



Ballerina: A Novel

By Edward Stewart

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Ballerina: A Novel By Edward Stewart

Before *Black Swan*, there was *Ballerina*: Edward Stewart's acclaimed novel that follows two young women into the cutthroat world of professional dance

Stephanie Lang and Christine Avery meet in ballet school. Although they share the same dream—to become great dancers—they could not be more different. Ballet is in Stephanie's blood; her mother, Anna, is a former dancer who lives to see her daughter achieve the fame she herself never attained. Christine has lived a sheltered life, secure in the love of her family. But her privileged upbringing conceals a devastating secret.

Two teenage dancers, one chance to make it. From the thrill and terror of auditions through years of meticulous training to landing a coveted spot in a professional company, Stephanie and Christine relentlessly pursue their ambitions. As they give their all to dance, they become inseparable—until they are torn apart by their passion for the same man, a brilliant Russian dancer whose seductive, mercurial temperament will have unforeseen consequences for them all.

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Editorial Review

Review

“What makes this book special is the evocation of that magic world [of dance], which Edward Stewart has brought to life in scrupulous detail. They are hypnotic, these obsessed people who must give up everything for their work or else drop out. But if the price is high for them, the rewards are higher.” —*The New York Times*

“*Ballerina* expertly peels away layers of make-up and tulle. . . . It tells a deft and racy tale.” —*Los Angeles Times*

“*Ballerina* bears the same relationship to the world of dance as *The Godfather* does to the Mafia. . . . Slick and compelling.” —*The Boston Globe*

“The quintessential ballet novel, long overdue . . . Fun, bitchy, gossipy, and, finally, dead serious in its understanding of what being in ballet is all about.” —*Publishers Weekly*

About the Author

Edward Stewart (1938–1996) grew up in New York City and Cuba. He was educated at Phillips Exeter Academy and at Harvard, where he edited the famed *Lampoon* humor magazine. He studied music in Paris with Nadia Boulanger, and worked as a composer and arranger before launching his career as a writer. His first novel, *Orpheus on Top*, was published in 1966. He wrote thirteen more novels, including the bestselling Vince Cardozo thrillers *Privileged Lives*, *Jury Double*, *Mortal Grace*, and *Deadly Rich*.

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