



## Dance of Desire

*Catherine Kean*

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## **Dance of Desire** Catherine Kean

Desperate to save her brother Rudd from being condemned as a traitor, Lady Rexana Villeaux must dance in disguise at a feast for the High Sheriff of Warringham. Her goal is to distract him so her servant can steal a damning missive from the sheriff's solar. Dressed in the gauzy costume of a desert courtesan, dancing with all the passion and sensuality in her soul, she succeeds in her mission. And, at the same time, condemns herself.

Fane Linford, the banished son of an English earl, joined Richard's crusade only to find himself a captive in a hellish eastern prison. He survived the years of torment, it's rumored, because of the love of a Saracen courtesan. The rumors are true. And when he sees Rexana dance, Richard has promised Fane an English bride, yet he desires only one woman—the exotic dancer who tempted him. Then he discovers the dancer's identity. And learns her brother is in his dungeon, accused of plotting against the throne. It is more temptation than Fane can resist.

The last thing Rexana wants is marriage to the dark and brooding Sheriff of Warringham. But her brother is his prisoner, and there may be only one way to save him. Taking the greatest chance of her life, Rexana becomes the sheriff's bride. And learns that the Dance of Desire was only a beginning.

## **Dance of Desire Details**

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## From Reader Review Dance of Desire for online ebook

### Lisa says

Fairly predictable medieval romance, with a dash of intrigue. Not too many poor word choices to pull me out of the story, but enough repetition of words to become annoying.

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### Tanya says

#### Good book

The story is a bit slow. That aside I really enjoyed reading it. I don't want to give any spoilers, so I won't say too much. The heroine is at times hard to route for, but i'm glad things turned out well in the end.

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### Angie says

**Synopsis:** *"Desperate to save her brother Rudd from being condemned as a traitor, Lady Rexana Villeaux must dance in disguise at a feast for the High Sheriff of Warringham. Her goal is to distract him so her servant can steal a damning missive from the sheriff's solar. Dressed in the gauzy costume of a desert courtesan, dancing with all the passion and sensuality in her soul, she succeeds in her mission. And, at the same time, condemns herself.*

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**My Review:** This was an enjoyable historical romance with some interesting ideas. Though with the slightly unusual touches, the underlying story still seems to be like so many other historical romances I have read, misunderstandings, lack of communication and betrayal all lead to a unstable relationship and drive wedges further between the couple. I do have to say though I enjoyed the way dancing was integrated into the story. I did prefer Fane as a character over the rest of the characters, and while Rudd had a background role I still rather liked him. Rexanna was a love/hate character for me, while I loved her dedication to her brother, I didn't like how she went about things. With those issues, I still rather enjoyed reading the story.

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## Mummy Cat Claire says

Tangston Keep, England, 1192

Lady Rexana Villeaux has to come up with a plan to save her younger brother from disaster. With the help of her servants, she disguises herself as a Medieval style exotic dancer. She goes to the keep of Fane Linford the Sherriff of Warringham. Her goal is to seduce him and steal the paper she needs to clear her brothers name, then slip out into the night with no one the wiser.

However, her plan fails. Bombs. Fane figures Rexana was the dancer at his gathering and blackmails her into becoming his wife. She reluctantly accepts.

Fane is the sheriff, appointed by the king. He fought during the crusades and took a liking to the culture of the "savages." His preference for all things savage put a stain on his reputation and people think he has become "one of them."

"One day, his peers would look upon him and speak to him with genuine respect, accepting him for who he was."

Rexana and Fane now have to figure out how to make their marriage work. All the while, fight against who is right when it comes to Rexana's brother. Is he a traitor to the crown or is he being set up?

There were some confusing parts and small inconsistencies to the book. Even mistakes. There was a time when Rexana was supposed to leave on horseback but then in the next paragraph she's back with Fane.

The author added in a lot of tension for the reader. Rexana and Fane really liked making each other suffer and the reader gets a first class seat to see what they do to each other.

The author took her time in setting up a bond between the two characters. When they first marry, Rexana doesn't trust Fane at all. So the author created time where the characters get to know each other and form a sort of friendship and trust. But trust is fleeting as Rexana tries to save her brother, which means she has to go against Fane. It was a lot of back and forth with these two.

The two characters really liked playing games with each other and making themselves miserable. While tension is good and interesting, this author took it a bit too far.

I disliked the poem that Fane wrote. I found it cheesy and something I could never take seriously. Rexana liked it though. "Tis a most seductive poem. you woo my heart and body with words."

The author was pretty good at using words and phrases from this time frame. That's hard to do considering their way of talking would be very foreign to us. There were a few times when the characters were not accurate but all in all, it was pretty close. More believable than some other books out there.

I think the author should have used Fane's secrets more and told the reader about them sooner. I also didn't care for how Thomas came into the picture.

Overall, this is a typical medieval romance, if you are in the mood. It is not clean, by any means, but not overly dirty. I think the first part of the book is better than the second half. I liked the battle. Rexana is a very hard headed, stubborn character that was strangely not very proactive until the end. I liked the way the author

used description and details of the age. If you like medieval romance novels, this is one to check out but beware the two characters play a lot of games and trust is a big issue with the two. This may come off as unromantic to you or it may not.

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### **Zoe says**

my second book from Catherine Kean. again, not crazy about it. the characters are alright, I like the hero a lot more than the heroin. and seriously, why speak of love prematurely? why can't they somehow "discover" love after they have known each other a little more? a guy who fell head over heels over a woman who does not want to with him for whatever reason, what's the charm of such stories?

I think the book is not poorly written. characters are likable, but it is missing something and I do not know what. maybe it's just I don't know I should bother with such a story. it doesn't draw me into the story. I am kind of bored watching the hero proclaiming his love and lusting after the heroin, and the heroin being set on avoiding him because she wants to. ugh, it's no fun.

but for the quality writing I am giving it 3 stars.

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### **Tomi says**

Predictable but a good escapism read.

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### **Karen Desmond says**

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### **Cat Bras says**

Great story. Loved the characters and the story.

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### **Rose says**

This could have been quite good, except it was a little marginal where it came to morality, as I remember. It was an interesting subject, anyway.

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### **Kbee says**

Love medieval stories! Fast easy read with time related speech. What to do when love and loyalty are pulling

you apart? The plot was somewhat contemporary with a medieval story. Rudd infiltrates the bad guys gang to prove they are traitors.

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### **Petula says**

Only ok. The back ground of the characters doesn't seem to relate to the main story. Unless there was a book before it that I missed.

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### **Eryn says**

Enjoyable, quick romance. Writing was good but not great, storyline was a little silly in places, and the characters were mostly likeable but didn't have a great deal of depth. The female lead also made rash, stupid decisions and I was disappointed that she ended up being correct. What I liked most about this book was actually the time period and the language used. It annoyed me a little at first, and I honestly have no idea how accurate it was, but I enjoyed it. If I could, this book would be 2.5 stars.

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### **Lorelei's says**

Reading this tale was like enjoying a box of Godiva chocolates! So rich in details and passion, and also full of sweet love, very romantic and also suspenseful. This was my first medieval romance and not the last! The author uses vocabulary from the era and describes the scenes so well, especially for a newbie like me. I will definitely be reading the rest of the series and more from Catherine Kean.

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### **Linda says**

OK for a 1 time read but largely forgettable.

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### **Jayne dArcy says**

Fane is beautiful! I kept seeing Porthos from the BBC production series of Musketeers as Fane. Rexana was interesting but her deception of Fane bothered me. I understood why she did what she did but I really wanted to shove the book at her and tell her to read about Fane and understand him. I wonder if Fane was too forgiving. Even after finishing the book I still feel more sympathy for Fane than I do for Rexana.

By the way I hate the name REXANA. Sometimes I really question the authors and the names they come up with for heroes and heroines.

Rexana is a good character even though I found her disloyalty towards Fane hard to get over. She has a very strong loyalty towards her brother and I had to breathe a sigh of relief when this was all over.

Fane is a grand character because he is so very poetic. His every thought of Rexana is beautiful in its terms, and wonderfully erotic.

I'm not a forgiving sort so it was good that Fane was towards Rexana.

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