



The Enchanted Sonata

Heather Dixon Wallwork

Download now

Read Online →

The Enchanted Sonata

Heather Dixon Wallwork

The Enchanted Sonata Heather Dixon Wallwork

Clara Stahlbaum has her future perfectly planned: to marry the handsome pianist, Johann Kahler (ah!) and settle down to a life full of music. But all that changes on Christmas Eve, when Clara receives a mysterious and magical nutcracker.

Whisked away to his world—an enchanted empire of beautiful palaces, fickle fairies, enormous rats, and a prince—Clara must face a magician who uses music as spells...and the future she thought she wanted.

The Enchanted Sonata, a retelling of The Nutcracker Ballet with a dash of The Pied Piper, will captivate readers of all ages.

The Enchanted Sonata Details

Date : Published October 23rd 2018 by The Wallworkshop

ISBN :

Author : Heather Dixon Wallwork

Format : Hardcover 375 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Retellings, Young Adult, Holiday, Christmas

 [Download The Enchanted Sonata ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Enchanted Sonata ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Enchanted Sonata Heather Dixon Wallwork

From Reader Review *The Enchanted Sonata* for online ebook

Jessy says

DNF at 39%

Wow, I just realised that this book isn't long at all, but I really had to fight my way through these 39%. I'm surprised I even got that far, actually.

I was pretty much *enchanted* by this book when I saw it. Cover? Gorgeous. Synopsis? Amazing.

I am a sucker for *The Nutcracker Ballet* and was intrigued by this retelling mixing that with *The Pied Piper*, which I only vaguely know because of German classes. I got to admit, I was a little surprised at the choice of combining a Russian ballet with a German legend, but with the help of our dear friend Google, I discovered that *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* is actually a German story.

Huh, you never stop learning.

Also: music as magic. Wonderful. I've always believed music to be kind of magical.

So yeah, **the story idea is amazing**. I love it.

Execution? Not so much.

Now, I can't say much to the plot or characters or whatever because first of all I haven't read the whole book, and secondly, I just couldn't concentrate on any of that.

I was struggling not to throw my phone away and/or break out into tears.

The writing, good Lord, the writing.

The writing wasn't good. Not at all. It was **clumsy** and **nonsensical** and I just couldn't bear it.

You don't know what I mean? Some examples:

Their parents slept on, stirring a little for the draft from the open doors, but they did not stir.

They do but they don't. Yeah no, I don't like this.

Rat traps were large, because rats were large.

I know that the author wrote this to show the reader that rats are large, but man, that sounds awkward.

"What?" said Nikolai. "What what?"

What?

“He is a bit of pancake-head, though”, said one of the Krystallgradians at the table.

What exactly is a pancake head and where is the article?

Now, Alexei still had that brooding expression now as he grasped the reins of one of the horses, keeping it from following its companions back into the prospect.

Why, oh why, is 'now' used twice?

Honestly, I could go on and on and I've only read 39% of this novel. I don't want to know what else I would have encountered had I read on.

I don't recommend this book to anyone.

Provided by NetGally in exchange for an honest review.

Blog | Instagram | Twitter | Tumblr

Holly (Holly Hearts Books) says

Personal rating: 4.25

"But I do know that in the face of bitterness and disappointment, when our souls cry out in despair and anger, that we might fight it. As we fight everything in this life-with nobility, courage, and grace. That is what makes a true prince."

Clara's world is turned upside down on Christmas morning when she finds a mysterious present under the tree wrapped in velvety red wrapping, topped with a glistening silver bow. She opens it to find a handsome nutcracker and a strange book along with it. As she opens the book to read it, she immediately realizes the story is more than meets the eye.

The story is played out in front of her of another world inhabited by a young prince named Nikolai who is on the verge of becoming emperor of Imperia. Tragedy strikes one night when every single child across all the kingdoms are turned into toys from rocking horses and candy, to dolls and toy pots.

This book is literally the definition of magic. There's an evil magician, fairies, a talking nutcracker, giant rats. I was absolutely enchanted by this world. A world described as a blur of jewels and glittering forests but don't let that fool you into thinking this book is all gumdrops and spun sugar, it has its very dark moments. There are very gorey battles and heart breaking scenes.

Also the entire book is centered around MUSIC! It is built upon this aspect that music is magic and it is

needed to save the world. Clara herself is a pianist. She was taught as a child by her now deceased father. The evil magician even carries around sheet music so when he plays his flute, dark and sinister things become reality.

Speaking of the evil magician. What a fantastic character. He was dark, beautiful, mysterious, and even had an entire backstory chapter which settled my love for him. He had so much misplaced passion and had such a complexity to him.

This is a nutcracker retelling and I've personally never been interested in the story which leads to my knowledge of it being minimal but I adored this story and had no problem getting comfortable with it.

Mellie Antoinette says

I think the authoress may have accidentally pigeon-holed her villains into a flat, cardboard box which manifested itself in glaring linguistic continuity errors ("....just as I caught the scent of rats, I thought to myself rats."). It's a shame because this book had beautiful moments. Waking through her Kristallgrad was like a dance through Candyland and the way she structured Nutcracker as a character was nicely done. But a story needs two parts to create one whole - protagonist and antagonist. The treatment of the villain showed the need for more seasoning to not just bring them to life, but incorporate them in the storyline.

Danny says

Such a magical re-telling of the Nutcracker, with a sprinkling of the Pied Piper. Heater's writing is so vivid, it easily transports you to the world along side Clara.

Really enjoyed traversing the world, the battles were intense, and music being magic was so beautiful.

Marta Barrales says

To be honest, life hasn't been great these past weeks. I've been buried in exams and my depression had a comeback; truly, I've felt pretty miserable for a while. Of course, I wasn't really in the mood for Christmas either for most of December. However, I did have tickets for the Nutcracker at my city's opera house (since I bought them a very long time ago) and was sort of looking for something according to read, you know, to get the most out of the experience. And so I came across this wonderful little book on Goodreads.

The Enchanted Sonata is a loosely based retelling of the Nutcracker ballet. If you have never seen it, the story is about a boy who was turned into a nutcracker doll and needs the help of a young girl to break the spell. It's an excellent Christmas story and beautiful spectacle if you love ballet, like me.

This book reads like a fairy tale. The writing style is appropriate and the setting of the story is equally magical. It manages to bring all the best pieces of the source material together in a world that is as lovely as the cover of the book. It feels whimsical and naive in the best way possible.

It does sport a couple problems of course, some characters aren't properly fleshed out, and at some point it's clear that things happened exclusively to advance the plot. The humour felt a bit silly at times but that doesn't mean it's not funny. Despite all of it, I adored it. It's ingenuous and jolly and it made me feel very festive. I even loved the romance, which, I admit, doesn't always happen to me.

I think it's a solid Christmas read, it leaves you with a happy feeling. Perhaps it won't appeal to everybody but it certainly made it for me. I only wish it had an epilogue or a longer ending. But anyway, I feel happier than I have in weeks and I'd dare to say that this book had a role on it.

Oh, and Merry Christmas guys.

INSTAGRAM | BLOG | PINTEREST | GOODREADS

Zoë ? says

I honestly had so much fun reading this book! It was so whimsical and the perfect read for around Christmas time. I read this within a day because I was so entertained that I almost couldn't stop reading. It was so cute!

The Book Valkyrie says

DISCLAIMER: Ebook provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

4 stars

Clara Stahlbaum has her future all planned out: marry the charming pianist with whom she has fallen so deeply in love, and lead a life full of joy and music. But on Christmas Eve, when Clara is anonymously gifted with an intriguingly enchanting nutcracker, everything changes.

Suddenly, Clara is thrust into a world full of magic, war, and a terrifying force of evil that must be brought down. When Clara finds the fate of the Nutcracker (and his empire) in her hands, she must find a way to defeat this mysterious evil before it's too late.

Sorry about that mediocre synopsis. If you've read my previous reviews, you'll know that I'm absolutely awful when it comes to writing summaries of books. Oh well. What can you do when you're an unskilled blogger like me? Womp, womp, womp...

Anyway, getting back to the point, this book was pretty dang good.

In the beginning, I was skeptical. Clara, our MC, was 100% head over heels for Julien, our macho, manly musician (talk about alliteration!) / love interest dude. This kind of bothered me because it was yet another example of a young woman swooning over some random guy that she doesn't even know (*facepalm*). But fortunately, as I continued to read the story, I soon realized that Clara wasn't genuinely in love with Julien. She was simply using him to fill the hole that (SPOILER ALERT) her father's death had left in its wake.

Yes, the Enchanted Sonata did have its cheesy moments, but it was still a pretty great read. The pacing was

perfect and I found myself falling in love with the dazzling, fantastical setting.

My only complaint was that Clara seemed like a rather bland protagonist. She didn't have much of a personality, and (though I hate to say this) her character was kind of boring. I would have appreciated it if she was more fleshed out.

Overall, I'm glad I read the *Enchanted Sonata*. I'd definitely recommend it to anyone looking for a fun, magical book to enjoy during the holidays!

Thank you to Heather Dixon Wallwork and Smith Publicity for supplying me with this ARC!

Amber Stokes says

I absolutely adored *Entwined* by Heather Dixon, so I was excited for another book by her with such a promising premise. And it truly is a charming story!

First of all, the way the story is told is very clever and fun, a story within a story with plenty of adventure and surprises. Second, Heather excels at imaginative descriptions, and this book is full of them—from the way Nutcracker is portrayed to the grandeur of the train and city to the delightful candies and cozy rooms in Polichinelle's. (Now there's a fictional business I'd love to visit!) Third, just like with *Entwined*, the characters are quite lovable, especially the two main ones.

I'm not sure if the review e-copy I read was final or not, but it did feel somewhat unpolished. I would say that the story is a little like a toy soldier marching—a bit clunky in some plot pieces, but also a bit too neat in how some of the plot is resolved. While it may feel less polished and impactful than how I remember *Entwined*, the way this story unfolds and then gets tied together is still sweetly satisfying.

I really enjoyed Clara's journey, how she matures and what she learns about the nature of love and dreams worth pursuing. Heather's writing is fun and engaging and very distinctive, and *The Enchanted Sonata* is a lovely new presentation from her. Let the music whisk you away in this creative young-adult tale that balances some intense topics with a light voice—a great choice for the holidays.

With thanks to Smith Publicity and the author through NetGalley for providing me with a complimentary e-ARC of this book. Opinions expressed in this review are my own.

♥ Kayleigh Kehoe ? (Awkword Reviews)🐾 says

Oh, **wow**, I am positively *stupefied* by this ingenuous magical addition to the literary world of re-imaginings and fairy tale retellings. This is my first Heather Dixon Wallwork book and it's safe to say that any fairy tale retellings she spouts I want to be the **first** to hear them. The *Enchanted Sonata* is *the most* enrapturing, stunning and dreamy book I have read **all year**. I am perfectly smitten.

I read the synopsis of this book and thought, '*hey, this sounds right up my street*' and I had a little flutter in my stomach that happens whenever I see a book I will probably love - *sometimes the fluttering doesn't pan out and the butterflies die a gruesome death of disappointment, thankfully this wasn't one of those times* - and

then I found out *The Enchanted Sonata* was actually written by a *Disney story artist*... **Well, there was no need to tell me twice!** I began reading the book with my hopes and expectations high, and finished the book with my hopes and expectations well fed.

The Enchanted Sonata is a flawless stature of a fairy tale. Wallwork combines the tale of *The Pied Piper* and *The Nutcracker*, which sounds like an unusual pairing but **honestly contains more delicious layers than a luxurious Belgian truffle.**

The prose is beautiful; so uplifting and inspiring, I *love* retellings where they light a warm glow inside and remind me that good things can happen.

Also - the little side story of Pyotr gave me **all the feels!** I thought it was *such* an adorable addition to what was already a moving storyline, the little details delivered in this story are the epitome of perfection and served on a plate of wonderful imagery that embody childhood dreams.

The Enchanted Sonata is the *pied piper* of books - see what I did there? - and I am the child lured out of my warm cosy bed. I would follow Heather Dixon Wallflower's precious writing anywhere.

Thank you to Net Galley for providing an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

wordpress ? tumblr ? bookstagram ? twitter ?

Janne Janssens says

Ebook provided by NetGally in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

What makes music...magic?

The Enchanted Sonata is such a magical story.

Heather Dixon Wallwork wrote a very original story, even though it was based on the well known *The Nutcracker*.

Clara has a clear picture of her future and Christmas would be the start of that future. That evening she will play a piano concert, for which she practiced intensively for two years. This way she will attract the attention of Johann, a talented pianist whom she has never met but is very much in love with.

The evening before she receives a special present: a nutcracker and a book. These bring her to an enchanted realm where a magician changed all soldiers and children into toys by playing magic music on his flute. He wants the Emperor to prove he is a real ruler. Clara is the only one who can break the spell with her piano music, but she's afraid to miss the concert and lose her picture perfect future.

Clara felt very young in the beginning. I don't know exactly why. Maybe because of her crush for someone she had never met, maybe because I saw Disney's *Nutcracker* only two weeks ago. Thinking she was maybe 15, her love for Johann was quite weird to me, because I thought he was way too old for her. The same with

Nutcracker.

It took me a while to have empathy for her character. It was only in the last 5 chapters that the chemistry between Clara and Nutcracker felt right.

It was a great decision to tell the magician's background story. It made his character much more interesting and believable. However, it would have given more tension if the story had been spread over a few chapters, alternating with Clara and Nutcracker's story. This way, it would have taken longer to reveal everything.

Eventhough I loved Heater Dixon Wallwork's writing style, it felt like some sentences seemed to be repeated a lot. Because of this repetitiveness, the story lost its flow sometimes.

However, *The Enchanted Sonata* is a lovely, light read. Ideal for reading around Christmas time.

Vibur says

The Enchanted Sonata* was a stirringly vivid, whimsical retelling of *The Nutcracker (and yes, I was listening to Tchaikovsky on-loop as I read this) but it was far from perfect. The characters lacked depth, the humour fell flat, and for the most part, the dialogue was so dull and uninspired that I was left feeling *wooden* inside ~~like a nutcracker~~.

I adored it regardless.

This novel was a confection of sensual delight. Channelling the spirit of Christmas, Wallwork limns a world of snow-wreathed pines and frost-daubed palaces—a world smelling *sinfully* of gingerbread and peppermint, might I add.

But what I adored the most was how *musical* it all was.

Lights chords, staccato piano, or pizzicato strings, could lighten the heart. Minor, legato melodies could depress and darken one's soul.

Wallwork creates *melodies* out of words. *The Enchanted Sonata* was a love letter to music, and it made the violinist in me oh so *merry*—music wasn't just a part of the story, but a part of the storytelling. **The writing was a shimmering *vibrato* of language, spinning a sweet *obbligato* to my heartbeat and weaving a wistful *glissando* through my soul.**

For all its problems, *The Enchanted Sonata* captivated me. I admit that I am more fond of it than I arguably should be—it wasn't outstanding; however, it was festive, fantastical and all in all, so feel-good, and it served up a delicious helping of Christmas cheer. **But the novelty of it lay in its clear-eyed portrayal of music, and that was what decidedly endeared it to me.**

3.0/5

Alaina says

I have received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

B-E-A-UTIFUL! I loved this book so much!

The Enchanted Sonata was one of those books that I needed to read but didn't know it at the time. Now what piqued my interest was how this kind of sounded like a Disney movie to me. Heck, I'd watch it. Plus, I basically grew up with Disney movies and Disneyworld stuff - soooo I was completely pumped to dive into it!

In it, you will meet Clara. She's kind of like the girl from *The Nutcracker* or *Alice in Wonderland* because she kind of gets thrown into a new world. Of course it has magic and wonder..but it also has some darkness (which I love). She's basically the cheerleader sent to save the world - because she's the key to actually saving this one.

Again, it will definitely feel like a Disney movie you've watched before or one that could become a real thing. I loved Clara, even if she had an insta-love moment with Julien. Not a big fan of that stuff.. but then again, it does remind me 100% of Disney lol. I will admit though, they had some good twists/betrayal that kind of shook me to the core.

I didn't see a lot coming my way and that's probably why I enjoyed it so freaking much. I enjoyed all the cheesy hallmark-y/Disney moments. If I didn't have to put this book on pause because of work life or sleep life - this book would've been devoured in a couple of hours. I will definitely re-read this again.

Nemo (The Moonlight Library) says

This review was originally posted on [The Moonlight Library](#)

Heather Dixon Wallwork is one of my absolute favourite authors of all time. She wrote *Entwined*, a 12 Dancing Princesses retelling which I have never reviewed here on the blog because the book is just too precious and the review would basically consist of my screaming for ten minutes. She also wrote *Illusionarium*, which was definitely not a fairytale retelling, but which I still loved because I adore her writing so much. So I was so incredibly happy when DW announced she had returned to retellings in this indie-published title *The Enchanted Sonata*!

The Enchanted Sonata is a *The Nutcracker* retelling with a bit of *The Pied Piper* thrown in, which might sound a little odd but trust me, it works. This book has all of the wit and wonder I have come to expect of DW, from her wonderful use of onomatopoeia, to the complete adorableness of every character, to the charming villain and his sadistic revenge. The main character, Clara, is a pianist, (which is great because music is literally magic in this book) and from the intimate way DW writes about music I just know it's not just research, it's a lived experience of music. In so many books about music or performance I have read, the authors are charmed by the notion but haven't lived the experiences. DW definitely convinces me she has played the piano for many years, and I would know, because I tried piano lessons for two years and could never quite get the hang of playing with two hands.

DW writes with authority on the subject of music, and she also loves using italics to make sure you know exactly where the right emphasis should be placed. She has a slightly quirky but very original writing style an voice that seems almost a throwback to her Disney animator days, and I love it. There's also an insult, 'pancake-head', which I found adorably PG (I pretty much found the whole thing adorable, okay?). I loved the way the story was framed and found it an interesting and original use of that device and, to be honest, I

have been wanting to read a book that does this device very well but have been unimpressed, until now. The pace was fast but not breathtaking, with almost the entire book taking place over the course of only a few days.

I don't want to give away any spoilers since I went into this book basically blind, having only read the blurb, but I can guarantee if you've read and loved *Entwined* as much as I did, you'll adore this retelling as well. I don't even really know the story of the Nutcracker: it's not a story that has ever interested me, although my interest was piqued a little when I read a ballet book that had a performance of it. I've always loved the music, but I'm not quite sure of the story. That being said, there's enough originality in this book that even if you don't know *The Nutcracker* and can't identify aspects of its story, you can still enjoy this one as an amazing fantasy in its own right.

I will say that there is a romance and it's just as completely adorable as I have come to expect from DW, with no insta-love and a definite build there between the characters that goes from respect, to affection, to genuine feelings. I will also add that DW comes from a Disney background, and this book wouldn't be out of place in a Disney library, so take from that what you will. I know there is a Disney film *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* coming out this Christmas season, but they really should have taken this book and made a film from it.

I will also add that this book is not, as one might expect, London-based.

The whole thing was just absolutely lovely, like a fine European chocolate that melts luxuriously on your tongue, but you know, in book form. I will be very proud to add the hardcover to my existing collection of Dixon-Wallwork books.

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Jennymort ? Dark Lordette says

Olivia (The Candid Cover) says

The Nutcracker and The Pied Piper are two of my favourite stories, and when I saw that they had come together in *The Enchanted Sonata* by Heather Dixon Wallwork, I was thrilled. This book is fast-paced, and it contains a cast of characters who are each well developed. I especially enjoyed the writing style and descriptions of music. I would definitely recommend this book for the holiday season, even if you are unfamiliar with the two original stories.

Full Review on [The Candid Cover](#)
