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Ballerina Ana Brassfield has her path to the stage of the Met in New York and her future with fiancé Peter Engberg all figured out—until her first love, renowned German dancer Claus Gert, shows up in Georgia to dance with her and win her back. Claus kisses her after a rehearsal, a kiss Peter witnesses from the darkened audience. Convinced a kiss between Claus and Ana is more than a one-time mistake, Peter breaks off his engagement with Ana. Rejected by Peter, and knowing Claus is dancing at the Met soon, Ana decides to repave her path to her dream. With her 2002 Thunderbird and Baryshnikov, an old dog crippled by arthritis, she moves to Germany to be with Claus. But the ghost of his late wife, Ana's own memories of Peter, and the pressure of earning a spot in a large ballet company prove to be a high price for a shot at success.

A Season to Dance Details

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From Reader Review A Season to Dance for online ebook

Jodie Hoklas says

I loved this book! I couldn't put it down.

Kerry Johnson says

Vivid and emotional, A Season to Dance immerses the reader in the life of ballerina Ana and the two men who love her. I felt like I was walking through the lush gardens created by landscape architect Peter in Georgia, and I could almost touch the bright yellow sunflowers alongside Ana and Claus in Germany.

With a gentle eye for deep emotion, the author settles the reader into the lives of professional dancers and their hard-to-reach dreams, and into the heart of a young woman searching for something more. For Someone more. Ana's story leaves the reader breathless until the last pages.

I highly recommend this story of love and forgiveness, and look forward to reading more from this author!

Anne says

There were things I loved about this book and things I didn't. Great elements of excellent writing are sometimes hidden under stilted narrative and dialogue. A wonderful story of redemption and I'm happy to see Baptists get positive play in a book. ?

Andrea Boyd says

The plan of salvation is made clear. I like that. Unique characters, only, I believe I would have connected better if the book had started at the beginning instead of the end. Otherwise, it made for a nice read.

Camilla says

A compelling story with amazing depth and heartache. A journey to love and faith so full it left me reeling in emotions. A very down -to-earth story with real situations handled delicately but sincerely, and lending hope to a fallen world where normal everyday people survive, and fall, and get up again. A very interesting perspective into the ballet world and what really matters...

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.

Katie says

Loved Beal's *A Season to Dance*! Well-done, tangible look into a professional ballerina's life, performances, and exciting international travels. A fast-read showcasing God's dedication to us and the freedom of trading emptiness for God's redemption.

Natalie says

I met Patricia at the ACFW 2015 writer's conference and was charmed by her beautiful Brazilian accent and her ballet costume on the character dress-up night. Little did I know she was a REAL ballerina--and had written a book about a ballerina! Last week I won a giveaway of the *Letters to Juliet* DVD from an interview blog featuring Patricia, who graciously included a copy of *A Season to Dance* in the giveaway package! I'd been wanting to read this novel since I first met her and am so excited to tell you about the story in this review!

The Main Characters:

Ana, Peter, and Claus... Wow. These characters came to life on the page. The Blake Shelton comparison for Peter gave me an instant reference point, since my Granny and I have been watching the *Voice* lately. I pictured Patricia as Ana's look-a-like, and my mental image of Claus was a longer-haired Rick Cosnett, whose facial structure is coincidentally similar to Mikhail Baryshnikov. These characters have such unique personalities and back stories, and they are all inwardly broken. Their brokenness translates to their actions and they all make destructive decisions along the way. They learn from them, though. And that is one thing that makes this story so great.

The Romance:

This story is unlike any other I've read. It's a twist on the regular Happily Ever After. Ana loves two very different men, and she's a different person with each of them. The heartstrings are pulled when she is around them, and though I was anticipating one or the other to turn into the typical ex-boyfriend-villain, neither did. Many of the characters are lost or away from God during most of the story, so they make bad decisions concerning their relationships, but the author only portrays these actions as far as a few kisses and caresses, closing the door on more intimate events that will effect these characters for the rest of their lives. Patricia does an excellent job at portraying broken humanity in the light of God's love, where forgiveness is always waiting and the deeply-flawed have access to second-chance mercy as long as they have breath.

The Pace:

In the first chapter, a mystery is introduced, and the character journey to reveal that mystery follows. This is a thoughtful, emotional novel, exploring deep subjects that are suited to a quieter pace. At about the 2/3 mark, though, the events of the story grabbed me and the pace sped up significantly, ending with a finale that had me fighting tears.

The Faith Element:

The redemption message in this novel is one of the most powerful and clearly presented Biblically based faith-journeys I've read in a fiction book. Ana tries to find fulfillment in everything but God, then finally decides to "try out" religion, but eventually learns she can't earn her salvation or peace with God.

Redemption is out of her reach as long as she's trying to climb up and attain it herself, and all the while her Savior is waiting for her to simply surrender to Him and ask for His salvation, and He'll gladly give her all she needs. In *A Season to Dance*, God pursues Ana's heart with a gentle and unrelenting love. It's a beautiful thing to watch unfold.

The Stakes:

The stakes include Peter's heart, Claus' heart, and Ana's heart, which is divided between finding her life's purpose, and following her dream of dancing at the Met in New York. Which one will win?

The Overall Impression:

A Season to Dance isn't my usual light-hearted historical romance and comedic fare. But the spiritual and life lessons the book portrays were ones I needed to contemplate, and I found myself surrendering several dreams to God to do with as He sees best. I love a book that will make me take a closer look at myself and my motives and encourage me to change for the better. This book did that for me.

The More Factor:

I would love to read more books by Patricia in the future.

*I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.

Leslie M. says

Ballerina Ana Brassfield has always dreamed of performing at the Met. In addition to pursuing her goal, she is also planning her wedding to Peter Engberg. However, one mistake changes everything. A broken engagement has Ana travelling to Germany with her first love, German dancer Claus Gert. He has had his eyes set on winning Ana back for some time. Ana hopes that a position with Claus' company can help her fulfill her dreams. Has Ana finally come into her season to dance?

A Season to Dance showcases the beauty of dance and transports the reader on a cultural journey, along with Ana. The heroine's struggles are realistic in this multi-layered tale. The story provides an insider's look at a professional ballerina's life, with added depth from the author's personal experience as a dancer. Beal's debut shows that she has a bright future ahead!

You can read my interview with the author on my blog: <https://lmckeediting.blogspot.com/20...>

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy, but I wasn't required to write a review. Opinions expressed are my own.

Beth says

Ana Brassfield has her heart set on dancing at the Metropolitan Opera House. Her future is set. She is on her way to achieving her dancing dream and engaged to a wonderful man, Peter. Things are on the right track, until her first love, Claus, a famous dancer, returns to Georgia to dance on the stage, and of course, win his way back into Ana's heart. After a misunderstanding from a scene on the dance floor, her engagement to Peter is off, and so begins Ana's winding journey to realizing that her dreams may not be what she wants after all.

In *A Season to Dance* Patricia Beal brings the artistic nature of ballet to life, all the while illustrating a life lived chasing after dreams deferred, and sometimes chasing all of the wrong things. This debut is an emotional story of redemption. Ana makes choices that heart this reader's heart, but it was all worth it in the end when I saw the culmination of Ana's journey. There are several emotional twists and turns, often twists of Ana's own making. The story is introspective and told from Ana's first person perspective. I really enjoyed Ana's voice and getting to know her through the course of the story. Her journey illustrates perfectly that life will not go as planned, but in the end, you're where you need to be. Ana comes to the end of her rope and finds an answer in Christ.

Beal's descriptions of ballet were as much a thing of beauty as the dance steps she was describing. The passion and exhilaration that come with telling a story through dance and the moves themselves came to life for me through Ana's experiences. These seemed especially beautiful for me because I grew up dancing, and while I was never a ballerina like Ana, I still have a special place in my heart for dance. The author is familiar with the world of ballet, but the way she brings it to life is impressive and enthralling.

Likewise, the descriptions of the different settings, whether in Georgia or Germany, are so well done. I felt as if I was walking through the fragrant gardens of Georgia in springtime or enjoying a picnic along the Rhine right along with Ana. Beal paints a beautiful picture with her words, whether describing the setting or ballet.

Ana's journey made my heart ache at times, and her disappointment in herself when she makes the wrong decisions is palpable. Though the consequences might have played out to Ana's detriment, God took those consequences and made them turn out for Ana's ultimate good. I appreciated that, even when Ana was living counter to what she knew was God's will for her, everything was handled with delicacy and without unnecessary descriptions. Ana's thoughts accurately portrayed the negativity of her choices, even when the actual choice didn't play out on the page. Beal does a great job of giving the reader the information they need and doing so in a way that portrays Ana's emotions nicely.

I am glad for the opportunity to read this debut. It is obvious that the story is close to the author's heart and that she was willing to make the hard choices when it comes to telling Ana's story. If you do give this a read, please do read the author's note because it adds another layer to this beautiful story. I hope there are more stories to come from Patricia Beal. Any future books of her will for sure be on my to-read list. Recommended wholeheartedly for readers of contemporary, realistic fiction and stories of redemption.

I received a complimentary copy of this novel. This review is my honest opinion, and I was not required to write a positive review.

Beth Erin says

Full review on Faithfully Bookish <http://wp.me/p7ngfE-Qx>

The artistry of dance and nature saturates every moment of this beauty from ashes tale while heartache, betrayal, and turmoil beg for redemption, restoration, and grace.

Ana has regrets. Lots of regrets. Ana has a lot going for her but her focus is continually drawn to what she doesn't (and perhaps can't) have. Her journey is long, winding, and complicated but the destination makes it a road worth taking.

A Season to Dance perfectly conveys the hopelessness, emptiness, and inner turmoil many have endured as a young man or woman in need of a Savior. Bravo!

I requested the opportunity to read this book through the author. The opinions expressed are my own.

Melanie Kilsby says

An absolute glorious story of redemption and salvation through Jesus!

I will never look at Sequoia trees the same again.
My chest is literally crushing in heartache!

Wow. That ending...
I am still crying.

I've bumped up this review one complete star solely based off that EPIC ENDING!

Patricia's heart is all over the pages in this debut novel. You can feel it. I loved how she brought out the raw realities of life before we come to know the Lord and how He truly does save us from our sins--our mess. This book highlights the fine dance of God's redeeming love, mankind, and hope.

And Peter... he is forever strong. Love his character!

At the start of this book, if I were honest, I struggled to get into it. First off, the narrative is in first person which I do appreciate sometimes, but not in complicated stories. Because of the choice of narrative, the beginning felt a bit rushed and flat with characters that were one dimensional. Add to that, confusing love interests and history we aren't made aware of for awhile, I just couldn't relate.

I kept on and finally found the rhythm of Patricia's writing, which was beautiful. I could literally smell the flowers in each scene. I also really appreciated her bringing to light the realities of Huntington's Disease. So, I was captured.

Then came very wrong life choices--a lot of them.

I strongly dislike love triangles and this book came down with a seriously bad case of it. And to make matters worse, our main girl Ana, just kept throwing in bad decisions every chapter. Because of that, I

bumped up the age restrictions for certain trigger warnings which I will lay out below as well. Though, I am pleased to say that the end turned out nicely in regards to that.

This is an adult only book. 19+
Definitely not YA.

Some issues I had with this book are:

Sex outside of marriage. It happens to a proclaimed christian man who enters a relationship knowing he is unequally yoked and does not avoid this, nor mentions it and encourages the behaviour. It's not overtly detailed but, fleshy in emotional connections and lustful sensuality through out other moments. Also, there is alcohol use that is mentioned when a person is already a christian, etc.

I do understand that most of the characters weren't regularly reading their bibles, attending churches or had any other Christian supports at the time and fell into their temptations for the sake of the "story" so-to-speak. But we buy books for entertainment. I don't find those things entertaining and for those that are very sensitive to these issues, or are new Christians themselves who are struggling to stay pure in your own relationships as christians, please avoid this book if it may cause you any harm in your relationship with the Lord!

Having said all of that,
I also really hope people who do choose to read this book, STICK TO THE END...

The end is SO Worth it.
It's an absolute glorious story of redemption and salvation through Jesus!

The author gave me this book in exchange for my honest review.
Thank you Patricia for a beautiful season to dance.
I pray God directs you as you continue to pen for His Glory!

Mary A Smith says

I actually read this manuscript in its early stages & loved it! This story grabs your full attention & your emotions, I cried, I smiled , prayed & I cried some more right along with Ana's journey!
Patricia Beal is my daughter-in-law, I am so proud of her, she is insightful,& so talented! Well Done!!

Natalie Walters says

Debut author, Patrica Beal, delights the senses with A Season To Dance.

Opening the pages I was treated to an emotional journey as ballet dancer, Ana Brassfield, struggles to find sufficiency in a life that seems to be falling apart at every pirouette. I truly enjoyed the stunning detail Ms. Beal creates in describing the setting throughout the story, which allowed me to breathe in the fragrance of lavender and hear the babbling of the Rhine or feel the chest thumping current of an orchestra warming up as dancers take their place on stage. This kind of writing makes it impossible to not become enraptured in the story.

Among the exotic settings that don't require you to get a passport, Ms. Beal introduces a cast of characters that would've made Mr. Shakespeare proud. These characters are not perfect. They don't pretend to be. They are broken and searching. Ms. Beal offers a compass of hope, truth, and relevance that proves thoughtful and impactful.

There are discussion questions at the end, which I think will provide readers and book clubs another level of depth to the story.

***I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Fiction Aficionado says

I am undone! By the time I got to the end of this story I was a blubbering mess—in a good way. This was such a beautiful story of finding sufficiency in God, and so unique. I honestly can't think of another story I have read like this one.

To begin with—ballet! As a classical music and ballet lover (not to mention a ballet mum), I loved entering Ana's world. It was so obvious that the author has personal experience in this world, but even so, it's not an easy thing to translate to the page. And yet Patricia Beal did so beautifully. She captured the music, the movement, and the emotion of those scenes in such a simple but effective way. Even if you can't tell a plié from a retiré, you will still feel completely immersed in the dance.

But at its heart, this isn't really a ballet story. It's a story about a young woman who is looking to her career and her relationships for fulfilment, but constantly falling short. It's her search to fully understand the truth of 2 Corinthians 12:9—*My grace is sufficient for you*—and her journey to that point where she can step back and give her dreams and desires into God's hands.

Ana experiences both angst and heartache on the journey, even as she catches elusive glimpses of the joy and peace she is trying to grasp. At times I wanted to reach out to her and say, "Please, don't do this to yourself," but at the same time, I was so thoroughly immersed in her character that I could understand why she made those choices, and why she thought those choices would bring the happiness and peace she was looking for. And God clearly worked through those choices, even as Ana regretted them. But even when she seems to making the right choices, circumstances beyond her control threaten to take away the peace she has finally found.

And then the ending . . . oh, the ending! I'm going to cry again just thinking about it. God truly turns Ana's mourning into dancing in ways she could never have imagined!

This is a truly beautiful debut, and when you read the author's notes at the end of the novel, you will understand why there is so much heart in its pages.

Patricia Beal, I am a fan for life!

I received a copy of this novel from the author. This has not influenced the content of my review.

Linda Thompson says

Patricia Beal's writing is deft and immersive--and I'm picky! :) I really FELT Ana, and entered into her fascinating world from the first page. Settings are gorgeous, characters are engaging. Anyone who enjoys Christian romance should set aside a few cozy evenings for this one! Especially if you're after a romance novels that breaks the mold a bit.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.
